Mural celebrating four local artists taking shape at the Gilt Complex in downtown Stuart

17 PHOTOS

11:23 a.m. EST Jan. 13, 2020



Mural illustrator Benjamin Perez (right) gives Martin County High School art student, Aleesia Wise, 17, advice about painting one of the characters on the newest mural dedicated to local artists Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, at the Gilt complex in downtown Stuart. "I love being part of the community and I love making art, so meshing that together is my favorite," said Wise. The mural celebrates four local artists, Chris Kling (painter), Geoffrey Smith (sculptor), Ron Corbin (musician) and Mark Muller (chef). The text in the center is an ode to the arts. The characters in the mural were rendered by Perez, a Martin County High School class of 2012 graduate. Students from Jensen Beach High School and the Clark Advanced Learning Center have also been selected to take part in the mural installation.

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Martin County High School student Leelou Ziehm (center), 17, works on the newest mural dedicated to local artists Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, at the Gilt Complex in downtown Stuart. "I'm really excited to work on the mural because students don't get many opportunities to do big projects like this," said Ziehm.

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Martin County High Schoo dent, Aleesia Wise, 17, takes a step back to look at the work she is doing on the newest al dedicated to local artists Saturday Jan. 11, 2020, at the Gilt Complex in downtown Stua I love being part of the community and I love making art, so meshing that together is m orite," said Wise. The mural celebrates four local artists, Chris Kling (painter), Geoff Smith (sculptor), Ron Corbin (musician) and Mark Muller (chef). The text in the cent an ode to the arts. The characters in the mural were rendered by Benjamin Perez, a Mart ounty High School class of 2012 graduate. Students from Jensen Beach High Schoo d the Clark Advanced Learning Center have also been selected to take part in the al installation.

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Martin County teens create 'A Manifesto' in Stuart

Posted: 9:45 PM, Jan 03, 2020 **Updated:** 11:33 PM, Jan 03, 2020

By: Arthur Mondale



+ Show Caption





STUART, Fla. — A new addition is in the works for Stuart's growing arts community. It's a mural and "Artist's Manifesto" completed by Martin County high school students to inspire and lure artists and business.

"We want people to stop and actually read it," Benjamin Perez, a Ringling School of Art + Design illustrator, said. "I think we added a

little color to the town."

Perez says his concept is reminiscent of a Leonardo DaVinci sketchbook to inspire and grow Stuart's arts community. Students from Martin County High School, Jensen Beach High School and the Clark Advanced Learning Center will work over the next few weeks to bring his concept to life.

"It's supposed to inspire other people to do more art," said Erin Whelpley, a Martin County High School student. "I want to be an art teach or at least something that deals with education to make more of an impact."

The mural Whelpey helped trace Friday is 55 feet wide and 12 feet tall, and features the faces of well-known Martin County artists. The mural includes Chris Kling, portrait and landscape artist; Geoffrey Smith, sculptor; Ron Corbin, musician and the former music director and Mark Muller, culinary artist.

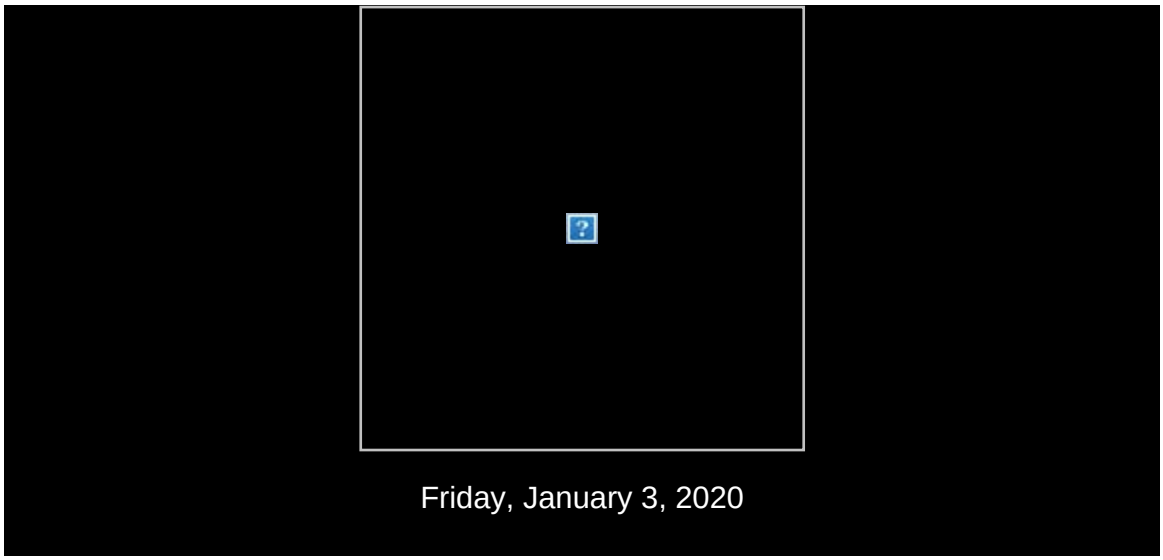
"Culinary arts has taken a huge leap in the last 10-years," said Muller, Ellie's Downtown Deli and Catering owner. "It's gotten to be a lot more art felt than it used to be."

The mural is located on Colorado Avenue on the outside wall of Gilt Complex, a custom frame and art restoration service. The owner says the mural should not only recharge consumers appreciation for art, but support it.

"A successful artist is also a successful business person -- otherwise they become starving artists. And nobody wants that," Duncan Hurd said. "It's not just painters. It's dancers, sculptors, chefs, musicians, singers -- they're all artists."

Martin County students plan to work on the mural during the weekends. The designer says the mural should be completed by March.

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Friday, January 3, 2020

Prepared by Marcus and Dylan

The Treasure Coast Brief.

Straight Facts from the Treasure Coast

Fiery trail over Treasure Coast a **solar illusion**, says DoD; mother who left baby unattended in bathtub charged with **aggravated manslaughter**; and **vehicle fire** on SE Crosstown Pkwy. and SE Airoso Blvd. closes intersection

THE BREAKDOWN

DoD: Fiery trail spotted over the Treasure Coast a solar illusion

The U.S. Department of Defense said that a fiery trail spotted over the Treasure Coast on New Year's Day was in fact a commercial airplane, debunking social media theories that the fireball was a rocket, missile or UFO.

Onlookers from Vero Beach to Jensen Beach posted on social media that they had witnessed a blazing object in the sky just before sunrise on New Year's Day.

Officials from the Department of Defense told WPTV that sunlight had reflected off a commercial airplane's contrails to create an illusion of a fireball. The spokesperson said there was no fire and no present danger.

When he hit the main traffic light pole, the vehicle spun directly into the intersection and caught on fire.

An unknown person called the police to report the vehicle fire with the driver still trapped inside. Fire Rescue was able to extract him, and he was transported to a nearby hospital. There is no further information on the driver's condition.

Port St. Lucie Police Traffic Homicide Investigators are investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash. Currently, charges or citations are pending the outcome of their investigation.

Creek Arts and Entertainment District hosting art walk

The Creek Arts and Entertainment District in downtown Stuart is hosting The First Friday Creek Art Walk, a new monthly cultural walking experience aimed at exploring the 18 businesses located in the newly expanded community redevelopment district.

Approved by the Stuart City Commission on Oct. 28, 2019, the area is home to a music scene, arts-related businesses, restaurants, a craft beer pub, an award-winning chocolate factory, and more. Each participating business will host an artist, musician or performer.

January brings two special events: the kick-off of a new outdoor mural at The Gilt Complex at 608 Colorado created by students from Martin County and Jensen Beach high schools. The second event is The Clark Advanced Learning Center and Stuart Art Supply & Artists' Nook at 43 SE Kindred, which will celebrate their 7th anniversary.

The gathering will take place on Friday, Jan. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m. The new monthly cultural walking experience is free and requires no reservations or tickets. Future dates are Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1 and every first Friday thereafter.

The Creek is designated as the official arts and entertainment district for Stuart.

UPCOMING EVENTS