



Art Gallery

March 16 through April 30 – Travel through foreign lands – Photos by Derek Lowe

Derek Lowe, teacher and photographer, has lived many moments on the other side of the world, mainly in Tongyeong, a small fishing village at the southern tip of South Korea. After graduating with a Bachelors degree from Kennesaw State University, Lowe left the United States to teach the English language abroad. Culture shock took many forms for Lowe - the landscape, the food, the people. As the newness wore off, similarities arose; guys playing basketball; a movie house, a favorite music store. "Vacations" from teaching took him to Shanghai, the historic and must-see lunar New Year, to Bangkok and other exotic places. After fulfilling his commitment to teaching English, Lowe began his adventurous trip home, traveling the long way and taking pictures all the way.

May 1 through June 30 – Paintings by T.L. Stoytchev

From a very early age Tzvetan Stoytchev's life has been connected with art. At 4 years old he had his first exhibit, displaying clay figurines to his friends and neighbors. From that point he was captured. His focus has alternated between design, sculpture, and painting. Through the 1980's he concentrated on interior design, and in 1989 he founded his own fashion design company. As a fashion designer he worked extensively with painted fabrics. Stoytchev's experiences with interiors and fashion have influenced his painting style, leading him to create three-dimensional textured paintings of a modern impressionism style. Tzvetan Stoytchev is a Bulgarian-born American and has lived in the Atlanta area since 1996. He currently makes his home in

Smyrna with his wife and three children. His latest passion is photography. Last April, in an exhibit before the Bulgarian public, he presented nature and botanical photography captured during his travels in the United States.

Display Cases

March 1 through April 30 – David Blackbeaver's Native American artifacts and art

Native American artist, David Blackbeaver was separated from his family when he was four. He lived on a work farm until he was adopted but left home at age 16. His search for his mother led him to discover his Native American heritage. Blackbeaver said, "I began to learn and live my native heritage." A set of eagle talons, handed down through family, helped begin his career as an artist. Blackbeaver dreamed he was to make a necklace of the talons so he could wear them and be proud. This he did. Becoming more aware of his heritage and more creative in his art, Blackbeaver now makes amulets, dreamcatchers, pipes, talking sticks, walking sticks, necklaces and earrings from boar's teeth, deer teeth, bone, elk antler, turquoise and silver.

May 1 through June 30 -Dolls from Around the World

Jane Lamkin of Smyrna and her late husband, Bill Lamkin, were active in the Friendship Force International for 20 years from 1977 to 1997 Bill as editor of "Friendship", the magazine he founded for this organization, traveled the world making over 30 exchanges to other countries. Jane asked Bill to collect a doll to represent each country he visited, and when she accompanied him she chose the doll. Of special interest is an Eskimo doll from Alaska with a carved wooden head, a dress of fur and leather boots, a Japanese festival doll and a Welsh doll in a hand knitted costume. The collection includes three male dolls, which are a rarity in doll collecting. There is an Israeli male doll holding his torah, a Turkish male doll in head dress and a Slovakian male doll in dance attire. Her collection of over 30 dolls reminds her of the many places she and her husband visited. She is also reminded of the many foreign exchange visitors who stayed in their home, often bringing a doll as their gift. All dolls are in native dress and will be identified by their country of origin.