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## **ArtiGras Wraps Up a Successful Festival**

JUPITER, Fla. – The ArtiGras Fine Arts Festival at Abacoa in Jupiter, Fla., wrapped up a successful festival with thousands of patrons attending throughout the weekend. After kicking off on Valentine's Day, patrons flowed through the gates to peruse the over 300 artists who had been selected to show at this year's ArtiGras. Out of those 300 artists, Thomas Maras of Hudson, Wis., took home Best of Show with his work in glass.

"I am very surprised and excited to garner this Best in Show award," said Maras who won a first place award in glass at last year's ArtiGras. "We have been very successful at ArtiGras and look forward to the festival each year."

The winners were selected by three judges who scored each artist and awarded a Best of Show and first-place winners in each of the 12 categories along with 14 Judge's Awards of Excellence. The following is a list of the artists who placed first in each category: Roberta Thomas of Palm Coast, Fla., in 2-D Mixed Media; James Mosier of Ballston Lake, N.Y., in 3-D Mixed Media; Don McWhorter of Carrollton, Ga., in Ceramics; John Costin of Tampa, Fla., in Drawing and Printmaking; Robinson Scott of Anoka, Minn., in Glass; Patricio Ferreira of Orlando, Fla., in Jewelry; Jean Yao of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in Non-Wearable Fiber; Gregory Strachov of Floral City, Fla., in Painting; Paul Shatz of Charleston, S.C., in Photography; Peter Smith of Burlington, Vt., in Sculpture; Linda McGurn of Waynesville, N.C., in Wearable Fiber; and Mark Donham of Rosedale, Ind., in Wood.

"We are very pleased with the quality of work displayed at this year's ArtiGras and congratulate Thomas Maras on his award," said Suzanne Neve, Director of Special Events for the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce. "We are also pleased how the whole festival turned out. The weather was perfect and it looks like everyone from the artists to the patrons had a great time."

ArtiGras is listed as one of the top 50 festivals in the country and a portion of the proceeds from the event go to support art education in schools throughout Palm Beach County. For additional information on ArtiGras visit [www.artigras.org](http://www.artigras.org) or contact the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce at (561) 746-7111.

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