

# St. Petersburg Times

## Chalk the walk Series: FAB SLABS

[STATE Edition]

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### Document Text

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Chalk.

Sidewalk.

Art!

Almost every child knows that heady feeling of pleasure when they bear down with that stub of pink and create a masterpiece outside the front door.

Now imagine the kaleidoscope of colors that will emerge as 64 lanes of the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club are transformed into a patchwork of pastels for the second I (heart) St. Pete event. And, adults, you get to play, too.

The event, which includes an exhibition of local fine art, a fashion show, crafts and local bands, lasts the entire day and into the evening, and is presented by the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, Pinellas Heritage and the Artillery.

Several artists are already registered to compete - expect to see Christmas-meets-tropical-themed drawings - and many entrants will sign up the day of the event at the quaint recreational complex on Mirror Lake Drive and Fourth Avenue N.

Here are some things to know before you go.

### Chalk talk

Each participant in the contest gets a 9- by 5-foot area of shuffleboard lane to draw on. The dark courts provide a "negative canvas" that displays the chalk nicely, said event organizer Chris Kelly. People can draw horizontally or vertically. Illustrations, of course, must be inoffensive and not include commercial advertising statements.

Only one lead artist per drawing, but you can have any number of supporting artists per space. There is no required art theme, and stenciling is permitted.

Free pastels and hand wipes will be distributed to adults and the first 100 children under 12. Artist-volunteers provide tips and demonstrations on how to draw on concrete, so folks who register at the event can feel less intimidated.

Adult and child people's choice winners of the chalk art contest will be voted on by the public, in addition to one overall winner for artistic merit, chosen by judge JoEllen Schilke, proprietor of Globe Coffee Lounge and host of WMNF-FM 88.5's local arts radio show Art in Your Ear.

The people's choice winners will be elected in an ingenious manner: Paper bags will be placed by each drawing, and patrons drop coins into bags by their favorites. The two winners get to keep their loot as a prize, along with the collected change of all the other competitors. The overall artistic merit winner gets a \$200 cash prize provided by Interior Motives design gallery.

But wait, there's more

By day, you get family-friendly fun with interactive booths, food and tunes by local teen jazz, salsa and funk band New

South Whales and Bluegrass Southern Style. At night, it takes on a more grown-up feel, when beer and wine are sold and swanky hipsters stream through the clubhouses to check out the photography, paintings and sculptures on display from local artists Hugh Williams, Carrie Pratt, Carrie Waite, Josh Sullivan and others.

Reputable St. Petersburg-based music acts Rebekah Pulley, Auditorium and The Human Condition, a solid mix of acoustic and alternative rock, perform in the main court, where attendees can stroll and peruse the chalk art contest entries.

Once was not enough

If you base turnout on last year's inaugural I St. Pete, then the prospects look good for Saturday's shindig.

The extravaganza of sights and sounds attracted about 600 people to the Mediterranean Revival buildings located where I-375 off-ramp dumps into downtown St. Pete. The site, incidentally, was featured in the classic 1985 Ron Howard movie Cocoon.

Organizers Chris and Debbie Kelly of St. Pete Shuffle and Phillip Clark and Chad Mize of the Artillery put on games and socials at the courts to bring awareness to the charming, historical property that's been threatened by the bulldozer of redevelopment. To find out more, visit [www.stpeteshuffle.com](http://www.stpeteshuffle.com); [www.theartillery.com](http://www.theartillery.com); and [www.shuffleboardclub.org](http://www.shuffleboardclub.org).

Meet our artist

Coralette Damme created the intricate sea horse art on our cover and above. She talked with *tbt\** about her work as she drew. Here are excerpts:

What she does: "I primarily do painting, stained glass and printmaking. I have art at local galleries when I can and on my Web site, [www.craftyhag.com](http://www.craftyhag.com). I just spend my days making stuff. ... I like to go to salvage yards and get junk to use in projects. For example, I used old iron burner/grates from gas stove tops to make a trellis for my jasmine to climb up. I'm sure the neighbors wondered why I was screwing old appliance parts to the side of our house."

Experience with chalk: "My first real sidewalk experience was at an apartment building I lived in, in Minneapolis, 14 years ago when I painted a patio area for the building with funky futuristic flowers. Then I was off the streets until about 3 years ago when I did some sidewalk painting for a client in St. Pete."

Weirdest piece: "Weirdest thing I've drawn that I can think of was a mini art card. The card was of a little lizard with a swollen purple and blue black-eye and in the background you could see a black cat wearing red boxing gloves running around in a victory dance after defeating his foe chanting, 'I'm No. 1. I'm No.1'. Someone bought it on eBay for \$6 I think."

Weirdest feedback: "The only comment I can think of having gotten recently was in regard to my stained glass at a recent sale and a girl said something to the effect of, 'Oh, thank goodness. Finally someone who doesn't make stained glass pieces that are pretty and girly.' I liked that."

Here's the deal

I (heart) St. Pete is 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, 559 Mirror Lake Drive N, St. Petersburg. The event is free, but there's a \$5 registration fee for chalk artists.

The schedule

8:30 a.m. Chalk artist registration

9 a.m. Drawing with chalk refresher course

1 p.m. Chalk art complete, judging begins

3 p.m. Bluegrass Southern Style

5:30 p.m. New South Whales

6 p.m. Collect and count people's choice bags of coins

7 p.m. Rebekah Pulley

8 p.m. Fashion show directed by Artillery Group's Maria Licodo, featuring original handmade wearable art and Artillery T-shirts

9 p.m. Auditorium

10 p.m. The Human Condition

Tips for chalk drawing

- Bring an illustration to copy
- Think big shapes, nothing too intricate
- Wear sunscreen
- Use a foam garden kneeling pad, available for less than \$10 in stores

**[Illustration]**

Photo: PHOTO, LUIS SANTANA / TBT\*, (2); PHOTO

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**Abstract** (Document Summary)

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