

## MEDIA CONTACTS

Sarah Wertheimer ▪ 941-404-5710 ▪ [sarah@embracingourdifferences.org](mailto:sarah@embracingourdifferences.org)

Su Byron ▪ 941-922-7274 ▪ [subyron@verizon.net](mailto:subyron@verizon.net)

### **Online Voting Opens for Embracing Our Differences' New "Best of the Past"**

*Embracing Our Differences' 2016 exhibit includes a new "Best of the Past" initiative, showcasing three favorite artworks from past exhibits. **Online voting for the best three works is ongoing through January 8. Submissions of art and inspirational quotes for the 2016 exhibit are being accepted through January 4.***

(Sarasota-Manatee, FL) Embracing Our Differences, the local non-profit best known for its annual outdoor art exhibit celebrating diversity, is adding a new element to its 2016 exhibit—a "Best of the Past" tri-pod featuring three favorite artworks from past exhibits. The organization invites everyone to visit [www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org/vote](http://www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org/vote) to vote for their three favorite artworks. **Voting is open through January 8, 2016.** The three winning works will be displayed at the 2016 Embracing Our Differences exhibit, March 30-May 31, 2016, at Sarasota's Island Park. For more information about Embracing Our Differences, visit [www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org](http://www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org).

"Favorite works from past years have always been a popular topic of conversation for visitors to our exhibits," says Sarah Wertheimer, associate executive director of Embracing Our Differences. "We've talked about adding a "Best of the Past" tri-pod to our exhibit for a long time and we're very excited to be able to make it happen in 2016." She adds that to prepare for this new initiative, Embracing Our Differences's volunteers and supporters reviewed hundreds of artworks from the past 12 years.

“Six finalists have been selected, and now we want the public to help us choose the three winners,” says Wertheimer. “We invite everyone to vote between now and January 8. We can’t wait to see the results!”

The three “Best of the Past” artworks will be on display as part of the 2016 Embracing Our Differences exhibit, March 30-May 31, at Island Park in Sarasota.

**Submissions of art and inspirational quotes are being accepted through January 4, 2016. Applicants can learn more and submit their work online at [www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org](http://www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org).**

*For more information about Embracing Our Differences, call 941-404-5710, or visit [www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org](http://www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org).*

### **About Embracing Our Differences**

Embracing Our Differences is a project of Coexistence, Inc., a local non-profit that began in 2004. The project showcases a community-based outdoor exhibit promoting positive, inspirational artistic and verbal expressions of inclusion, acceptance and respect. The mission of Embracing Our Differences is to use the transformational power of the arts to educate and inspire to create a better world. **[www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org](http://www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org); 941-404-5710.**

### **Photo captions:**

- *"Respect" (2006) By Elena De La Ville and Patricia Prince Tunnell, Sarasota.*
- *"Broken World" (2007) By Cory G., 11th-grade student at New Gate School, Sarasota.*
- *"Connections" (2007) By Marcia Ente, Sarasota.*
- *"Black and White Tourists Visit Egypt" (2008) By Margot Cormier Splane, Ontario, Canada.*
- *"Apples and Oranges" (2009) By Ashly Lovett, West Monroe, Louisiana.*
- *"Bringing Hands Together, Bridging Gaps Forever" (2012) By Jamia M, 7th-grade student at Stephen's High School in Valenzuela City, Philippines.*