Man of few words is 2017 Artist of the Year

Shawn Bifulco is a man of few words, but his art speaks volumes. The 29-year-old artist was recently named the 2017 Suzie Cappa Art Center & Gallery Artist of the Year. "He’s an amazing artist," said Suzie Cappa Executive Director Brad Winter. Bifulco chose an artist who is humble and highlights something that began in 2002 when Black Hills Works artist Suzie Cappa’s legacy was first honored. “Everyone is so deserving of it,” Winter said, but Bifulco was chosen for his longevity at the center, Community Arts, and studios today. “He’s an amazing acrylic artist. He does abstract and realistic looking animals.”

Bifulco was announced as Artist of the Year during a reception in January, and will be honored on May 7 during the Suzie Cappa Royal Tea. He first discovered his love for art in high school when he took a pottery class. The opportunities provided to him at Suzie Cappa have been so enriching and important to his life, according to his mother, Lydia O’Neill. “I always tell my kids you can do anything you put your mind to,” she said.

In 2010, a self-portrait by Bifulco was exhibited during a party at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. His artwork is displayed in the Royal City community as well, including a large wolf painting displayed at Wind-Richardson School in Rapid City. His artwork is also included in the annual Art in the Schools event held at the Rapid City Public Schools. Bifulco was selected to work with famed speed painter Michael Larson. “Michael was really impressed with him,” Winter said.

Bifulco is also known for his storage cardboard lizard, a creation he completed by stacking, gluing and sanding cardboard and clay. “When he focuses on something, he’s just so passionate about it,” Winter said. “He really proud to have been named the recipient.”

Winter hopes that Bifulco will be encouraged by being chosen Artist of the Year. “We have two to three of his original works at the center,” Winter said. “Thanking him is a big deal. We always tell him what a great artist he is, but he hopes this gives him a little bit of positivity to Shawn’s life as well.”

The annual honor has turned into a bit of friendly competition among the Suzie Cappa artists. It also creates confidence, and is a wonderful way to celebrate the artist’s work, hard work and success. It had a significant impact on last year’s winner, Jill Holien. “Her whole persona transforms the art gallery into a classic English restaurant, complete with decadent sandwiches and sweets paired with lovely teas. Royal Tea will be held this year on Sunday, May 7. The event transforms the art gallery into a classic English restaurant, complete with decadent sandwiches and sweets paired with lovely teas. Royal Tea will be held this year on Sunday, May 7. The event transforms the art gallery into a classic English restaurant, complete with decadent sandwiches and sweets paired with lovely teas.

Much of the logistics of the BOS certification were Sheppard’s responsibility. However, every employee shares in the success of the certification. Each employee has to be able to work through the demanding process each year and subsequently all the BOS standards each year. For_employee “In the end, I saw that employees have to know how to work through the certification process, and we have the right to be able to do it.”

In the organization, Sheppard hopes to expand partnerships to include more people with disabilities in the community. “We want to get out more—to do more public service. Every day on social media, we’re getting there.”

Sheppard is a Marketing and Communications Specialist with Black Hills Works. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of South Dakota and completed an internship at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. She is a member of the Black Hills Works board of directors and has worked with Black Hills Works since 2006.

Sheppard is the organization’s leader in social service efforts, often traveling to remote areas to meet with individuals and communities in the region. She is also a member of the Black Hills Works board of directors and has worked with Black Hills Works since 2006. She is a member of the Black Hills Works board of directors and has worked with Black Hills Works since 2006. She is a member of the Black Hills Works board of directors and has worked with Black Hills Works since 2006. She is a member of the Black Hills Works board of directors and has worked with Black Hills Works since 2006.

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There's a new fashion show premiering this March in Rapid City, just minus Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn. FashionABLE, an all-abilities fashion show, premieres Friday, March 10 during Suzie Cappa Art Center & Gallery's monthly Art Night. The evening show is a collaboration between Suzie Cappa and Flutter Productions. It is the first of its kind for the region and is free and open to the public. The gallery space will be transformed into a fashion runway.

"We hope that individuals get the event in a moment that is colorful, surprising, and inspiring by sharing a deeply telling moment of innovation ideas," Flutter Productions Artistic Director Heather Pickering said. "It will be fun and incredibly memorable, to say the least.

"For our designers and their community partners, we hope it will be a meaningful moment for them. "It will be a fun and memorable evening," Flutter Productions Artistic Director Heather Pickering said. "It will be a fun and memorable evening, to say the least."