The Motley Food

WINNERS OF THE 2011 EDIBLE-ART CONTEST

What, you expected pretty gingerbread snowflakes? Just about every week for 10 years, we’ve asked the readers of The Style Invitational — The Post’s famously irreverent humor/wordplay contest, to pull off varied feats of verbal agility, during wit or just spit-out-your-coffee ha-has — everything from raising new words to writing limericks to telling Your Mama jokes. And the corps of regular Invite contestants — proudly called the Losers, after the slogan on the T-shirts awarded to runners-up — rises to challenge after challenge, singing us merrily but boldly with edgy, timely wit. Then, five weeks ago, we asked us to put away our keyboards — and open their cupboards — for a contest to portray people or events from the 21st century using only food as materials. With a few exceptions, the winning entries from Week 946 aren’t elaborately crafted works of culinary sculpture; in fact, our winner is damed minimalist. But they certainly reflect The Style Invitational’s renowned mix of highbrow and lowbrow humor, not to mention those groaner puns.

THE WINNER OF THE INKER

“Bean Weiglart” by Craig Dykstra, Centreville, based on an idea by Valerie and Anise Dykstra, her wife and college-Robotron Studies collaborator.

Certainly the most impressively executed of this week’s gaggle of edible art, the leguminous mosean rous as Jittery material because only a true Loser could world-wide for 23 hours to depict Gina Weiglart — The Post’s humor columnist and the founder of the Style Invitational — in 5,000 pieces of rich variety of basilicose, generating paint mate. Unfortunately, this fine portrait saw only as a photo: 243-time Invitational Love Grief winner never did a color portrait; if she did, it would have been a monochrome line drawing. The winner upstaged all the beans into a java to be a dinner prize at the Losers’ upcoming holiday party.

SECOND PLACE

“Hard to Swallow: The GOP Field” by Aithosa and Kevin Depurt. Featuring Pawn Paul, Herman Cain, Pig Novel, Milt Ramsey, Mikhail Bolkonovski and Rick Perry’s Middle among the materials: potato lecterns; “Bokmann’s” head of bok choy and pasta-shell mouth; and Pawn’s eyebrows of, ahem, Nevada. The Depurt-daughter-lover team scores again with the greatest prize for which the Losers are supplicant, uniting middle-aged, presidential candidates (Herman Cain had not yet dropped out). If anything, they all look a little too digested.

THIRD PLACE

“Meatface River: Search for Empty Data” by Abigail Freamon, St. Louis.

Abigail, a grad student at Washington University, is a collaborating scientist on NASA Mars rover missions, and here she applies her technical expertise to a vehicle made with a proboscis cracker body. Freamon’s other whiz-bang imaginations and instruments of pretzel and marshmallows, a Mackey-hair salon array, and a termite (Bernard) “to show that our Losers are quite the foodies.”

FOURTH PLACE

“Beez Waligart” by Craig Dykstra, Centreville, based on an idea by Valerie and Anise Dykstra, her wife and college-Robotron Studies collaborator.

Certainly the most impressively executed of this week’s gaggle of edible art, the leguminous mosean rous as Jittery material because only a true Loser could world-wide for 23 hours to depict Gina Weiglart — The Post’s humor columnist and the founder of the Style Invitational — in 5,000 pieces of rich variety of basilicose, generating paint mate. Unfortunately, this fine portrait saw only as a photo: 243-time Invitational Love Grief winner never did a color portrait; if she did, it would have been a monochrome line drawing. The winner upstaged all the beans into a java to be a dinner prize at the Losers’ upcoming holiday party.

HONORABLE MENTION


Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala. “The Bug Apple” is a light-hearted take on the potential horrors of staying in a hotel. It was inspired by a recent trip to New York City with her daughter, Abigail, who is studying hotel and restaurant management. Sharp planned to create “a series of Edible Art pieces that would be fun to make and fun to eat.” The idea came to her when she was at a hotel in Manhattan and noticed a pest control sign on the wall. She decided to create a series of pieces that would show the various potential insects and bugs that could possibly be found in a hotel room. Sharp used a variety of ingredients, including pretzels, marshmallows, and candy, to create the different bugs. She was inspired by the book “The Joy of Eating Dirt” by Abigail McNeil, which she found to be very entertaining. Sharp’s Edible Art pieces were not only visually appealing, but also delicious and fun to eat. She shared her creations with her daughter and her friends, who loved them. Sharp’s success in the Edible Art contest was unexpected, as she had never entered a contest before. She was thrilled to win the Honorable Mention prize and to have her work featured in The Washington Post. Sharp plans to continue creating Edible Art pieces and hopes to enter more contests in the future.”

THE RECENT LOSER

“Chutzpah: A Winner’s Guide” by Tonya McDonald, North Potomac, Md.

Tonya McDonald, North Potomac, Md. “Chutzpah” is a term used in Yiddish to describe a certain level of audacity or daring. Tonya McDonald used the term to create a piece that was both fun and challenging. She used a variety of ingredients, including pretzels, marshmallows, and candy, to create a scene that depicted a cow with a cowbell on its head, a dog with a bone, and a cat with a fish. The piece was inspired by the book “The Joy of Eating Dirt” by Abigail McNeil, which Tonya found to be very entertaining. Tonya’s Edible Art piece was not only visually appealing, but also delicious and fun to eat. She shared her creations with her friends and family, who loved them. Tonya’s success in the Edible Art contest was unexpected, as she had never entered a contest before. She was thrilled to win the Recent Loser award and to have her work featured in The Washington Post. Tonya plans to continue creating Edible Art pieces and hopes to enter more contests in the future.”

MORE ONLINE

See a gallery of the entries at washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational.

THIS WEEK’S CONTEST: WEEK 950

Of all the nerve! In his classic 1969 book “The Joy of Eating Dirt,” Abigail McNeil defined “chutzpah” as “gall, barefaced nerve, effrontery, audacity; boldness without shame or prudence plus arrogance.” As he often did in the body of his arguments, McNeil included a joke as an example: “A man wearing a ‘chutzpah’ as ‘gall, barefaced nerve’ shirt, who was immediately killed by his mother and father, threw himself in the street in front of a moving automobile and said, ‘That’s the life of Reilly. I want to be a Loser’.”

By Pat Myers