

STATE OF DELAWARE INVOLVES COMMUNITY

More and more we are seeing a number of our venues, like the State of Delaware, taking advantage of social media to not only promote their NAP exhibitions, but to actually involve more people in the experience.

Prior to the awards reception on March 12th, the Delaware Division of the Arts posted images of all the artwork on their Facebook page and asked the public to choose this year's "People's Choice" winner by liking their favorite piece. The piece with the most likes at the end of the voting period would be announced the winner at their awards reception. However, this was no



easy task, especially with 237 wonderful pieces to choose from. In the end, Lindsay Mical's works on paper piece entitled "Maleficent" (pictured) was named the "People's Choice" with an amazing 515 votes!

Along with a strong online presence, the show also received a number of visitors to the actual exhibition. In addition to everyday gallery attendees, several classes from the Delaware State University Art Department along with a K-12 school took tours of the show during the three weeks it was on display at the Art Center / Gallery. It's great to see that a NAP exhibition of employee artwork is valued enough by the community that they want to use it as an education tool.

This amazing opportunity wouldn't even be possible without the hard work of our NAP venue coordinator Kristin Pleasanton, Deputy Director of the Arts and the Delaware Division of the Arts staff. Organizing and displaying this many pieces from participants across the entire State of Delaware is definitely not an easy task, but Kristin does it with pure professionalism and ease making it an honor for the NAP to present her with an award to mark their fifth year with the program.

Jackie's Renderings

A message from the Executive Director

It is amazing to me the power of social media today when it comes to artistic expression. As we closed out our "Best of the Best" contest on Facebook last week, we were stunned at the response this year, an over 1000% increase.

Same format, same rules, same voting method (Facebook likes!). The hundreds

of encouraging words and comments for all the artists from friends, family, and others were overwhelmingly positive. It is so important to stay relevant today with your social media if you are an artist. Don't believe me? If you're insta savvy just #artwork ... Facebook fan? search "artwork" and let me know when you stop scrolling. We currently have thousands of artists on our online gallery that have uploaded their artwork and bios. We have redesigned this area of our site several times over the past few years to make sure it continues to benefit our artists and to make it easy to share their artwork; most recently adding their own personal social media tags. For me, this is today's version of artistic expression. That is what is different, the ability to share instantly anything with almost anyone. So #nationalarts and let the comments begin! Happy Spring!



Impressive Turnout for Arts & Health at Duke

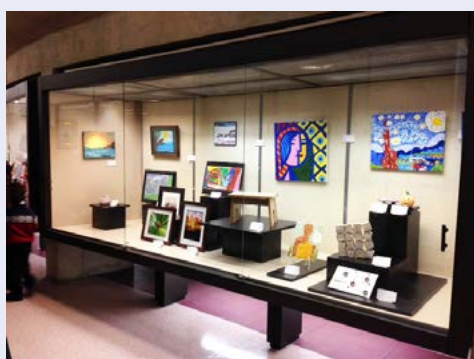
Through the tireless efforts of coordinator Jennifer Collins-Mancour and the Arts & Health team they achieved the participation goal they set for themselves this year. A total of 141 artists submitted their works for the show which opened on March 4th. Three months prior to their cut-off they advertised and marketed the event heavily through email, direct newsletters, Twitter, Facebook and the articles written by Duke Media.

The Arts & Health at Duke department does a tremendous job of organizing the show with an extremely small staff. The dedication of teams like theirs often go unnoticed and it is important to recognize their efforts. Our hope is that they receive support from the many participants and volunteers that have enjoyed the show and that it continues to thrive for many more years.



"Woven: An examination of traditional woven textiles through quilting"; Rebeka Branagan; Intermediate, 2nd Place Craft; Employee; School of Medicine

FIVE YEARS FOR RUTGERS NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL



One of the many display cases featuring works from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School staff and their family members.

Walter Douglas, Chief Operating Officer for Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, greeted an energetic crowd at the awards reception for their Fifth Anniversary National Arts Program® Exhibit. He spoke about the importance of art in the workplace and the tremendous talent within their community of employees. There were over 175 guests in attendance for the reception, including 75 artists.

Coordinator Noreen Gomez enlivened the New Jersey Medical School B Level by lining walls and filling cases with the 232 works of art she collected. Every corner you turned would reveal

a beautiful new piece of art to study. After five years with the program Noreen has seen the show grow into a tremendous event that artists look forward to, even plan for and we are thrilled with her success.

This year the NAP staff was privileged to be in attendance at their February 18th reception. We had a wonderful time viewing the artwork and meeting the artists. There is nothing that can replace the experience of seeing first hand the joy on an artists face when they are recognized for their talents. Artists young and old could be seen proudly pointing out their works to their friends and loved ones.



Chief Operating Officer, Walter Douglas poses with winners during their February Awards Ceremony.



Local Businesses Help Support Santa Rosa's Artists

The City of Santa Rosa celebrated the 194 artists that took part in their 13th Annual National Arts Program® at the March 6th Awards Reception. Approximately 200 guests filled the halls and enjoyed refreshments, live music and beautiful decorations. Jessica Rasmussen, venue coordinator, spoke about the program and commented that, "this event is recognized as a central part of the City of Santa Rosa's Arts Programing." Julie Combs, Santa Rosa's Council Member, who is known for her appreciation of the arts, also attended and presented awards.

In addition to the support the NAP offers, we are so happy to know that Santa Rosa also received a tremendous amount of support from local businesses including Trader Joe's, California Sister Floral Design and many others.

"BEST OF THE BEST" for 2015

The National Arts Program® opened voting for our Second Annual "Best of the Best" online art exhibit and contest on February 1st. The show, which featured forty-two of the 2015 Best of Show winners from our participating venues across the country, had an astounding number of people visit and "like" their favorite piece.

When the contest ended on March 31st, there were a total of 4,228 votes cast with one piece receiving an amazing 1,800 votes to be named this year's "Best of the Best".

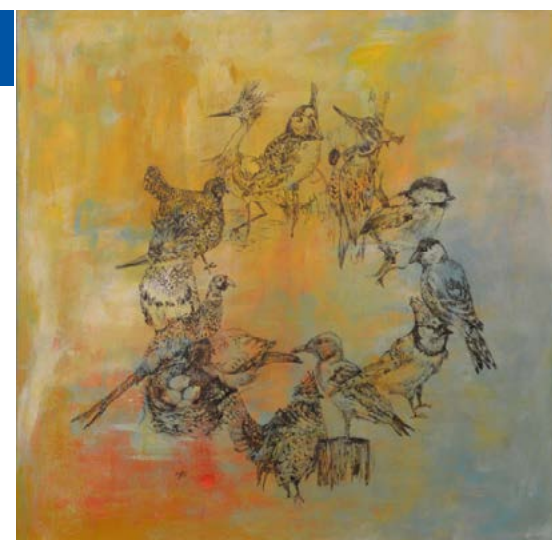
and the winner is ...



"Juanita" by Alex Hernandez, Intermediate VIA Metropolitan Transit, Texas

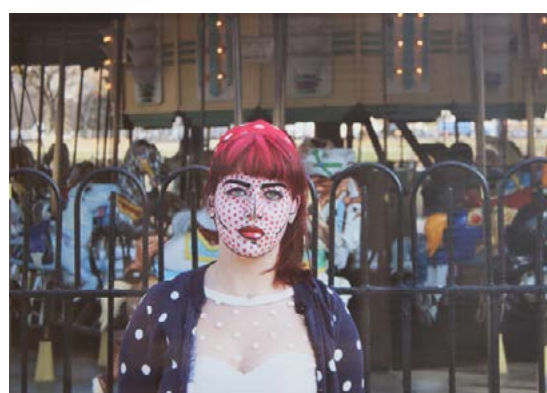
First Runner-Up

"Migration"
Stephanie Berry, Professional
State of Delaware



Second Runner-Up

"Recalling Lichtenstein"
Megan Dauerman, Intermediate
Atlantic Health, New Jersey



AND THE BEST OF SHOW WINNERS ARE...

Adult Amateur

Cleveland - Edward Schmitt
Osceola County - Louise Hallauer

Adult Intermediate

Hartford - Linda Martin
Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport - Renita Picotte
Santa Rose - Lory Day
State of Delaware - Luis Rios Fontanez

Ventura County - Alison O'Neill

Adult Professional

Arts & Health at Duke - Michael Palko
Portland - Anastasia Weigle
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School - Walter Hewes

From top left clockwise: "Elephant Heaven" by Anastasia Weigle (Mixed Media); "At the Fair" by Michael Palko (Photography); "Frank" by Alison O'Neill (Works on Paper)



IN THE NEWS THIS QUARTER

The Harvard Library That Protects The World's Rarest Colors

Today, every color imaginable is at your fingertips. You can peruse paint swatches at hardware stores, flip through Pantone books, and fuss with the color finder that comes with most computer programs, until achieving the hue of your heart's desire. But rewind to a few centuries ago and finding that one specific color might have meant trekking to a single mineral deposit in remote Afghanistan—as was the case with lapis lazuli, a rock prized for its brilliant blue hue, which made it more valuable than gold in medieval times.

The First Undersea Art Museum In The Atlantic: Swim Through Hundreds Of Life-Size Sculptures

More than 400 life-like sculptures rest eerily on the ocean floor, recently installed off the coast of Lanzarote, one of Spain's Canary Islands, to create the Museo Atlantico, the first underwater art museum in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Painter Who Hears Sound In Color

Jack Coulter sees his own heartbeat. People without his condition hear their own heartbeat, and feel it, and Coulter does that, too. But to him, it also radiates color, like the violet glow you see when you look into darkness with an infrared camera.

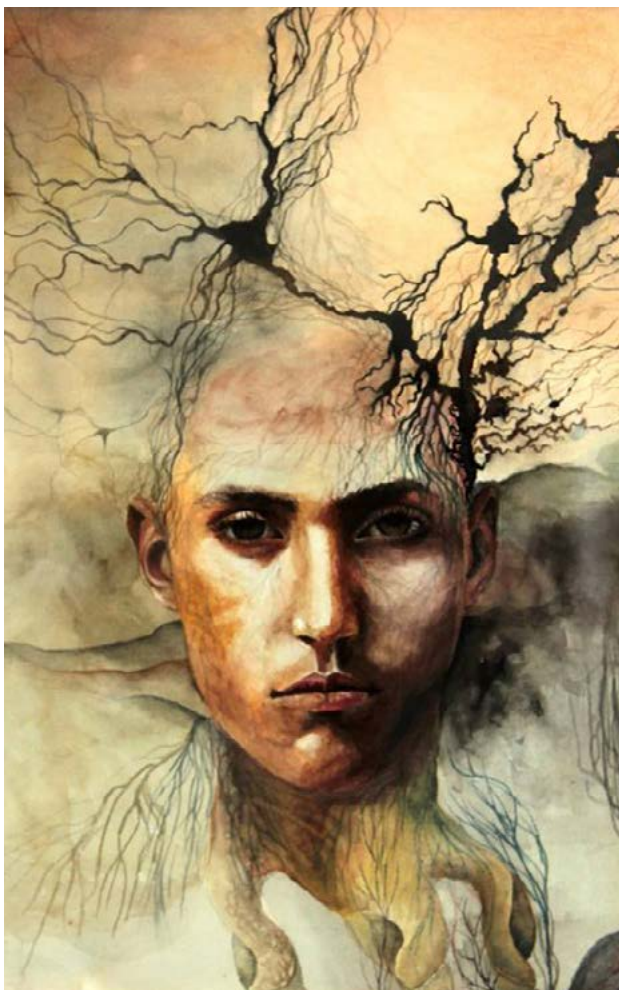
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THE National ARTS PROGRAM[®]

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The National Arts Program[®] was established in 1982 to identify, showcase, and reward the visual artistic talent in America. Today we sponsor 87 venues across the country with steady growth.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

(From top left to right clockwise)

Shaina Tobias, "Pyramindal", Professional, Works on Paper
Priya Rajdev, "Trace", Intermediate, Painting
Grant Wells, "Aegri Somnia", Intermediate, Painting
Timothy Woodcock, "Rainbow Jacksonville", Amateur, Photography
Jaylah Fellows, "Self Portrait", Teen, Works on Paper
Rosemary Hertsch, "Reflections of Summer", Professional, Painting

