

POETRY MEETS ARTWORK IN HARTFORD



Bernard Duffy's "Navajo Missionary", which won first place, was the inspiration for an Ekphrasis poem performed during the event.

Hartford Coordinator Nancy Shapiro explained that an Ekphrasis poem is one that is written about and inspired by a visual theme; usually a painting, a drawing, a photograph, or a sculpture. This year's NAP show once again included readings of Ekphrasis poems written by the Free Poets Collective about each of the first place winners and the Best of Show. The poems made for a wonderful blend of visual and verbal imagery at the Hartford NAP this year.

The awards reception audience included over 450 people who were truly inspired by the combination and really enjoyed it. The participants were also treated to booklets that included copies of the poems paired with photos of the winning artworks.

Nancy and the Community Renewal Team (CRT) hosted this, the 23rd Hartford National Arts Program® Exhibition, for the residents and showcased 171 artists and 300 paintings! Nancy and her CRT team continually try to engage the artist community by finding new ways to keep them involved in the arts. We applaud Nancy for her dedication to the National Arts Program® in Hartford, Connecticut.

Below is an excerpt from the poem "The Traveler" written by Swantina Monet to accompany the Intermediate winning artwork pictured "The Navajo Missionary".

"Count your steps as you travel along your path Do not look back to ponder on your mistakes, lessons have been learned, take forth, move on, continue your journey, I am the Traveler, this message is for you. On my face you see my journey, I came out of the desert to be with you"

National Arts on Instagram #nationalarts

Check out just a few of the photographs NAP participants are posting on Instagram. We encourage you to share your images on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the #nationalarts.



DELAWARE DOES IT AGAIN!



The State of Delaware NAP exhibit hanging in the Delaware State University Arts Center/Gallery.

The State of Delaware's Third Annual National Arts Program® Exhibit opened on February 24th and included works from 263 employees and their family members. This amazing collection of works was displayed in the Delaware State University Arts Center/Gallery from February 24th through March 17th.

This was the first year for Coordinator Erica Lokai who was able to organize their largest NAP show yet! Erica commented that she "felt very privileged to be part of something so successful." Long after registration closed there was so much excitement

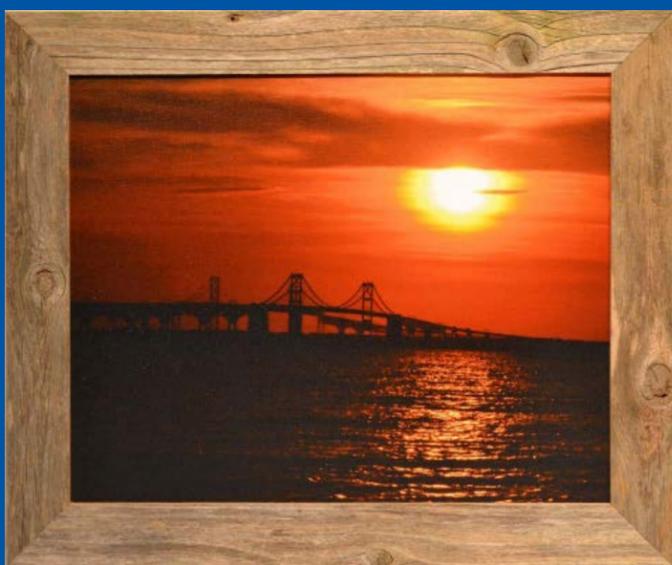
surrounding the show that many artists were still asking to be included. Erica went above and beyond and worked tirelessly to include as many additional individuals as the space would allow. Erica was a phenomenal first time coordinator and her dedication was evident to all involved.

The gallery (pictured above) offered a professional backdrop for this showcase and the exhibit was so well curated that it truly allowed participants to feel a sense of pride. The great care taken proves that The Delaware Division of the Arts recognized the tremendous talents of these artists.

Paul Weagraff, Director of the Delaware Division of the Arts and Delaware Secretary of State, Jeffrey Bullock, were both on hand at the awards reception to help honor the artists. The reception was attended by an estimated 450 guests and was a joyous celebration.

This is the second year the Delaware Division of the Arts has posted images of all entries on their Facebook page. Everyone was invited to visit their page in order to cast their vote for their favorite piece. The People's Choice winner was announced on March 16th and is pictured at left below.

AND THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE IS ...



"Sunset on the Chesapeake" by Nevin Steffy

Nevin's photograph received an astounding 259 'likes' on the Delaware Division of the Arts' Facebook page, making him the State of Delaware's "People's Choice" winner for 2014!

Portland, Maine Celebrates the Start of Spring, finally...



With people all across the country looking forward to the end of winter, the City of Portland got their first sign of spring with the opening of their Eighth Annual NAP exhibit on March 7th.

"This has been a loooong, tough winter," commented Coordinator Karen Seymour. "More folks than ever took the time to say how much they enjoy this event as it truly is a harbinger of spring!"

At the conclusion of the NAP awards reception, visitors were encouraged to continue their artistic experience by visiting local galleries during the city's First Friday Art Walk.

BEST OF SHOW WINNERS

Adult Amateur

Santa Rosa, CA - Pat Baskerville

Adult Intermediate

Central LA Arts & Healthcare, LA - Donna Futrell



"Butterfly" by Edward Zinowko

Hartford, CT - Edward Zinowko

State of Delaware, DE - Faith Kuehn



"Bee Swarm" by Emily Norton

Adult Professional

Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC - George Rivera

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, MN - Maria Rinaldi

Portland, ME - Emily Norton

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, NJ - Susanne Pitak Davis

IN THE NEWS THIS QUARTER

Meticulous Miniature Replicas Reveal the Fanatical Side of Art

Creating a scale replica of an interior space is now a mere matter of setting up the right kind of camera and pressing "print" — but Joe Fig does it the old-fashioned way. Or at least the especially hard way. He creates one-inch to one-foot scale miniatures of artists and their work spaces by hand, and in exacting detail.

Hinsdale Hospital Healing Arts winner focuses on spiritual connection

Artist Michael Devaney has worked at a few jobs in the trades; spending time as an electrician and a carpenter. Right now, he's a truck driver. But that work has never spoken to him the way art does.

Gardner Museum teams with Google for virtual tour

On the anniversary of the 1990 theft that is still the world's most notorious art heist, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on Tuesday became the first New England museum to use Google's Street View technology to let viewers navigate their way virtually around its galleries. The collaboration with the Google Cultural Institute allows what the Gardner describes as a "complete first-person walk-through experience" of the museum.

Three Middletown students receive art awards

Artists young and old, professional and amateur participated in the 23rd Annual National Arts Program Awards Ceremony Jan. 25 at Capital Community College. A diverse group of more than 300 artists using a wide array of visual mediums showed their talent and contributed to community building through one of the largest regional arts events, according to a press release.

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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 82 venues across the country with steady growth.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

(From right clockwise)

Elnaz Farbod, "The Cat", Amateur, Photography

Matt Kent*, "14 Foot Light", Intermediate, Works on Paper

Mark Blome, "Self Portrait", Intermediate, Painting

Brenda Johnson*, "Osaka Rocks", Professional, Photography

Alexandra Loesser, "Beast", Professional, Painting

*Indicates NAP Online Artist

