

NAP WELCOMED BACK WITH OPEN ARMS AT AMITA

Coordinator Sue Kett is an avid believer that the creation of art and the healing environment go hand and hand. A belief that has only grown stronger over the course of her time coordinating the NAP exhibit as she continues to see the profound effect the annual show has on the employees. A fact that became even more apparent with the tremendous response to this year's call for entries after AMITA Health (previously Adventist Midwest Health) had to take time off between exhibitions due to a major merger.

The response to the return of the annual exhibition for its fourth year confirms Sue's belief and the proof is in the numbers. This year's show featured 131 participants showcasing more than 200 pieces of art. These numbers not only surpassed AMITA Health's previous participation numbers, their 2017 show also has the largest amount of artwork on display in the history of the "Healing Arts Exhibit" at AMITA. Sue stated, "The exhibition is a cherished tradition within our region of hospitals and the employees truly missed the

opportunity to share their artistic talents during the hiatus."

Along with this increased growth, Sue finds great pride in witnessing the firsthand growth that many participants have made over the years as they are continually encouraged to nurture their creative side and share it with their professional working environment. "There are so many stories attached to the beautiful pieces of art that it brings me much joy to be the vehicle that brings this program to our hospital," she commented.

The National Arts Program® is truly thankful to have such dedicated coordinators like Sue who believe so strongly in our mission and see the benefits our show bring to not only the participants, but everyone involved.



"Embrace"; Grace Zhou; Teen 13-18, Art Education Award; Works on Paper; Volunteer; Healing Arts

Jackie's Renderings

A message from the Executive Director

I was so optimistic at the turn of the year and although I remain so, I encourage all who read this to support your legislation keeping the National Endowment for the Arts. I respectfully paraphrase an article here from an opinion in the Boston Globe from Anita Walker, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. "This year we face the most serious threat to the National Endowment for the Arts in decades. This as we begin the centennial of the president who gave birth to the idea of federal support for the arts, our native son John F. Kennedy. Public funding of the arts assures that our great art, our national legacy, belongs to all citizens of our country. The public dollar purchases an ownership stake for everyone, regardless of their station in life...President Johnson said, "It is in the neighborhoods of each community that a nation's art is born. In countless American towns there live thousands of obscure and unknown talents. The arts and the humanities belong to the people, for it is after all, the people who create them."

The legislation creating the NEA says its purpose is to ensure a "climate encouraging freedom of thought, imagination, and inquiry." This is not about funding a piece of art. It is about the freedom to make and experience art. It is about the freedom to imagine and question and think.

ARTISTIC TALENT ABOUNDS IN DELAWARE

The State of Delaware held their 6th Annual National Arts Program® Exhibit this year which include over 220 artworks beautifully hung in the Art Center/Gallery at Delaware State University's Campus.

There was such an exceptional showing of talent from Delaware artists this year that the Division of the Arts decided they must recognize four additional pieces with their new 'Special Awards' category. The artists that took home ribbons in this category included; Barry Eli, Amber Scott, John Waters and Miles Pleasanton. Another artwork that stood out from the rest was an extraordinary Self Portrait by Intermediate Artist Willow Quillen (pictured right) which took home first place in her category. Delaware also organizes a People's Choice Award Contest through their Facebook page which showcases each and every artwork included in the exhibit. The People's Choice winner this year was Harshanan Sundaravelu who also happened to be the recipient of the Art Education Award. This talented young artist will have an opportunity to further her art education by taking an art class with the \$200 award stipend she received.

NAP Director of Operations Maren Reid attended the awards reception which took place on March 4th and was able to thank the Division in person for their exceptional work in making this employee

and family art showcase such a roaring success. Secretary of State, Jeff Bullock and Delaware Division of the Arts Director, Paul Weagraff were both in attendance at the ceremony to recognize and honor all of this year's artists. Division of the Arts Deputy Director Kristin Pleasanton did an absolutely phenomenal job coordinating their National Arts Program® exhibit and we couldn't be more pleased with this wonderful ongoing partnership!



"Self Portrait"; Willow Quillen
Intermediate, Works on Paper, First Place
State of Delaware; Education

Rutgers University encourages the "A" in S.T.E.A.M.

Over 140 attendees to the 6th Annual Rutgers University National Arts Program® Awards Ceremony were treated to a new gathering space. Coordinator Noreen Gomez, who works tirelessly to make the show an annual success, decided it was time to change up the presentation of awards. For the first time the ceremony took place in one of their impressive lecture halls. This certainly elevated the experience for both the participants and their guests.

The exhibit included 214 entries which were submitted from artists that spanned an incredible 84 different departments! The range of work was inspiring and reminds us that creativity exists in abundance even in otherwise S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) focused



establishments. Rutgers is the perfect example of how injecting the arts into the university experience encourages employees and students to think creatively and critically. This new educational movement has been termed "S.T.E.A.M."

Helping medical students and staff to tap into their creative sides and not to ignore their artistic endeavors will ultimately help them to be more empathetic, thoughtful and reflective in their work. Hosting the NAP Exhibit for their employees, students and their family members each year reminds everyone of the importance of the visual arts.

"BEST OF THE BEST" for 2016

The NAP opened voting for our Third Annual "Best of the Best" online art show and contest on February 1st. This year's Facebook exhibit featured forty-seven of the Best of Show winners from our participating venues in 2016.

Once again, we asked you to be the judges, choosing this year's winners by "liking" your favorites. It was a very close race between the top three pieces often changing which one was currently in the lead every few days. When the contest closed at noon on March 31st, there were a total of 1,383 votes cast, leaving one piece to be named "Best of the Best" for 2016.

and the winner is ...



"Intemporal" by Macie Hawthorne, Teen 13-18, Cape May County, New Jersey

First Runner-Up



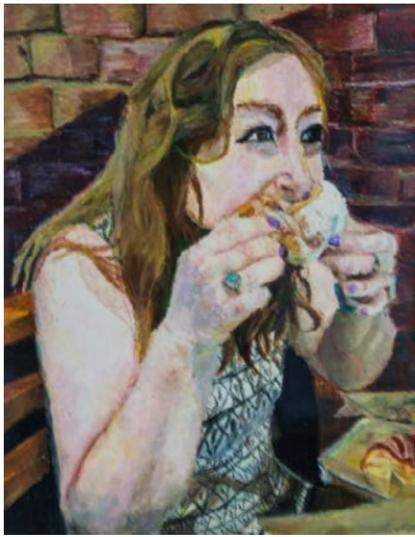
"Man Child"
Linda Martin, Intermediate
Hartford, Connecticut

Second Runner-Up



"It Starts with a Fist"
Lisa Domenic, Intermediate
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania





OUR BEST OF SHOW WINNERS ARE ...

Adult Intermediate

AMITA Health - Marissa Tolomeo
 Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center - Valentine Niderman
 Hartford - Rebecca Jackson
 Rutgers University - Yonatan Kaplan (pictured left)

Adult Professional

Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport - Julie Fischer
 Osceola County - Katiana Robles
 Santa Rosa - Jessica Jacobsen
 State of Delaware - Shari Dierkes

OUR ART EDUCATION WINNERS ARE ...

Youth 12 & Under

Rutgers University - Kiyoshi McBurrows
 State of Delaware - Harshana Sundaravelu

Teen 13-18

AMITA Health - Grace Zhou
 Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center - Syndey Genthe
 Hartford - Graham Deckers (pictured right)
 Osceola County - Sophia Lovato



IN THE NEWS THIS QUARTER

DuPont gives hotel art to 3 area museums, United Way

The DuPont Co. announced Wednesday it has donated key pieces of its hotel art collection to three area museums and is giving 400 other works to United Way of Delaware to sell as a fundraiser.

New York Art Scene Anxiously Waits for Decision on N.E.A.'s Fate

New York City sees itself as the cultural capital of the nation — if not the world — but its artistic community is suddenly vulnerable to budget cuts in Washington, where the administration of President Trump is considering eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts, which provides millions of dollars each year to groups in the city.

How Do You Sell a Work of Art Built Into the Earth?

Almost 50 years ago, Robert Smithson, along with his fellow artists Michael Heizer, Walter De Maria and other adventurous colleagues, pioneered earthworks, an audacious — and short-lived — movement of the 20th century. Named for a sci-fi novel that Smithson read in 1967, earthworks represented a new genre of landscape art.

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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 90 venues across the country with steady growth.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

(Clockwise from top left)

Ashleigh Kemp, "Stringy World", Amateur, Craft

Rebecca Jackson, "Dorothy and Friends-Minifolk", Intermediate, Sculpture

Emily Torres, "The Painted Ladies", Teen, Works on Paper

Diya Bhattacharya, "The Beauty of Mother Nature", Youth 12 & Under, Painting

Christiane Hellner-Obrien, "Hung Up to Dry", Professional, Photography

Elizabeth Perry, "Birds Nest", Teen, Mixed Media