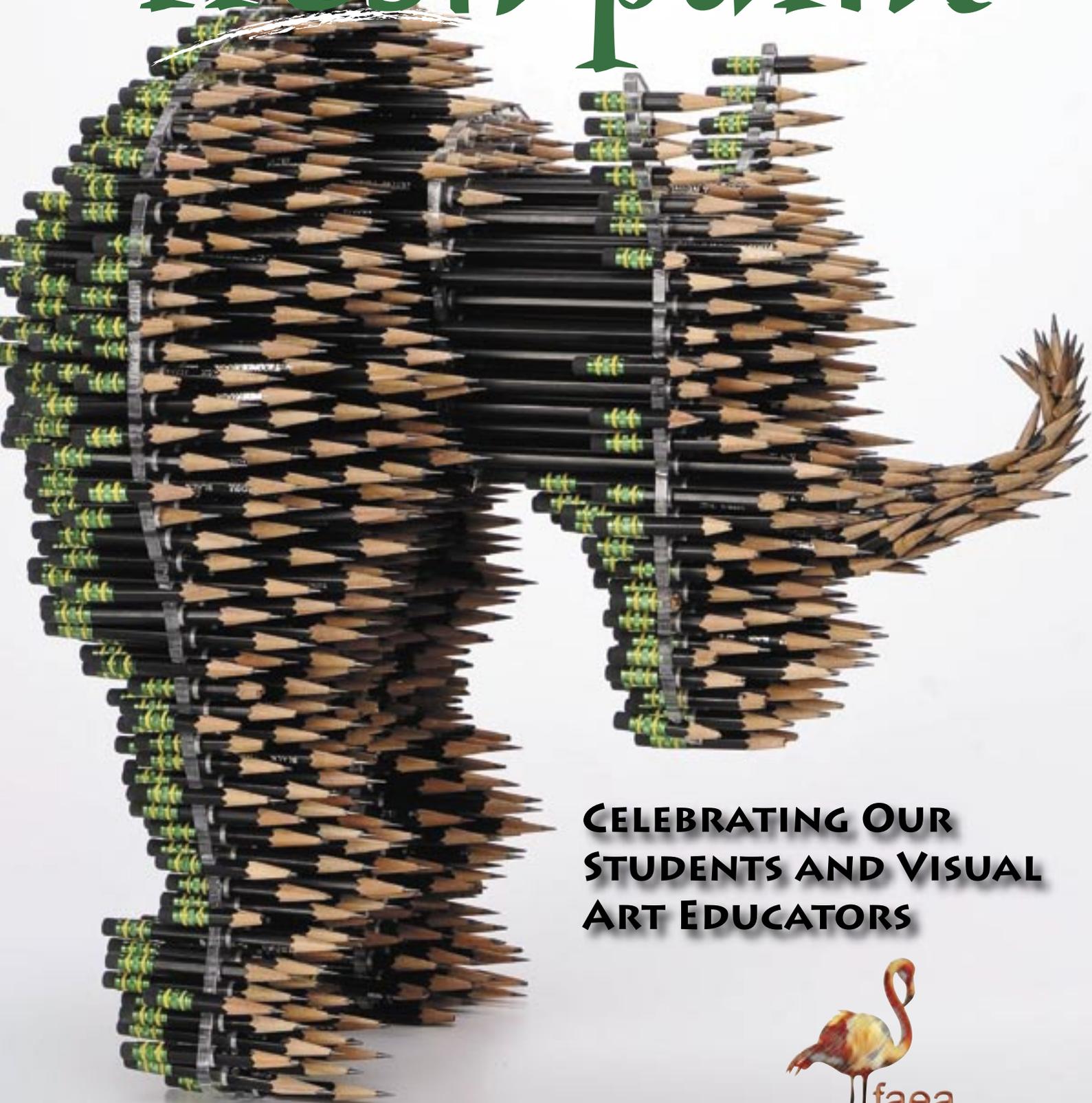


Summer 09

fresh paint



**CELEBRATING OUR
STUDENTS AND VISUAL
ART EDUCATORS**



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FLORIDA ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



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2009 FAEA CONFERENCE
October 15-17, 2009 • Orlando, Florida



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Rapid Press, Tallahassee

A Quarterly Publication of the
FLORIDA ART EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

Fresh Paint is a quarterly publication of the Florida Art Education Association, Inc. The purpose of this publication is to provide membership information. It is published and mailed to the membership in the spring (March), summer (May), fall (August), and winter (December), by the Florida Art Education Association, 402 Office Plaza Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-2757. Periodical postage paid, Tallahassee, Florida (USPS 023179). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FRESH PAINT, 402 Office Plaza Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-2757

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Information for advertisers can be located on page 20 of this issue, and at www.faea.org.



Patricia Lamb, President
Senior Coordinator of Fine Arts,
Polk County Public Schools

As I write this letter, we are awaiting news from the legislature about funding for our schools. I hope that every district will have good news by the end of the school year. It has been a privilege to be a part of the intense lobbying that has happened in support of the arts. The parents of our students do not want the arts diminished in any way. They realize how important the arts are for a complete education for their children. As you speak to other art teachers, remind them that FAEA has been lobbying on their behalf this year. Membership in FAEA is their voice to our legislators. We need their membership and support.

We have just returned from the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Conference in Minneapolis, MN. The weather was glorious for most of our stay, but several days were very cool and brisk for our Florida delegates! The arts are alive and well in spite of the challenges that we are facing in our economy. President-elect Jack Matthews and I spent several days in Delegates Assembly learning what other states are doing in terms of advocacy and programming. In spite of our struggles this year, Florida ranks among the best in the nation. Key-note speakers included Mark Bradford, an Art 21 artist who spoke of his childhood and how he became an artist.

As always, NAEA is exciting and busy, but I am so happy to represent Florida.

We honored Connie Phillips, as the FAEA Art Educator of the Year at the Southeastern Regional meeting. Nan Williams was selected as the Southeastern Art Educator of the Year. Congratulations again to both. Carol Norman was given an Award of Merit for her leadership in Florida's Youth Art Month. Plan to participate in Youth Art Month next March. There will be a workshop at conference that will provide information on participating in Youth Art Month for those who are interested.

Our K-12 Student Exhibition received over 600 entries this year. WOW! It gets bigger and better every year. Ask your principal to pay for your FAEA dues and the student entry fees for next year. This is a statewide performance assessment and every school should be represented. We will recognize the participating teachers and award winners at conference on Friday night.

The FAEA Board of Directors met last week in Orlando to begin the preparations for our 2009 conference. Our conference theme is *Eye Witness: Learning in the Visual Age*. We have a number of exciting workshops planned for the conference, so start making your plans now to be at the Florida Hotel, October 15-17. Be creative and find a way!

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. I can be reached at patricia.lamb@polk-fl.net.

The mission of the Florida Art Education Association is to promote art education in Florida through professional development, service, advancement of knowledge, and leadership.

The vision of the Florida Art Education Association, hereinafter designated as FAEA or as the Association, is to provide Florida visual art teachers with the knowledge, skills, and support that will ensure the highest quality instruction possible to all students in Florida.

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division updates

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION

Did you ever step outside after a hard day's work in your art room and say, "Wow, it is a beautiful day!" Those words may have been followed with a silent thought along the lines of, "Wow, I haven't even stepped outside all day to enjoy this beautiful weather." Now let me ask, "Why?" Why is it that a whole school day can go by and the very teachers who educate our children about aesthetic beauty do not take the *time* to go outside? I think that may well be the answer: *time*.

Where does the time go in a given day? We are prepping projects, cleaning art supplies, hanging displays or, shall I dare say, stuck on the computer? I can confess to having tables set up on an art patio overlooking 135-acres of native Florida habitat, and yet, I never even pause to step outside for a moment. Sitting here, embarrassed as I write this, I realize I have taken for granted the natural beauty of my surroundings and vow tomorrow to change.

Working at a 'green' school has made me aware that this very lack of being outdoors is becoming a problem in our society. It even has a name: nature-deficit disorder. Oh, no, another disorder! Fortunately, no medication is needed to overcome this ailment. It is cured by simply allowing ourselves to make small changes in our lifestyles that enable us to connect to nature once again for improved physical and emotional health. Unfortunately, nature-deficit disorder looms as an ever larger issue in today's children. For more on the topic, please read *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv or visit <http://richardlouv.com/last-child-woods.com>. (Maybe



Second grader Chante Cue captures the beauty of Pine Jog with her teacher Susan Playe

someone should write a book called *Last Art Teacher in the Woods!*)

In all seriousness, children, our students, are not spending enough time outside connecting with nature. In the age of television and video game overload, children do not seem to have the time to be outside. Could it be? Or could it be that this is not an issue of time, but an issue of priority? So as the summer approaches, I ask you to reach out to your elementary students and remind them of all the ways they can stay creative this summer and all the ways that the great outdoors can enhance their lives. Whether it is as simple as drawing

with outdoor chalk or something as thought-provoking as finding some landscape or nature scenes to sketch, remind your students that beauty is all around for those who wish to see it (and those who wish to leave the video games). Please make your final art lesson of the year one that plants seeds of outdoor creativity in your students' minds and motivates them to enjoy the summer days beyond the walls of their homes.

As camp enrollments are down all around the state due to family's financial hardships, I have some grave concerns about how our students will spend their summer days without any type of structured recreation and creativity. We can only hope that families will return to the basics and remember the simple family activities that are inexpensive and available right in our own backyards. Even so, it may be a good idea to remind our students that some of the best summer activities are free, especially if when it comes to using your imagination.

So this summer does not appear to hold the carefree mindset as it has in the recent past in terms of our economy and vacation opportunities, but hopefully, you as a dedicated professional will also take this message to heart and find some time this summer to reconnect with nature and enjoy the Florida surroundings with your creative spirit. Think Claude Monet and plein air and internalize the aesthetic lessons that you teach your young artists throughout the year: natural beauty is all around us if only we take the time to enjoy it. Best of all, the indulgence of nature doesn't cost a dime!



division updates

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

I am a reader. In kindergarten, I had absolutely no interest in reading at all. Somehow, my first grade teacher, Mrs. Kelley, got me interested and ever since I have been hooked. I am eternally grateful to her for this gift. Every night, no matter what time I finally get into bed, I have to read at least a chapter of a book. For twenty minutes, I

relax. Usually everyone else in the house is already asleep, so it's nice and quiet. As soon as I am settled, our cat Jelly climbs up and lies down on my chest, putting her tail in my face, forcing me to hold the book up over my head so that I can see. Not super comfortable, but it works.

One night, I was in a quandary. I had

finished a book the night before and didn't have a new one to start. In an act of desperation, I picked up *Organizing Plain and Simple*, by Donna Smallin. I don't remember purchasing the book, but there it was on the shelf. Perfect timing actually, as I was more than a little frustrated about the state of my household - a remodel that has gone seven months over schedule has forced me to live with piles and boxes that won't have a home until it's finished. So, I started reading. And I kept reading for the next several nights.

Smallin includes each aspect of your life, from every room in the house to finances, time and home life. I like the way she encourages the reader to work little by little to get the big job done. In this way, a job that may seem overwhelming becomes more manageable. After reading the book, I am ready to ACT (Assess your situation, Commit to a plan, Take action!). This is the summer I get organized so that I am not so frustrated by my surroundings. I've got myself into this mess and am now prepared to get myself out of it. I think having a system set in place (and following through with it) will help me make better use of my time.

Keeping a schedule for day-to-day activities is vital to those of us with busy lives. I am definitely a list maker! I have to write everything down or it doesn't get done. Smallin's book made me realize that I also need to make the time for personal fulfillment. I have to schedule time for myself. If I don't plan for it, something else will take its place. So, in addition to doing my own version of "Clean Sweep", I am going to "Make Art Every Day"! It may only be twenty minutes each day, but I think it is important in our busy lives to do something we love.

I hope that you each enjoy your summer, your time off and your time to recharge. This summer I won't be going anywhere as exciting as last summer (the picture is of me painting in Ravenglass, England), but I will be spending time with family and friends, and also, my sketchbook!





HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

SUMMERTIME...

AND THE LIVING IS EASY....?

Ahhh, summertime – a time to chill, kick back and revitalize. I usually use the summer months to get some much needed sleep, read novels that I have collected throughout the year and maybe take a workshop or a course to improve my skills and expand my creativity. Unfortunately, because of the recent budget cuts all over the state that have resulted in massive cuts to arts programs, I (we) have to add another component to our summer activities. We have to plan on how to make our art programs VISIBLE and VIABLE! We have to STRATEGIZE!

But, let's get to the relaxing and renewing first. We deserve it. We've spent 190+ days giving every ounce of energy that we have to teaching our students and making sure that they are meeting the standards, being creative, learning and making art. It's time to sleep in, stay up late, meet with friends, go out to lunch, take a trip, go to the beach or, my favorite, do absolutely nothing for a while!

You could find a good workshop to rejuvenate your creative spirit – learn something new, get out those paints and make some art. There are summer art courses at many of the colleges and universities near you. Ringling College of Art and Design offers what sounds like a great retreat for artists and teachers at their Wildacres location in the Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina (For more information, visit <http://www.ringling.edu/ContinuingStudies.22.0.html>). Even if you just do a little self-learning like get a how-to book, buddy up with a like-minded artist friend or experiment and play with new materials/media. You'll find your creative juices flowing and, ahhh... what a great feeling!

Now to the part that we don't want to do, but HAVE to (this can't wait). Because the state/county budget cuts have eroded the art programs at many elementary and middle schools (I'm afraid that the high school programs could be next), we have to band together to strategize as to how we can "save" whatever art positions are left in the state. As you sit on your porch, or at the beach, or when you have lunch with your friends, think about how YOU can make your art program visible and viable. Think about what you can do to make it impossible to cut your program.

If you simply stay within the confines of your classroom, then you will find that no one besides your students (maybe their parents) and perhaps your colleagues know what great work your students are doing and that you are doing. You HAVE to do more! Don't wait until it's too late to do anything. Act before you have to react!

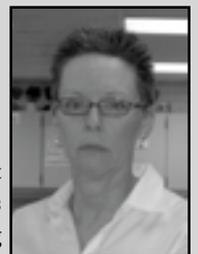
- Get a copy of Daniel Pink's book, *A Whole New Mind*, read it and then pass on the book to your principal or to a school board member. Write down things from the book that you can use as "talking points" at your next open house and especially to your students next year.
- Compile a list of all the media contacts in your county, i.e. the newspaper editor/reporters, television newscasters and radio stations. Get their phone numbers and email addresses and write them down and keep them handy so throughout the next school year, every time you do something, every exhibit, every special project, every award, send off an email to these people and let them know that your students are important, that art is important. Don't forget to include your principal's name in the email; this is essential for your program, if you make your administration look good, they'll love you (even if YOU don't love them).

- Seek out projects that will make a splash at your school. If you participate in national/international projects, it's easy to get press and recognition. And the more press and recognition you get, the more "important" your program becomes. Get it? Some easy projects to get involved with are Pinwheels for Peace (September 21), <http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com>, the Fundred Dollar Bill Project, <http://www.fundred.org>, or the Empty Bowl project, <http://www.emptybowls.com>.
- Make plans NOW to attend the FAEA Conference in October (make your hotel reservations now). WE HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER, now, more than ever! We need to meet, commiserate and, most importantly, celebrate the arts. With the current state of budget cuts and all, you can't afford NOT to go.

Have a relaxing, fun-filled and safe summer. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, whatever, I'm only an email away at art304@bellsouth.net.

Ann Afterthought: Here's the best quote I've heard in a long time. It's from my friend Sara Marc, "Take away everything that has been touched by an artist and all you have left is a bunch of naked people living in a cave staring at the walls."

Judi Evans, NBCT, Chair
Mayport Elementary, Duval County



DISTRICTS ASSEMBLY

As we rush headlong toward summer vacation, I am reminded that summer is the time to prepare for the upcoming school year. It seems difficult to think ahead when we are so looking forward to a refreshing rest, but considering our next step is a must! I have already committed myself to a five day series of workshops at SCAD in late July with one of my conference roommates. My workshops include photo etching on jewelry, quilt collages, perspective techniques, small landscapes and pop-up books. Gathering new ideas, meeting new people and making art for five days without losing focus will be a wonderful blessing.

Are you like me? When you sit down to make your own art, you feel guilty that you are neglecting your child, husband, home, parents, pets or organizations of which you are a member. Remember, it is vitally important to recharge your battery before you begin a new year. What better way than to make an investment in yourself and your ability than summer workshops where you are able to create without interruptions. Take a journal to make notes of ideas that come as you interact with peers along your journey. Use your camera to document processes, places and people. Reflect later using your journals and devise lesson plans for the upcoming year. Whatever you choose... be inspired, refreshed and recharged when you return to work in August! I look forward to seeing everyone at the FAEA Conference in October. Don't forget, if you have any district news, please email me at evansj1@duvalschools.org.



division updates

HIGHER EDUCATION DIVISION

PLEIN AIR EXPERIENCES FROM FLORIDA TO NYC

This past spring, in the Art department at South Florida Community College (SFCC), we have had weather that favored drawing and painting outdoors which motivated us to go outside and work in "plein air" from Florida to NYC. Over spring break, 13 faculty members plus students from SFCC were joined by 13 Avon Park High School art club members and their art teacher Karla Respress on a trip to New York to visit museums and sights of the city. The air was cooler in NYC, but did not prevent students, like Max Gooding, from taking his sketchbook to the top of Rockefeller Center to practice his perspective with the New York skyline. Here is what Max had to say about traveling and plein air sketching:

"Sketching in plein air is one of the most relaxing activities an artist can engage in. In this fashion, an artist lives completely in

the moment while making complete sense of the space around him or her. The goal in plein air is not to capture a perfect picture



Max Gooding shows his plein air drawing of New York City

of what one is viewing, but it is more to capture the feeling or impression of that moment in time. While sketching in plein air, I almost feel as if I have frozen time; it allows one to be at peace with oneself and the environment which one is in. In the busiest city in the world there is a perfect calm, even in the middle of Times Square, while sketching in plein air."

On April 11, we had a "Plein Air Paint-Out" where students and adults from the community came out to the streets of Avon Park and painted in various outdoor locations from 8:30 am until noon. About 20 artists participated and the experience was fun and productive.

No matter if you travel or stay close to home, here's wishing you a fun and productive summer. Remember to enjoy the day with a few hours of plein air sketching or painting.

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MUSEUM DIVISION

How will you spend your summer break? Break away from unproductive vegetation and find fun ways to prioritize your professional learning!

EXPERIMENT WITH NEW TOYS: WORDLE.NET

Wordle is a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different provided fonts, layouts and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends.

I created an example here from text taken from the FAEA website, the article “Organizational History of the Florida Art Education Association - 1952 to 2004.” I cut and pasted this block of text into the Wordle site, and generated several different versions. This was my favorite.

This is fun, addictive and even useful. Because the clouds make frequent (presumably more important) words larger, this can be an *Wordle image from www.wordle.net*

excellent tool to track the key words and concepts in an article, a speech, a grant narrative, etc. Experiment by taking the text of a State of the Union address, copy from an advertisement or persuasive writing, or use a block of text you have composed for some purpose. Visually analyze the results to become aware of word usage and see a new dimension in communication.

The next step in experimenting is, when you understand how it works, to manipulate the results. Try taking a favorite poem. Note the strong words to which you respond, which you feel are more important. When you enter the text of the poem, enter these strong,

meaningful words repetitively in order to change their resulting size. You can influence the size and layout of your word cloud by carefully metered repetitions to convey visually powerful messages.

There are some obvious uses for this in the classroom, limited only by your imagination:

- Teachers can take famous orations or speeches and create word clouds for examination
- Teachers can take inaugural addresses from history and create word clouds for comparison



- Teachers can compare advertising text to uncover themes and messages for media analysis
- While studying artists such as Jenny Holzer, Barbara Kruger and Martin Firrell, teachers can use Wordle as a tool for students as an initial exercise to explore their own use of text as visual communication
- There is an account on the Wordle site of a teacher in the UK using this tool to assist the teaching of spelling and vocabulary acquisition by exploiting the visual design aspects of the word cloud with struggling elementary students

One important caution for classroom use: the Wordle site and user gallery is not moderated. Therefore anyone can enter words for clouds that might be objectionable, and anyone can see them.

Wordle use is governed by a Creative Commons Attributions license, which means they are free for you to use for personal or commercial use, all you have to do is attribute the image to www.wordle.net.

BEACH READING WITH A PURPOSE: START A SUMMER READING CIRCLE

Most educators just don't get a chance to keep up on their reading – we're frequently too busy to be able to prioritize this personal professional learning. Do you have a stack of books or articles you've been waiting – procrastinating – to read? Or do you know you should be reading. Have you been meaning to look up information on a professional topic during the school year, but just haven't

(Continued on page 10)





division updates

SUPERVISION/ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

**RENEW, REKINDLE, REJUVENATE
AND RECONNECT**

Are you still pondering what you will do this summer? Are you thinking about YOU as a learner? Or, are you thinking about what you can learn to share with your teachers? Whatever road you plan on traveling this summer, make sure you plan to renew, rekindle, rejuvenate and reconnect with your creative and ever-learning spirit.

So how do we **renew** our creative side and our spirit? It's truly simple. All you have to do is explore ways or engage in opportunities that will keep you energized and enthused. Analyze what you enjoy. Is it drawing, painting, stitching, printmaking, sculpting, traveling, writing or reading a book on how to strengthen any of these dexterities? Whatever you choose, you will easily identify the one thing that will assist you in renewing your creative side and elevating your spirit.

As professionals, we often lose ourselves in the "doing", but rarely reflect on the factors that brought us there in the first place. We simply forget to **rekindle**. During this time of professional growth, rekindle the ideas that lead you to be an administrator. Evaluate your traits as a leader and engage

in opportunities that will make you a better one. Relight the fire that will drive the visual arts programs, curriculums and teachers in your district to be second to none.

Rejuvenate your ideas and skills by connecting to the latest trends that can support visual arts education. Some great technological resources include, but are not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and WikiSpaces. These are just a few concepts for our colleagues and teachers that enable ideas to come to fruition. These ideas can be catalysts for change which can assist you in supporting your teachers.

Reconnect with the art of teaching. It was through teaching that you became an arts administrator. Reconnect by expanding your skills working with professional arts organizations in your county, city, state and throughout the world. Rejuvenate your ideology, skills and theories in administration by exploring innovative avenues that can support your district's visual arts programs and teachers.

Finally, we must be cognizant of the steadily increasing cultural and economic impact of the visual arts on national and international fronts and the opportunities these can present for our teachers and stu-

dents. In today's every changing educational world, we must expand our sense of educational and social responsibility that will enable the visual arts to play a more prominent role in our communities. As institutions and corporations turn to the visual arts to focus the goals and aspirations of their communities, the visual arts administrator becomes a powerful educational force in society, helping to shape cultural values. As you continue to learn in the visual age, always **renew, rekindle, rejuvenate and reconnect** with the act of learning. Knowledge is power (Francis Bacon Sr.), but only if you know how to acquire it.

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

Arts Administration and Management: A Guide for Arts Administrators and Their Staffs by Harvey Shore

Freeing the Creative Spirit: Drawing on the Power of Art to Tap the Magic and Wisdom Within by Adriana Diaz

Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive Through the Dangers of Leading by Martin Linsky & Ronald A. Heifetz

Museum Division

—continued from page 9

found the time? Sometimes we need peers and friends to support us. Why not start your own summer reading circle? Reach out, gather together some of your art educator colleagues, pass around an article or a book and meet once a month to get started. Meet at your house, a coffee shop, the library or call your local art museum and see if they have any space to share.

As a museum educator, I'm starting a docent summer reading circle in June, to review a few articles with my volunteer educators on the history of docents, a light introduction to the writing and influence of John Dewey and a contemporary article on gallery learning to help support our efforts at being better gallery teachers. I'll be distributing the articles (they are all short and easy to read) in advance and encourage participants to read before our meeting. We'll arrange our chairs in a circle and I'll moderate the conversation based on what we all bring from our readings, our individual backgrounds and experiences. I'm pleased to report that my docents are very excited by this new idea.

**EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS: INVESTIGATE
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

The 2009 Harn Museum Summer Teacher Institute, "Expand Your Horizons", offers excellent professional development based on the extensive art collection at the Harn Museum on the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville. This intensive and energizing three-day institute (July 19-21) offers Florida educators the opportunity to deeply investigate visual art, work with regional artists and conceptualize authentic classroom connections in order to develop critical thinking skills in K-12 students. All participants receive free copies of the Harn's resource materials which are aligned with selected Sunshine State Standards and support interdisciplinary themes. Registration is \$75 which includes meals and is limited to the first 25 educators to apply. The registration form is available on the Harn Museum website at www.harn.ufl.edu. For more information, call Bonnie Bernau, Director of Education, at (352) 392-9826 or e-mail bernaub@ufl.edu.

Attendance at the NAEA and FAEA Conferences helps keep us current in all aspects of visual art education and allows us to be informed mentors. Visual arts education spirals upward and out, repeating, expanding and growing. As retirees we can be especially insightful into our profession, as we have the experience and duration to see the big picture of this evolution. The NAEA Conference in Minneapolis certainly was another such growth experience as it had an abundance of arts information, research and recognition.

Visual arts' latest advocate is brain research which scientifically supports the value of arts education. Researcher, Eric Jensen, keynote speaker and author of *Arts With the Brain in Mind*, sang praises to the arts as the arts positively affect the operating system of the brain. This system is responsible for student achievement. Arts support the long term development of critical neurobiological systems which enhance improved social, cognitive, academic and cultural outcomes across all subject areas. Apparently, 25% of our brain is used to process visual information. Other

arts, such as dance and music support other critical brain areas. We can give a big "I told you so" to budget planners in education, who are concerned about measurable achievement, that to get the most out of educational funding, *support the arts*. We have always professed that the arts are another way of knowing. The knowledge, skill sets and brain development in a good arts program are transferable to other aspects of life. Eric Jensen recommends 30-50 minutes of art 3-5 times a week to maximize learning in all areas of education (this includes math and reading). We are in a learning class by ourselves.

A new caucus group has emerged at NAEA, one for spirituality in art education. Even though it seems that this is the antithesis of brain research, it probably is an aspect of brain response. The group clarified that it was about spirituality, not necessarily religion, but acknowledged that many of the religious cannot separate the two and all aspects of spirituality will be embraced by this caucus. The retired educator's caucus continues to support art student chapters with mentoring and funding.

Congratulations to Connie Philips, Southeastern State Art Educator of the Year, and Nan Williams, Southeastern Art Educator of the Year. They were both recognized by the Southeastern Division of NAEA for years of dedication and meaningful contributions to art education!

As usual, many attendees experienced collector's remorse when our many goodies from the exhibitors had to be shipped home as the airlines now charge a hefty fee for overweight bags and a second bag. (And many, including me, paid for shipping rather than give up one sample of acrylic!)

Visual arts education has grown with data based art education; multi cultural education, interdisciplinary education, inclusion, economic importance, etc. (Please send me a list of all the buzz words that you remember so we can compile the list and review our progress). Now, we have research of the brain.

Participation of retirees at conferences, growth, learning and our mentoring continues to assist with the development of our profession. We are not done yet.



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ORANGE SUN"SHINE"

The Orange County Art Education Association opened its 23rd annual art exhibition, April 16th, at the CityArts Factory in downtown Orlando. Entitled "SHINE", this year's show featured the work of sixty-six art teachers from all public school levels showcasing their talents in a variety of art forms from media to paint to glass work.

Long experienced, fresh out of college, old and tested, young and exuberant, and...well, you get the picture...visual art teachers at a myriad of stages in their careers and lives joined together to celebrate their "SHINING" moment. Sue Neumeyer, Mikki Maurer, Samantha Andrews Jarvis and Chuck Hoekman, all spearheaded by Kris Finn, presented a tasty opening for the eager public and teachers. The halls of the gallery were filled with colleagues, family and friends enjoying a creative break from current economic concerns.

The show took on a special meaning this year with many schools facing the potential loss of visual arts programs due to projected extreme budget cuts. For many art teachers, the loss of these programs is much more than the loss of a job. "SHINE" is the mantra they have channeled to their students, allowing each child to see the world illuminated with fine arts knowledge and to envision a brighter future for themselves and others. Truly the visual arts give every child their own unique chance to shine.

The Orange County Art Education Association offers "SHINE" as a tribute and testament to its instructors' commitment to keep shining in the face of what potentially lies ahead, a reduced visual art education for Orange County students.

Michelle Thomas



Cheryl Smith



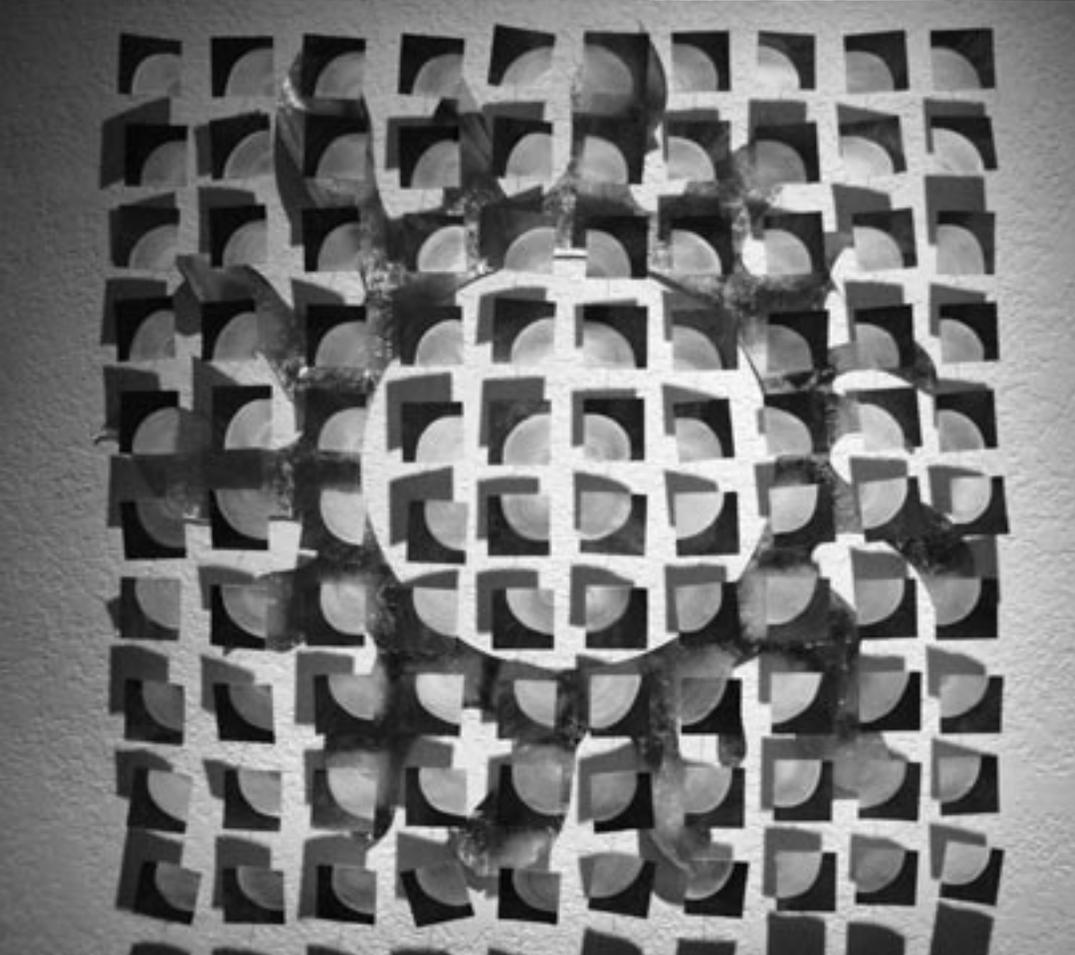
Carol Norman



Sky English



Bradley Gill



Sue Neumeyer



Kris Finn

Wendy Martinez



POLK COUNTY KIDS TAG ART PROJECT



For the past three years, Polk County elementary art teachers, Central Florida Eurocars and the Polk County Tax Collector's Office have partnered in the Polk County Kids Tag Art Project. The project raises funds which supplement and enrich elementary art budgets. Additional partners include the Ridge Art Association, the Junior Womens Club of Lakeland, Douglass Screen Printing and the Polk Museum of Art. Representatives of each organization meet monthly to plan and manage the project which targets all fifth grade students in the district. Participation by schools and students in the project is strictly voluntary.

Three years ago our local tax collector, Joe Tedder, approached the Department of Fine Arts about formalizing some community outreach they had been doing with schools. At that time, representatives from his office went into schools and shared with students the purposes of Florida license plates. Students were then encouraged to design their own vanity plates as part of the presentation.

Tedder noticed many parents in his office buying school fund raisers from their students. He and his staff said what if we make this a partnership with art teachers and have kids purposefully design a tag with instruction from an art teacher. He asked our office if elementary art teachers would be interested in partnering with his office to teach students how to design a license plate. These vanity plates could be used as a fund raiser for the art programs. He asked Central Florida Eurocars if they would provide the seed money for the project. Steve Uiterwyck agreed and the partnership was formed. As the original partners planned printing and publicity, other organizations came on board.

The partners kick off the project each year with a luncheon for the participating teachers during a planning day at the beginning of the school year. The luncheon includes door prizes and each teacher receives a packet that contains instructions, samples and a lesson plan for designing the tags.

Volunteers from the Tax Collectors Office assist teachers with sales, marketing and in whatever capacity is needed by the teachers. Teachers are encouraged to present the project at back-to-school night so fifth grade parents have the information needed to order tags when it is time.

Only students in the fifth grade are given the opportunity to participate in the project. The designs are then submitted to Douglass Screen Printers who digitize each design and transfer it to a vanity license plate. Two designs are chosen from each school for recognition at an awards ceremony held at the Polk Museum of Art. Each student is recognized and given a certificate of achievement. All of the award winning designs are placed on a display that travels around the school district. The award winning designs are also on-line at the official Polk County Tax Collector's website, where they can be purchased by the public. The project has grown so we now have to hold two receptions for parents and students. We now see cars bearing student designed license plates throughout the district.

Over sixty elementary schools in our district participate in the project. The tags cost \$6.53 to make at Douglass Screen Printing and sell for \$15 each. The rest is profit for the art program. The profits go into an internal account at each school to purchase supplemental materials for each art program. In the past three years, the project has poured over \$45,000 into art programs in Polk County.

Next year, awards will be given to teachers for sales and participation and the tax collector will choose an annual award to be displayed on his car and in his office. The partners continually work to improve publicity each year. The printer wraps two cars each year in tag designs as publicity. As the project grows each year, new ideas are implemented. The commitment of every partner has made this a rewarding and valuable project for Polk County Schools.

Our tax collector has presented this project at their state convention and hopes to see it become a state wide initiative. If you are interested in implementing this program in your district, our district will be happy to share our process. For more information, please contact Patricia Lamb, Polk County Schools, at patricia.lamb@polk-fl.net or Martha Roe Burke, Polk County Tax Collector's Office, at MarthaRoeBurke@Polktaxes.com

The strong partnership between all members has led to an outstanding program for fifth graders in Polk County Schools.



Students at the NAEA Conference

Connie Phillips, Nan Williams, Gerie Leigh and Jack Matthews

THINKING OUT OF THE BUBBLE

Jack Matthews, President-elect
Duval County Public Schools

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend the NAEA Conference this year. Shamefully, this was my first national conference. Although I have been in education for 30 years, I never attended one due to conflicting responsibilities in my county. As a “newbie” to NAEA, it was an incredible experience meeting and talking with art educators from around the nation. What an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience as teachers in their beginning years and those most senior members came together in one venue. It was awe-inspiring.

During the first General Session, NAEA President Bonnie Rushlow spoke of stepping out of the bubble. She said the same thing at our Delegates Assembly meeting. Her words were, “Forget about thinking out of the box. We need to begin thinking out of the bubble.” At first, I didn’t get it. Then it hit me. Educational leaders are so focused on test results that the arts are not seriously considered. If it doesn’t directly affect bubbling in a scan-tron sheet, then it doesn’t seem to matter.

For several years, in fact, since about 1996, we have been providing information regarding how the arts

affect test scores. These are true facts that have been documented through *Champions of Change* and utilized in most advocacy materials since that time. The problem? Immediate test results. School districts depend on growth via test results on a yearly basis. Seeing improved results via art programs may not occur within one year...or two...or three. I am not a proponent of getting rid of testing, yet, I am disturbed that students who do not test well many times will find themselves in remedial classes, void of the opportunity to take arts classes. These may be the very students who desperately need to be in arts classes!

Elliot Eisner, in his book *The Arts and the Creation of Mind*, warns us about using test results as an advocacy tool because results are not immediate. Therefore, Bonnie Rushlow’s quote finally made sense to me. Let’s not push testing results as the purpose for keeping arts alive in our schools. Let us instead educate the educators and the global community about how the arts develop the whole child; produce problem solvers and creative thinkers; and prepare students for the global economy in the 21st century. Let’s not reduce the arts to bottom-line test score results.

ARTS FOR LIFE!

PROGRAM AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN THE ARTS

Each year, former First Lady Columba Bush and the Foundation for Excellence in Education, through the *Arts for Life! Program*, recognize high school students from throughout the state with a scholarship of excellence for achievement in the arts. This year, the *Arts for Life! Program* awarded 35 graduating high school seniors representing creative writing, dance, music, theatre and visual art with a \$1,000 cash scholarship to use toward their pursuit of the arts in higher education.

This year, more than 500 outstanding high school seniors were considered – another record number of applicants for the

program. Participating students were required to submit a sample of their work and an essay on how the arts influenced their life and the role of the arts in their future. A committee comprised of respected experts in the five disciplines reviewed and scored each application to determine this year's scholarship recipients.

The winning students and their families, teachers and school administrators will be recognized at a luncheon hosted by Jeb and Columba Bush on June 26, 2009, at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

Here are the 2009 *Arts for Life! Program* scholarship recipients in the visual arts.



Priscilla Aleman
Design and Architecture Senior High School
Miami-Dade County

Francisco Gabuardi
New World School of the Arts
Miami-Dade County



Nicole Dyer
Harrison School of the Arts
Polk County



Cosby Hayes
Florida State
University School
Leon County





Hillary Gunder
Bishop Verot High School
Lee County

Karl Hadrika
Dr. Phillips High School
Orange County



Laura Garcia
South Miami Senior High School
Miami-Dade County



Raquel Kidd
Coral Reef Senior High School
Miami-Dade County



Chottip Nimla-or
New World School of the Arts
Miami-Dade County



Tess Olson
Pine View School
Sarasota County

Katherine Ordoñez
New World School of the Arts
Miami-Dade County



Arts for Life!

—continued from page 17



Brandi Wyant
Lake Brantley High School
Seminole County



Joy Peterson
H.B. Plant High School
Hillsborough County



Lindsay Rapp
Calvary Christian High School
Pinellas County



Pamela Saad
Ronald W. Reagan Doral
Senior High School
Miami-Dade County

THE GIFT

2009 SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers is pleased to announce the winners of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2009. This year 140,000 works were submitted to 81 Regional Affiliates.

- 10,000 students were honored as regional Gold Key winners.
- 1,000 students earned National Awards—Gold Medals, Silver Medals and American Visions & Voices Medals.
- 12 graduating seniors who submitted a body of work in the Portfolio categories earned National Portfolio Gold Medals, which includes a \$10,000 scholarship.

In its 86-year history, The Awards have bestowed honors on some of America's most celebrated creative leaders including: Truman Capote, Sylvia Plath, Tom Otterness, Bernard Malamud, Joyce Maynard, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Avedon, Robert Indiana, Robert Redford, Zac Posen, Philip Pearlstein and Andy Warhol. This year, Florida is proud to have the following winners:

Dennis Barbon

Silver Medal—Design: Plans/Models
Design And Architecture Senior High School
Teacher: Eric Hankin

Lily Capehart

Silver Medal—Photography
Bak Middle School of The Arts
Teacher: Stephanie Chesler

Grace Chiang

Gold Medal—Sculpture
University School of Nova Southeastern
Teacher: Melanie Cohen

Kristen Colesanti

American Visions Medal—Photography
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts
Teacher: Peter Stodolak

Kristen Cook

Gold Medal—Painting
Jensen Beach High School
Teacher: Tracy Canada

Alicia Del Aguila

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
New World School Of The Arts
Teacher: Alicia Del Aguila

Giovanni Flores

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
Design And Architecture Senior High School
Teacher: Tavare Hill

Francisco Gabuardi

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
New World School Of The Arts
Teacher: Tom Wyroba

Audrey Gair

American Visions Medal—Painting
New World School Of The Arts
Teacher: Tom Wyroba

Laura Garcia

Silver Medal—Painting
South Miami Senior High
Teacher: Lizzie Gonzalez

Taylor Goldenberg

Silver Medal—Painting
Bak Middle School of the Arts
Teacher: Lianne Lavoy

Kasey Hettig-Rolfe

Silver Medal—Video and Film
Pine View School for the Gifted
Teacher: Retsy Lauer

Elianse Jean Louise

Gold Medal—Photography
Bak Middle School of the Arts
Teacher: Stephanie Chesler

Elianse Jean Louise

Silver Medal—Photography
Bak Middle School of the Arts
Teacher: Stephanie Chesler

Ian Kaplan

Photo Portfolio Silver Medal
Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Teacher: Robert Friedman

Denisha Kinkel

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
Pinellas County Center for the Arts
Teacher: Denisha Kinkel

Alyssa Klein

Silver Medal—Mixed Media
Bak Middle School of the Arts
Teacher: Lianne Lavoy

Walter Latimer

Silver Medal—Computer Art
Design And Architecture Senior High School
Teacher: Dale Brooks

Marquez Linder

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
Pinellas County Center for the Arts
Teacher: Alan Johnson

Amanda Maduri

Gold Medal—Printmaking
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts
Teacher: Jenny Gifford

Benjamin Mendelewicz

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts
Teacher: Marsha Christo

Bryant Nguyen

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts
Teacher: John Griffin

Jasmine Nones-Newman

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
Design And Architecture Senior High School
Teacher: Tavare Hill

Michael Okey

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
New World School of the Arts
Teacher: Michael Okey

Tess Olson

American Visions Medal—Design: Apparel
Pine View School for the Gifted
Teacher: Retsy Lauer

Katherine Ordoñez

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
New World School of the Arts
Teacher: Tom Wyroba

Kenleigh Pinder

Silver Medal—Drawing
South Fork High School
Teacher: Tom Wetzel

Christian Price

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
American Heritage
Teacher: Alan Feldmesser

Christian Price

Silver Medal—Painting
American Heritage
Teacher: Alan Feldmesser

Nicolas Rabinowitz

Gold Medal—Printmaking
Bak Middle School of the Arts
Teacher: Patrick Fallon

Katie Rocco

Silver Medal—Photography
Berkeley Preparatory School
Teacher: Terrie Forester

Christopher Rodriguez

American Visions Medal—Photography
American Heritage
Teacher: Deborah Brock

Aaron Ruiz

Silver Medal—Drawing
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts
Teacher: Scott Armetta

Steven Scheffler

American Visions Medal—Sculpture
Seminole High School
Teacher: Barbara Wurdeman

Jane Suarez

Silver Medal—Computer Art
Hiialeah Senior High School
Teacher: Tom Virgin

John Ugowski

Art Portfolio Silver Medal
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts
Teacher: John Ugowski

John Valbrun

Silver Medal—Printmaking
South Dade High School
Teacher: Brian Reedy

Gaia Weise

Silver Medal—Printmaking
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts
Teacher: Jenny Gifford

Yunhan Xu

Gold Medal—Drawing
Berkeley Preparatory School
Teacher: Anna Arcuri

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NAEA is currently accepting presentation proposals. Proposals must be submitted online by June 30, 2009. Visit www.arteducators.org for more information.

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS for Studies in
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The Surdna Foundation Fellowships to High School Arts Teachers Award

The Surdna Foundation is pleased to announce the tenth round of the Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program, a national initiative to support the artistic revitalization of outstanding arts teachers. We have expanded our eligibility guidelines and awards: arts teachers working in specialized public arts high schools AND arts-focused magnet and charter high schools* can apply for grants of up to \$5,500 in support of artistic growth, with a complementary grant of \$1,500 provided to each Fellow's school for post-fellowship activities.

Surdna's goal is to help arts teachers in public arts high schools increase their effectiveness as they guide and train young people for careers or advanced study in the visual, performing and literary arts. The Foundation believes that if teachers can immerse themselves in their own creative work and interact with professional

artist/colleagues, they will bring new ideas and practices into the classroom. Twenty awards of up to \$5,500 each will be made. Additional information can be found on the Foundation's website at: www.surdna.org.

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Imperial School of Painting Residency, Rocky Mount, North Carolina

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Elizabeth and Mallory Factor Prize for Southern Art Award

Established in 2007, the

Elizabeth and Mallory Factor Prize for Southern Art honors an artist whose work contributes to a new understanding of the South. The Prize is accompanied by a cash prize of \$10,000 and is administered and presented by the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, South Carolina. Artists can either self nominate at www.factor-prize.org, or gallerists, curators, directors and interested laypeople can nominate their favorites through the website.

Grants in Support of Working Artists, The George Sugarman Foundation

The George Sugarman Foundation makes grants available for artists in need of financial assistance. Award amounts are open, but the artist must provide a budget for the amount requested. For information, contact the George Sugarman Foundation, 448 Ignacio Blvd., Novato, CA 94949; phone: 415/713-8167; email: ardensugarman@hotmail.com.

Fulbright Grant Program Council for International Exchange of Scholars

Fulbright grants are available for artists for 2-6 week lecturing and research abroad. No application fee, stipends are available. Contact the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3007 Tilden St NW, Suite 5L, Washington, DC 20008-3009; phone: 202/686-7877; email: apprequest@cies.iie.org; website: <http://www.cies.org>

VSA arts of Florida

VSA arts of Florida is seeking teaching artists in music, drama, creative movement and visual arts interested in working with children and adults with varying disabilities. The residencies are for 8-10 one hour visits to the sites. Artists are paid \$50.00 per session and travel over 30 miles in one direction. Please check out our website at www.vsafl.org for additional information or contact Marilyn Farber at (813) 558-1144 or Email: mfarber@coedu.usf.edu.

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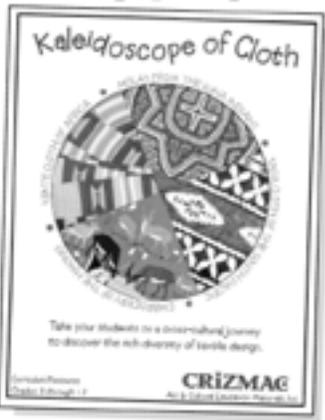
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