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From the President's Palette

Naples 2015! On Saturday, January 24th, The FAEA Board of Directors met at the Naples Grande Beach Resort in Naples to begin preparing for our 63rd Annual Conference! This year's theme:

IN FOCUS: Education through the Artist's Lens. We are particularly excited about this theme as it speaks to an area of the Visual Arts that is perhaps the most prevalent in our every day lives. Thanks to advances in technology, photography has evolved over the years from a very complex and reserved art to something that is as simple and accessible as clicking a button on your smartphone. From there, applications like Instagram and sophisticated software like Photoshop have brought the complex world of editing and filtering to the masses.



With all of this, it would seem that, while we value what we capture and share in our own photos, the photographer as master artist has all but disappeared from the landscape. Yet, I would argue, the opposite has occurred. As society as a whole has begun to move beyond simply taking photos to log memories, a deeper appreciation has been gained for the complex art of capturing the very essence of a moment. Timing, lighting, focus, subject matter, composition, and many other factors come into play when creating the perfect photograph. In this way photography, though one of the most accessible forms of the Visual Arts, is perhaps one of the most complex.

What does all this have to do with our conference and theme? In searching for the perfect theme, your Board has also been seeking the perfect keynote speakers, and we are proud and thrilled to announce that one them will be prominent local Florida photographer Clyde Butcher!



www.clydebutcher.com

Few artists have captured the landscape and devoted their life to doing so the way that Clyde Butcher has in his esteemed career of more than 50 years. As fascinating as the work he produces is the artist himself, who first became a photographer because, as an architect, his drawing skills were so limited that he discovered photography as a way to communicate his ideas. In this year where FAEA has chosen to focus on Advocacy, I can't think of a more appropriate life story than from a local artist who has built a huge following because he found a voice through one area of the Visual Arts, even when his skills were limited in another.

For this and many other reasons, our time in Naples will surely prove to be even more inspirational and professionally rewarding. Your Board has formed a Conference Committee chaired by Member-at-Large, Lark Keeler, and they are off to a great start to making Naples a conference to remember!

In the upcoming weeks, we will be reminding you of some very important deadlines related to the Annual Conference. Below are a few that are just around the corner, so if you were waiting for a year to get more involved in the conference and your FAEA, this might just be the perfect time to put your personal and professional growth "IN FOCUS."

Submissions for the K-12 Student Art Assessment and Virtual Exhibition:

Friday, April 10th

Nominations for the new Board of Directors:

Thursday, April 30th

Nominations for the 2015 Awards:

Friday, June 5th

"As an artist, I reach deep within myself in order to express an image that will touch another. It is my hope that the vision I give to you will inspire you to love and protect our environment for generations to come." - Clyde Butcher

Yours in art education,

Karen Nobel
President, FAEA

2015 K-12 Student Art Call for Entries

The Florida Art Education Association is pleased to provide the **K-12 Student Virtual Art Assessment and Exhibition** to our membership. The purpose of the program is to serve as a statewide assessment for visual art and promote the achievements of students enrolled in visual art classes throughout Florida.

The Virtual Exhibition will include only artwork that receives the new designation, "**Award of Excellence with Distinction**". Please visit faea.org for more information.



Devina Naidu
Chalkpast

The 2015 K-12 Student Art Assessment and Virtual Exhibition will be open through April 10, 2015. Please log into your **member account** to submit your students' entries or visit **www.faea.org** for more information.

Items of Interest

VSA Florida, The State Organization on Arts and Disability.
Student of the Month Recognition Program

National PTA
Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant

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