2017
West Virginia Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition

Promoting National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Culture Center
Charleston, West Virginia
2017
West Virginia
Diversifying Perspectives
Art Contest and Exhibition

September 6 – November 3, 2017
The Culture Center
Charleston, West Virginia

Purchased works may not be removed prior to the close of the exhibition.

West Virginia
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Greetings

Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts
Cabinet Secretary Gayle C. Manchin

Due to the collaborative efforts of two agencies within the Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Division of Culture and History, I have the honor of presenting the fourth annual Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition.

While both divisions have distinct missions, a common goal is to promote the creative spirit; this wonderful partnership empowers our West Virginia artists with disabilities to showcase their individual talents and special abilities.

Art is part of how we define our lifelong educational experiences; it encourages us to express emotions, and expand our creativity and imagination in ways we may not be able to do with words. It allows us to experiment with colors, lines, textures, shapes and design, while we explore a variety of media.

I applaud our exhibiting artists for their adventurous spirit in sharing a part of themselves through their unique creations for our enjoyment and pleasure.

In addition to CONGRATULATING this year’s winners for their accomplishments, I want to encourage each of you to continue to explore your ideas and emotions through colors, shapes and designs that so aptly expresses that “Inner You!”

Gayle C. Manchin
Cabinet Secretary

Division of Rehabilitation Services
Director Marijane K. Waldron

While working to carry out our mission of enabling and empowering people with disabilities to work and to live independently, the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services also has a responsibility to generate public awareness about the vast contributions people with disabilities make in our communities and our workforce.

The Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition allows us to feature the artistic abilities of West Virginia artists with disabilities during National Disability Employment Awareness Month and plays an important role in bringing awareness to disability-related employment issues. These efforts help to foster a more inclusive workforce, where every person is recognized for his or her abilities – every day of every month.

I express my sincere appreciation to the artists for participating in this endeavor and sharing their creative capabilities with us!

Marijane K. Waldron
Director
Amanda Buckner

Biography

Amanda Buckner is the owner and operator of Amanda’s Glass Art, LLC. Amanda is a native of West Virginia and has a long history and fascination with art that dates to her earliest years as a toddler. Raised in a family of artists and craftsmen, art was always encouraged even at an early age. “My grandmother was an accomplished author and my grandfather was a skilled woodworker. I plan to become a skilled and accomplished glass artisan.” Amanda won her first art contest at the age of six in a Stone and Thomas Department Store coloring contest. She went on to win a number of other art contests in a variety of different mediums ranging from paper collage in middle school to charcoal in high school to multimedia in college.

In 2002, Amanda graduated from West Virginia State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Art, majoring in Drawing. Shortly after graduation, she began working at the Avampato Discovery Museum in the Clay Center, a local museum in Charleston. That is where she met Martina Huson, a veteran stained glass artist who offered to hire and train Amanda in stained glass artistry. Amanda began working for Martina’s Glass Studio in 2004 and discovered her love for stained glass. “I have been an artist all of my life, working with many art mediums. Stained glass is one medium that I never used until I met Martina. I quickly learned that glass is the most versatile art medium I have ever come across. Once I discovered this, I never looked back.”

During her employment at Martina’s, Amanda learned the intricacies of stained glass artistry from the basics to complex design and technique. In 2006, Amanda Buckner became a sole proprietor and began selling her own custom stained glass to Tamarack and private residents. In March of 2007, she bought Martina’s Glass Studio and opened a limited liability company of her own, renamed Amanda’s Glass Art.

Amanda soon discovered that creating works of art in stained glass presents a realm of possibilities, from glass windows to jewelry to functional pieces and the list goes on and on. She enjoys sharing her glass knowledge with others who are eager to learn through teaching glass classes at her studio. Amanda loves her trade and intends on designing and constructing stained glass art for the rest of her life. “I am proud of my West Virginia heritage and I will support my community and state by maintaining a small business staffed with local employees and by continuing the tradition of handcrafted glass in West Virginia.”
Forrest Ash
Mineral Wells, Wood County

*Rocky Top*
Mosaic Picture

**About Ash**

Forrest Ash remembers being artistic when he was in the second grade at Mineral Wells Elementary School. He drew a turtle and placed second in an art contest that year. In the sixth grade, he was honored with artist of the year for his school.

He feels he squandered away his artistic talent for nearly 20 years due to mental health and substance use issues.

Currently, Forrest works part time in SW Resources' art department, the Marble Tree Division, where he's worked for more than three years. His lifelong dream has been to be paid for working with art and he is grateful to have this opportunity.

Forrest won an Award of Excellence in the 2015 Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest for “Luck,” a mosaic picture made from small pieces of magazine paper.

Forrest resides in Mineral Wells and loves creating West Virginia's beautiful landscapes.
The artwork selected as the Grand Exhibitor has been incorporated into a poster promoting National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America’s workers with disabilities.

The poster will be displayed in businesses throughout West Virginia in October. Free copies are available from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services.
Kelsey Bable was diagnosed with relapsing remitting-multiple sclerosis in March 2012, two months prior to graduating from high school. Despite multiple relapses and hospital stays throughout the years, she graduated from West Liberty University with a degree in creative arts therapy in May 2016. Since graduation she has had multiple jobs working with a variety of people sharing her love of art and creativity. Art has always been a way of expressing her thoughts and feelings and she enjoys sharing that with others. Kelsey won an Award of Excellence for her mixed-media piece, “The Butterflies Are Free,” in the 2014 Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest in Charleston, WV.
About Heil

Lieselotte Heil was diagnosed with cancer in the spring of 2010, approximately a year after she began learning how to paint with watercolors. In the aftermath of chemotherapy, she was eventually diagnosed with several cognitive challenges. Her art and musical pursuits have played an integral role in her process of regaining various abilities that she previously took for granted, and she is grateful to all those who have assisted and encouraged her along the way. Heil’s journey through cancer and recovery has deepened her awareness of the spiritual underpinnings of her life, and she now views her art and music as gifts to be shared with others, as expressions of her joy and gratitude at being alive and healthy.

She received an Award of Excellence in the 2016 West Virginia Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest for her watercolor painting titled, “Into the Woods.”
Award of Excellence

Tara Roush
Charleston, Kanawha County
Sunburst
Acrylic
$45

About Roush

Painting helps Tara Roush express her feelings. Art has helped her meet new people and do fun things. As a beginning painter, she gave her paintings away as gifts. She didn’t consider other options until a friend asked her if she would sell one. She likes sharing her work through shows and at her shop, Tara’s Art Creations. She has participated in PATHS art shows and as a juried artist in the FestivALL Art Show. She has also been in the West Virginia Artworks magazine.

She enjoys abstract painting with acrylics and watercolors and loves to use bright colors. She chooses colors by what she feels. Painting can be challenging for her because of a motor disorder and other developmental disabilities, but she loves it!
Diversifying Perspectives Exhibitors

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Forrest Ash
Mineral Wells, Wood County
Peaceful Place
Mosaic Picture
$200
Kelsey Bable
Follansbee, Brooke County
**Love Life**
Mixed Media
$150

Kelsey Bable
Follansbee, Brooke County
**Defy Disability**
Mixed Media
$80
Cheryl Childers
Moundsville, Marshall County
Memories of the Bluebirds
Watercolor and Pencil
Not for sale

About Childers
Cheryl Childers has schizoaffective disorder, bipolar type. She finds strength and healing through the arts. Her paintings have been exhibited in a variety of venues including the West Virginia University Creative Arts Center and the Different Voices and Common Experiences show at the Monongalia Art Center in Morgantown.

Her art was also featured at the Hotel Marriott ROMP exhibit in Charleston and at the Culture Center in Charleston, as well as at the Mental Health Awareness Exhibit at Art Works in Wheeling. In 2012, she organized her own art show at the Methodist Community Center in Moundsville.

In her spare time, Childers makes jewelry.
Cheryl Childers
Moundsville, Marshall County
_Wise Ole Owl_
Mixed Media
$60

Cheryl Childers
Moundsville, Marshall County
_Rainbow Owls - Real or Myth?_
Watercolor and Ink
$60
Clyde Delmar Davis
Charleston, Kanawha County
*Moonlight on the River*
Acrylic
$200

*About Davis*

Clyde Delmar Davis is a senior citizen who lives with his wife on Charleston’s West Side. Both he and his wife have cerebral palsy. He has lived in other cities and states, but considers himself to be a country boy from West Virginia’s Wayne County.

Over the years, he has enjoyed painting programs on television and visiting museums, but had no formal training in painting. About four years ago, he began learning the skill from a staff member with a fine arts background. He finally gained the confidence to experiment with his own vision and has been painting on a weekly basis ever since.

Davis paints to revisit his childhood, to connect with God and to see how much better he can become. He is amazed to be creating something out of nothing.

He has showed informally at three People First Conferences, and was a feature artist in a show at Goodwill Industries of Kanawha Valley in June 2016.
Clyde Delmar Davis
Charleston, Kanawha County
*The Dream Wheelchair of the Future*
Acrylic
$500

Clyde Delmar Davis
Charleston, Kanawha County
*Boat in the Sunset*
Acrylic
$200
Danielle Doss has always loved art. In 2005, her spine began to degenerate and she didn’t realize that art would become her saving grace. She has had six surgeries on her spine, with metal fusing eight levels of vertebrae and four discs still bulging. She has degenerative disc disease, scoliosis, severe spondylosis and neuropathy in both feet and legs from nerve damage. This changed her life and brought on severe depression. She could not work or do things with her daughters.

In the fall of 2016, Doss decided to go back to school for art education. Being able to create full time has been helpful with her depression. She looks forward to sharing her love of art with others.

About Doss
Danielle Doss
Fairmont, Marion County
*Wisdom*
Graphite
$200

Danielle Doss
Fairmont, Marion County
*Pisces*
Linocut Reduction Print
$100
About Facemire

Cindy Facemire was a sign language interpreter for students who were deaf or hard of hearing in Kanawha, Logan and Nicholas County schools. In 1994, she was in a car accident caused by severe weather conditions. Years after the accident, she developed debilitating conditions including lupus, Sjogren’s syndrome and POTS syndrome.

A friend encouraged her to paint to relieve stress. Facemire has never had an art class, but decided to paint a blank canvas. Art is her therapy now. Painting brings joy and happiness to her life. She feels complete with a paint brush in her hand and has learned so much.
**About Feather**

Simon Feather started working seriously with clay while in high school in Morgantown. He continued his exploration of the medium when he moved to New Jersey in 2001, studying with master potter Peter Syak at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey.

Upon his return to Morgantown in 2009, Feather began a partnership with potter Jeff Ryan at Zen Clay. He is particularly fond of creating faces.

Feather, who has fragile X syndrome, was born in and currently resides in Morgantown with his mother and stepfather.
Sarah Fox
Charleston, Kanawha County
Seagull and Sun 1
Photography
$30
Sarah Fox
Charleston, Kanawha County
*Atlantic City Sun N’ Surf 1*
Photography
$55

About Fox

Developing artist Sarah Fox uses her artwork to raise awareness as she heals. Fox has been diagnosed with various psychiatric diagnoses. She had the placement tour of West Virginia as she was raised in the foster care system. Fox enjoys raising awareness, volunteering, reading, poetry, journal writing and walking.

Fox volunteers for YWCA Sojourner’s, Girl Talk and FestivALL Charleston. She is an inactive Charleston art group member.

In 2016, Fox took herself to Atlantic City and Virginia Beach, which was her first trip to the ocean.
Kristie Garrison
Waverly, Wood County
*Babcock Grist Mill*
Mosaic Picture
$200

**About Garrison**
Kristie Garrison has been crafting all her life, starting in ceramics. She has a condition called essential tremor, which causes her entire body to shake almost constantly. She works at SW Resources in the art department. Working part time has helped her to regain confidence. She is able to focus on making pictures and less on her tremors. While she will have her tremor disorder the rest of her life, making mosaic pictures helps her to forget that she has it at times.
Kristie Garrison
Waverly, Wood County
*New River Gorge*
Mosaic Picture
$200

Kristie Garrison
Waverly, Wood County
*Williamstown Bridge*
Mosaic Picture
$200
Lieselotte Heil
Alderson, Monroe County
Welcoming the Light
Mixed Media
$1,000
Lieselotte Heil  
Alderson, Monroe County  
*Mama Sings the Blues*  
Mixed Media  
$1,000
About Kelley

Matthew Kelley is a 37-year-old man diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder. About 10 years ago, Kelley turned to creating beautiful abstract pictures using brightly colored plastic bags as a way to calm his anxiety. He developed his own style of twisting and tearing off pieces of the plastic bags and arranging those pieces into images which reflect various subjects from everyday objects like flowers to emotions such as “happiness.”

This is Kelley’s first public exhibition of his work, which focuses not only on beauty but on capturing the imagination and helping others to not only see what he sees, but to imagine their own designs.
Marcia Springston Dillon
Forest Hill, Summers County
Textured Green Vase
Thrown Stoneware
$300

About Springston Dillon

Marcia Springston Dillon is a full-time studio potter in rural West Virginia. She owns and operates Wake Robin Gallery, where she produces and sells the majority of her work.

As a totally blind artist, she has had some remarkable experiences and enormous challenges. Due to her keen sense of touch, she feels that clay is a medium in which she can excel. Her customers seem to appreciate the uniqueness of her work. Clay has given her a skill, a voice and her life’s work.

Springston Dillon has received several awards and participated in many exhibitions. She received a West Virginia Commission on the Arts professional development grant in 2005. She was commissioned to produce several horse sculptures for the International Paralympic Equestrian Committee in 2004 and 2005 and her pottery was showcased along with other visually impaired artists in Ceramics Monthly Magazine in 2001.
About Miller

Josh Miller has enjoyed creating art all his life. During the summer of 2006, he began to take his art more seriously when he was asked to submit a drawing for a show of artwork created by West Virginia residents with a wide range of disabilities. Miller’s piece called, “Tula,” was accepted into the show and was sold to benefit Mountain State Direct Action Center.

Since that time, Miller has been setting aside time each week for drawing. Using primarily Sharpie markers on archival-quality paper, he creates truly unique interpretations of everyday and imaginary subjects. His drawings are very colorful, with a primitive, fantastical style.

Miller has exhibited his work in various venues throughout the state, including FestivALL in Charleston, Taylor Books in Charleston, Studio 40 in Lewisburg and the Lobby Gallery at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg. He is a juried member of the West Virginia Fine Artisans Gallery in Lewisburg.
Josh Miller
Lewisburg, Greenbrier County
The Dog Person
Marker
$59

Josh Miller
Lewisburg, Greenbrier County
The House of Love
Marker
$59
Carli Ratliff
Oak Hill, Fayette County
Circle of Life
Mixed Media
$2,500

About Ratliff
Carli Ratliff was the 2016 Grand Exhibitor of the Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest for her painting titled, “Climbing to the Top.” Ratliff, who has epilepsy, photographs the animals and foliage in her illustrations, and paints from her own photographs, using mixed media on heavyweight watercolor paper.

Her painting, Moonlight Stalker, won a Merit award in the 2015 Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest.

She has had five paintings featured in four different years in the West Virginia Wildlife Calendar, an annual contest by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Section.

In 2011, her painting, Squirrel in a Paulownia Tree, won Best of Show in the West Virginia Division of Culture and History Museum’s West Virginia Wildlife Exhibit titled, Inspired: A West Virginia Series of Juried Exhibitions.

Ratliff is a 2010 graduate of Concord University, where her studies focused on art and music, and a 2004 graduate of Oak Hill High School.
Carli Ratliff
Oak Hill, Fayette County
*Winter Watch*
Mixed Media
$2,500

Carli Ratliff
Oak Hill, Fayette County
*Luna Flyers*
Mixed Media
$2,500
Virginia Rogers
Pennsboro, Ritchie County
*Surgical Puppetry*
Acrylic
Best Offer

**About Rogers**

Virginia Rogers is 19 years old and has suffered with proximal femoral focal deficiency (PFFD) and other leg-related issues since she was born. She’s had more than 20 surgeries to try to improve the quality of her life. She turned to art to help deal with the stress caused by her medical condition. She attends Glenville State College and is working towards a bachelor’s degree in studio art.
Tara Roush
Charleston, Kanawha County
CityScape
Watercolor
$75

Tara Roush
Charleston, Kanawha County
Night Glow
Acrylic
$20
Christopher Sayre
Charleston, Kanawha County
Hyper-Focus 2
Vector Print
$650
Christopher Sayre
Charleston, Kanawha County
*Inattention 2*
Vector Print
$235

*About Sayre*

Christopher Sayre is a graphic artist from Charleston. Sayre’s work explores mental illness and disorders, specifically his experiences with ADHD and bipolar disorder. He hopes to raise awareness of mental health disorders and their symptoms. His work uses graphic elements that create a combination of abstract and representational compositions. The work displays characters that break apart into abstract shapes and forms in a way that represents the mood, emotions, and other content of the piece. With the quote “Art is not what you see, but what you make others see” by Edgar Degas in mind, Sayre often looks at his own life objectively in hopes to bring a work with which people can make a personal connection.
Greg Siegwart
Wheeling, Ohio County
St. Matthews
Oil
$500

**About Siegwart**

Born in Wheeling, Greg Siegwart’s love of painting began when he picked up a brush at the age of 10.

This hobby turned into a therapeutic refuge for Siegwart after experiencing a traumatic brain injury after an automobile accident in 2000.

This self-taught artist continues his love of oil painting, while progressing further into the world of fine arts.

Siegwart was the Grand Exhibitor of the 2015 Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest for his painting titled, 1865.
Greg Siegwart
Wheeling, Ohio County
Regatta
Oil
$500

Greg Siegwart
Wheeling, Ohio County
The Pond at Wheeling Park
Oil
$500
Margaret Volkwein
Orma, Calhoun County
*Hoopin’ in a High Wind 3*
Acrylic
$1,000

*About Volkwein*
Margaret “Maggie” Volkwein is a hunter-gatherer from Orma. She is a member of the Charleston Art Group. She has COPD and PTSD.
Christie Wilfong is a lifelong resident of West Virginia. A brain stem tumor survivor, she was diagnosed with post-radiotherapy syndrome in 2000. Knitting, photography and painting are her favorite activities.

**About Wilfong**

Christie Wilfong is a lifelong resident of West Virginia. A brain stem tumor survivor, she was diagnosed with post-radiotherapy syndrome in 2000. Knitting, photography and painting are her favorite activities.
Fritz Zacher
Peterstown, Monroe County

Adventuring Gear
Copic Markers
$200

About Zacher

Fritz Zacher is a resident of Peterstown. In his spare time, he enjoys drawing, collecting toys, anime and gaming.

After obtaining a certificate in graphic design, he was employed at Mercer County Opportunity Industries, Inc. Print Shop.

As an artist with autism, certain forms of learning and his interpretation of behavior can be very challenging, but his motivation and adaptive skills have enabled Zacher to excel. His goal is to further explore his artistic abilities and display his talent in his vocation, throughout his community and through contests.