2016
West Virginia
Diversifying Perspectives
Art Contest and Exhibition

Promoting
National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Culture Center – Charleston, West Virginia
2016
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Art Contest and Exhibition

September 7 – November 5, 2016

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

Education and the Arts
Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin

I am proud to present this third annual Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition, a result of the collaborative efforts of two of my agencies, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the Division of Culture and History.

While both divisions have distinct missions, their partnership enables us to showcase the talents and contributions of West Virginia artists with disabilities.

Art removes us from reality. An artist creates, invents, grows, takes risks, breaks rules, makes mistakes – but most of all – has fun! I applaud our courageous exhibiting artists for sharing a piece of themselves as they put themselves and their works on display.

I congratulate this year’s participants and give kudos to those artists selected as winners! I hope this event encourages each to continue creating, growing, breaking the rules and having fun with your art!

Kay Goodwin
Cabinet Secretary

Division of Rehabilitation Services
Director Donna Ashworth

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 participating artists for being a part of this endeavor and sharing their creative capabilities with us!

Donna L. Ashworth
Director
Nancy-Louise Mottesheard

Biography

CONTEMPORARY, MYSTERIOUS, EXPRESSIONISTIC, ABSTRACT and MYSTICAL explains her art.

Nancy-Louise has focused on ART from grade school to a college art degree and postgraduate studies.

Winning numerous awards, including the West Virginia Culture Center’s Award of Excellence, she has shared her art knowledge through teaching and lecturing on the college, art museum and primary school level and has enjoyed developing and designing art curriculums and judging art competitions.

She has co-managed a commercial art gallery and was one of the originators of Gallery Eleven, West Virginia’s first co-op.

Nancy-Louise has several pieces of art in permanent collections and her art has been displayed in a myriad of juried and invitational shows in West Virginia including: Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington; West Virginia Culture Center, Charleston; Sunrise Art Museum, Charleston; Parkersburg Art Center, Parkersburg; Erma Byrd Art Gallery, University of Charleston; West Virginia State University’s Art Gallery, Institute; Marshall University Art Gallery, Huntington; West Virginia Artists and Craftsmen’s Guild; Museum in the Community, Hurricane; Wheeling Artisan Center, Wheeling; Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg; Tamarack Fine Arts Gallery, Beckley; Art Emporium, Charleston; and public and private businesses.

Whether using a brush or pouring/throwing and dripping paint, her shapes or colors are abstract. Imitating the “reality” that we see with our eyes is of no interest. Her art is an expression of feelings and inner experiences. Her deep desire is to uplift and expand your awareness and to share her mystical experiences of life by translating them into art.
Grand Exhibitor

Carli Ratliff
Oak Hill, Fayette County
*Climbing to the Top*
Mixed Media

*Climbing to the Top*
This is a mixed media painting of a raccoon clinging to a tree during autumn.

About Ratliff

This year’s Grand Exhibitor is Carli Ratliff for “Climbing to the Top,” her mixed media painting of a raccoon climbing a tree during the autumn season.

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 paintings featured for three 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.
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. This year's theme is “#InclusionWorks.”

The poster will be displayed in businesses throughout West Virginia in October. Copies are available free from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services.

#InclusionWorks
National Disability Employment Awareness Month
October 2016

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Award of Excellence

Kristie Garrison
Waverly, Wood County
Peaceful Serenity
Mosaic Picture
Not for sale

About Garrison

Kristie Garrison has worked in the Mosaic department at SW Resources for more than a year. Garrison has always loved creating things with her hands. She has been crafting since she was 11 years old when her mother opened a ceramics shop, which is still open today.

At the age of 45, Garrison inherited a condition her father had, called Essential Tremor. It took two years, many tests and several doctors to diagnose her condition, which is a rare type that affects her entire body. She battles depression and anxiety and had become withdrawn because she couldn’t do things she used to do without great difficulty.

Working at SW Resources has greatly helped her and given her purpose again. She took the photograph replicated in her artwork, Peaceful Serenity, while on her honeymoon at Blackwater Falls nearly 10 years ago, before the onset of her tremors.

Peaceful Serenity
This is a mosaic picture of a wooded area near Blackwater Falls. It is made of small pieces of magazine pictures, which are glued together in layers on a board. The picture shows barren trees in the background with yellow and green foliage in the foreground.
Award of Excellence

Lieselotte Heil
Alderson, Monroe County
Into the Woods
Watercolor
$1,000

Into the Woods
This is a stylized, semi-abstract watercolor painting of a wooded landscape, evoking a journey into the unknown. The woods are coated in dark red colors.

About Heil
After completing chemotherapy for breast cancer in December 2010, Lieselotte Heil found herself facing a new set of challenges and was eventually diagnosed with several cognitive disabilities. Coming to terms with the fact that she processes information differently is an ongoing challenge for her. She is grateful for the loving support and encouragement of her family and many special friends. Heil’s journey has deepened her awareness of the spiritual underpinnings of her life, and she’s recently committed herself to celebrating and developing her artistic and musical abilities as ways to express her joy and gratitude at being alive and healthy.
**Greg Siegwart**  
Wheeling, Ohio County  
**Texting**  
Prisma Pencil  
$400

**Texting**  
Texting is an image of three young boys sitting on the ground in front of a fence, which the artist saw at a soccer game. The boys share a book, not a video game or a cell phone.

**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.
Previous Grand Exhibitors

2014

Benjamin Tyler DiGiorgi
South Charleston, Kanawha County
The Magical Owl
Oil and Pastel

2015

Greg Siegwart
Wheeling, Ohio County
1865
Colored Pencil
Diversifying Perspectives Exhibitors

Patsy Ann Bias
Cheryl Childers
Marnie M’Estey
Sarah Fox
Kristie Garrison
Lieselotte Heil
Heaven Kent

William P. Koloski
Brooklynn Lilly
John Panek
Carli Ratliff
Greg Siegwart
Margaret Volkwein

Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable.
~ George Bernard Shaw
Patsy Ann Bias  
Welch, McDowell County  
**Home**  
Acrylic  
$700

**Home**  
This painting of a family home with a garage, plants, a rock fence and a rainbow in the background portrays happiness when you make it happen.

**About Bias**  
Patsy “Pat” Bias was born in Welch to a traditional, hard-working family. One of nine children, her father was a coal miner and her mother was a homemaker. Growing up in a poor family, she learned to bring happiness to herself and others by using the bare minimum of materials. A brown paper bag and crayons could keep her happy all day, using those materials to create anything or anyplace she saw in her mind.

Bias uses art to help her find and share joy. She has often created artwork for friends and family by request.

Bias has always had health issues, contracting Rocky Mountain spotted fever at a young age, being diagnosed with thyroid cancer as a teenager and being injured in a car accident in her early 20s that led to spinal and brain damage.

She’s a proud mother to three children and she has eight grandchildren, encouraging them to get involved in a form of art so they can enjoy the peace it can bring even on the tough days. This is her first time participating in an art exhibition.
Cheryl Childers
Moundsville, Marshall County

**Japanese Painted Ferns with Purple Shamrocks**
Acrylic and Watercolor
$45

*Japanese Painted Ferns with Purple Shamrocks*
This is a painting of Japanese painted ferns, which are surrounded by purple shamrocks, in the artist’s sister’s garden.

**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

*Peacock in Hesitation*
Oil Crayon
$45

*Peacock in Hesitation*
This painting uses oil crayon as a medium to capture the unique beauty of the peacock standing in green grass.
Marnie M’Estey
Shepherdstown, Jefferson County

Black Hills Regional Park Lake at Sunset
Photograph
Not for sale

About Estey
Marnie M’Estey is a senior at Shepherd University, majoring in photography and computer digital imagery. Estey chose to go back to school to learn a new trade after receiving a spinal cord injury while on active duty in the U.S. Army. He began his college experience at Lord Fairfax Community College in Middletown, Virginia, where he studied theater and art.

Presently, he is participating in an internship sponsored by the Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University, where he is gaining experience in theater and art. He is also studying art therapy in order to help others who are going through the rehabilitation process.

During the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters, Estey exhibited over 1,200 photos of events on campus on Shepherd University’s webpage and Facebook page.
**View over the Valley**

This photograph shows a view of the valley below, which includes three lakes and fields of farmland.

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**Marnie M’Estey**  
Shepherdstown, Jefferson County

**Scenic Mountain View**

Photograph  
Not for sale

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**Scenic Mountain View**

This photograph of High Point Rock in West Virginia shows West Virginia and Pennsylvania in the distant background.
Sarah Fox
Charleston, Kanawha County
Hope Survives; I Can Do It!
Collage
Not for sale

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.

Hope Survives; I Can Do It!
This collage combines poetry and images with a positive outlook of goals and dreams to show the world what makes up the artist.
Sarah Fox
Charleston, Kanawha County
**Connections and Collage Therapy**
Collage
Not for sale

**Connections and Collage Therapy**
This collage combines images, poetry and phrases, which relate to therapy, recovery, healing and positivity.
Lieselotte Heil
Alderson, Monroe County
*Science and Nature*
Watercolor
$1,000

*Science and Nature*
This is a semi-representational abstract watercolor painting, evoking the interfaces between humans, nature, science and technology. The painting is done in bright yellow, orange, purple, red and white.

*About Heil*
After completing chemotherapy for breast cancer in December 2010, Lieselotte Heil found herself facing a new set of challenges and was eventually diagnosed with several cognitive disabilities. Coming to terms with the fact that she processes information differently is an ongoing challenge for her. She is grateful for the loving support and encouragement of her family and many special friends. Heil’s journey has deepened her awareness of the spiritual underpinnings of her life, and she’s recently committed herself to celebrating and developing her artistic and musical abilities as ways to express her joy and gratitude at being alive and healthy.
**Lieselotte Heil**  
Alderson, Monroe County  
**Ratatouille**  
Mixed Media  
$1,000

**Ratatouille**  
This is a playful representational abstract painting of soup ingredients, a soup ladle and a soup kettle on a red and white tablecloth. All hues and textures in the painting were achieved by mixing and/or thinning a limited three-color palette of yellow, red and blue.
Heaven Kent
Ravenswood, Jackson County
*Circle of Life*
Pen and Pencil
$110.50

*Circle of Life*
This is a realistic artistic rendering of a youthful giraffe in the colors of black, white and gray.

*About Kent*
Heaven Kent is a natural born artist. She has been interested in art for as long as she can remember. She has found that drawing or creating art is very therapeutic and helpful in the treatment of her depression. She uses art to express feelings that she can’t convey through other means. Kent’s current preference of artistic media is digital. Her work can be found on deviantart.com, with the alias as Halo-There. She is a freshman in the graphic design program at Marshall University’s School of Art. She was selected to represent Ravenswood High in the art category at the S.C.O.R.E.S. academic festival in 2015 and 2016. She has received second place for her entries at the Jackson County Art Show for the last two years.
Heaven Kent  
Ravenswood, Jackson County  
**Dreams**  
Watercolor  
$65

**Dreams**  
This is a watercolor painting of flora and fauna in blues and oranges, with the quote “Never let yesterday's disappointments overshadow tomorrow's dreams.”

Heaven Kent  
Ravenswood, Jackson County  
**Piece by Piece**  
Collage  
$150

**Piece by Piece**  
This is a collage mix of paper to create the artist's self-image.
**Mountain State Bobwhites**

This is a colored pencil drawing set on a green hill with a wooden fence, two hunting dogs and flying birds in the foreground. It has a barn, a red tractor, a wagon filled with pumpkins and a small building as the primary focal point, with trees and more birds in the background.

**About Koloski**

William P. Koloski has been a lifelong resident of West Virginia, except during his military service.

Health issues arising from kidney problems and dialysis necessitated an early retirement from the West Virginia Division of Corrections after 30 years of employment. Prior to his health issues, Koloski was an avid outdoorsman whose favorite activities were quail and grouse hunting in the woods and hills of West Virginia.

As a teenager, Koloski enjoyed drawing, but never took it seriously or pursued art in any form. Now, he uses this hobby to help him cope with his medical condition. His drawings are from memories of time spent in the fields, hunting with his two bird dogs, Pontiac and Tecumseh.
William P. Koloski
Wheeling, Ohio County
Mountain State Memories
Colored Pencil
$40

This is a colored pencil drawing of a red barn and a silo with a large sign on the front, reading “Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco.” There are two hunting dogs and flying birds in the foreground.

William P. Koloski
Wheeling, Ohio County
October Covey
Colored Pencil
$40

October Covey
This is a colored pencil drawing of a barn with a silo behind it, a green tractor and a smaller building set on a green hillside with a small tree, two hunting dogs and flying birds in the foreground.
Brooklynn Lilly
Jumping Branch, Summers County

Candle Tree
Mixed Media
Not for sale

This is an abstract drawing representing the depletion of our natural resources.

About Lilly

Brooklynn Lilly is a sophomore attending Concord University. She is double majoring in graphic design and studio art. During her freshman year, she was on the Dean’s List for achieving a 4.0 grade point average for both semesters. She has Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and dyslexia.

Lilly previously won the West Virginia Congressional Art Competition in 2015 and placed second in 2014. Her art piece, the Candle Tree, was on exhibit for a year at the United States Capitol. She was a gold medal winner for SkillsUSA Local Competition 2014 and 2015 and a silver medal winner for the SkillsUSA State Competition in 2014 for graphic design projects. Lilly aspires to achieve a career as a concept artist in her future.

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Brooklynn Lilly
Jumping Branch, Summers County
Skeleton and Cello/Music to Die For
Pen and Ink
Not for sale

Skeleton and Cello/Music to Die For
This is a drawing of a skeleton holding a cello, which represents the artist's view that music and any form of art are the only passions that you can take with you to the grave.
John Panek  
Shinnston, Harrison County  
*Shannon’s Back Yard*  
Oil  
$500

**Shannon’s Back Yard**  
This is a painting of a flowerpot containing red and purple flowers set against a green background with green leaves in the foreground.

**About Panek**  
John Panek has been a West Virginian since 1995. Growing up in Arlington Heights, Illinois, he contracted polio when he was 12 during the 1952 epidemic. He now has post-polio syndrome. Panek is a graduate of the American Academy of Art in Chicago.

Although he is best known for his paintings of classic vintage motorcycles, Panek has also been commissioned to do other subjects. He has worked in oil, watercolor and colored pencil.

He is married to a West Virginia native, has six children and nine grandchildren living in Illinois, Iowa and Finland.
**Avery Steam Tractor**

This is a drawing of a 1907 Avery steam tractor set against the background of steam, trees and sky.

**John Panek**

Shinnston, Harrison County

*Avery Steam Tractor*

Colored Pencil and Pen

$500

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**John Panek**

Shinnston, Harrison County

*Threshing with Steam*

Colored Pencil and Pen

$1,000

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*Threshing with Steam*

This is a drawing of an old threshing machine and a wagon carrying two men using pitchforks to stack hay.
**Carli Ratliff**  
Oak Hill, Fayette County  
**The Sunny Side**  
Mixed Media  
$1,800

**The Sunny Side**  
This is a mixed media painting of Goldfinch birds feeding off of yellow sunflowers set against a wooden fence in the background.

**About Ratliff**

Carli Ratliff is this year’s Grand Exhibitor. 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.

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**Carli Ratliff**  
Oak Hill, Fayette County  
*Chipmunks Rocks*  
Mixed Media  
$1,800

*Chipmunks Rocks*  
This is a mixed media painting of chipmunks on a West Virginia cliff in early spring.
Greg Siegwart  
Wheeling, Ohio County  
**She is a Waterfall**  
Oil  
$300

**She is a Waterfall**  
This is a painting of a surreal image of a landscape with a waterfall. Transposed in the landscape is the image of a woman and a goblet.

**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.

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Greg Siegwart
Wheeling, Ohio County
Fragile
Oil
$300

Fragile
This is a surreal painting of eggs. The shell of broken egg is on the image of Earth. The extension of space is in the stars through the spots. The painting is meant to illustrate how fragile the planet is.
Margaret Volkwein
Orma, Calhoun County
Feeding Your Inner Demons
Acrylic
$100

This painting is of a bag lady feeding demons like stray cats to convey the artist’s meaning that anyone can become an emotional bag lady.

About Volkwein
Margaret “Maggie” Volkwein is a hunter-gatherer from Orma. She belongs to the Charleston Art Group.