



**Festival & Event Critical Component Entry  
46) Best Educational Program**

**Atlanta Dogwood Festival Presents: Atlanta High School Art Exhibition  
April 11-13, 2014**

**a. Background:** The Youth Art Exhibit was a staple of the Piedmont Park Arts Festival in the seventies and eighties. Recently renamed the AHSAE (Atlanta High School Art Exhibition), this exhibition, hosted by the Atlanta Dogwood Festival in Piedmont Park for over a decade, affords accessibility and visibility for the high school art to as many as 300,000 visitors each season. Since 2009 the AHSAE has been staged in the Piedmont Park Conservancy Community Center, an indoor space that surrounds the work with a formal atmosphere in contrast to the casual outdoor festival venue. Since 1972 the program has reached well over 30,000 students and 500 teachers in fourteen regional Atlanta counties.

The awards program for student winners began under Cheryl Myrbo's direction in 1999. In 2014 over \$40,000 worth of opportunities were sponsored by The Art Institute of Atlanta, SCAD Atlanta and Savannah, Watkins College of Art & Design, Film (Nashville, TN), the Jay Shapiro Arts Legacy Foundation, Red Wall Studio and Clayworks, the High Museum, Roswell Visual Arts Center, the Center for Puppetry Arts, Oglethorpe University Museum of Art, Buckets of Color, Chastain Arts Center, Colorwheel Studios and the Spruill Center for the Arts. All chose to participate in the high school exhibition by donating tuition scholarships, spaces in classes, workshop opportunities and internships. New to the sponsor list in 2014 is the Atlanta-based business Colorwheel, donating a class in one of its two locations in Decatur. The value to the students is more than receiving a plaque or certificate, but an actual educational experience and training. Art supply stores donating supplies for the classes were Binders, Sam Flax, Utrecht and Dick Blick; TOCO Hills Picture Framing has framed the Best of Show since 2000 and Framing by 2 Veterans framed the 2nd place winner this year. Speedpro Imaging currently donates all the festival signage. The AHSAE logo contest in 2011 reaped dozens of entries from high school artists around the region, resulting in the current logo created by Abigail Kim, a 2011 high school junior from Gwinnett County. The AHSAE continues to encourage experimentation and innovation.



**b. Purpose/Objective:**

The purpose of the Atlanta High School Art Exhibit (AHSAE) is to recognize, support and encourage the fine quality of art created by the Atlanta region's high school students. Drawing entries from high school art students from fourteen regional Atlanta counties, (submissions accepted from anywhere in Georgia) this competitive juried event takes place in the annual Atlanta Dogwood Festival in Piedmont Park. AHSAE showcases the best, most creative high school work being done today.

**OBJECTIVE:** AHS AE encourages young artists to reinvent, take risks, and reach outside the box with their art. AHS AE is an exhibition of artworks representing creativity and ingenuity within a broad cross-section of high school programs and facilities throughout the Atlanta region including both public and private institutions. Instructors are encouraged to submit unique, non-traditional as well as traditional work by their students. Students may submit on their own if the school does not have an art program, the instructor chooses not to participate or if they are home-schooled. In general artists are encouraged to keep in mind the high traffic volume of the Atlanta Dogwood Festival and the number and quality of the AHS AE submissions and awards.

Every year the AHS AE receives an assortment of submissions directly to the director's home from new participants who are generally, but not always, aided by the artist's parents. Often these pieces have not been given the attention the artist/parent felt they deserve by the art teacher, or the teacher is too busy to take the extra time to submit their students' work. In individual cases the director naturally makes a connection with the artist or parent, and although disappointed if the piece is not judged in, the subsequent dialogue is invaluable for the development of the artist. The student gains awareness about the number of high quality submissions to this competition, what he/she is up against, and what they must do to "up their game" as a result. Often rejection, however painful, is exactly what the artist needs to spur them on to better work; sometimes the piece just requires a more thorough follow-through or presentation.

Artworks are judged as work produced by high school students and not as professional art in general. There is no theme, making submissions of standard curriculum work possible. Work is judged on the criteria of originality, creativity and good craftsmanship. Judges (each year a professional photographer, sculptor and painter) write a statement regarding the chosen show.

**c. Target Audience / Attendance/ Number of Participants:**

- ♣ 110 schools and 281 instructors invited to participate;
- ♣ 117 artists and 87 teachers participated in this year's exhibit;
- ♣ 27 promoting sponsors;
- ♣ Public attendance approximately 75,000 over three day festival; additional crowds at pre-festival mini events;
- ♣ 75 participants in three Art Throwdown competitions associated with the AHS AE; three new schools sent artists;

**d. Description of Educational Program Curriculum:**

In addition to the artists' display in the festival, approximately 20 artists are singled out for exemplary work. These artists gain visibility in the weeks prior to the Atlanta Dogwood Festival on SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design) and AiA (Art Institute of Atlanta) campuses. Awards consist of internships, professional critiques, workshops, summer studios, summer seminars and classes on respective campuses and art centers, supplementing the artists' educational and technical skills. Most often these options function at a level above the high school curriculum level.

The Art Throwdown competitions that occur on both campuses and the festival grounds are the culmination of practice and training throughout the fall and winter in the classroom, i.e., live-model timed sketches. East Coweta High School (new this year to the Art Throwdown events) has consistently submitted accepted human portraiture to the AHS AE and we

recently found out that the instructor uses volunteers from her own classes to model for each other. These students are more capable drawing in front of a crowd with confidence and do well in the Art Throwdown scrimmages.

**e. Who Provided and in what Setting:**



**SCAD**, Savannah College of Art and Design held the first event this year. Led by a new coordinator who expressed a desire the "upgrade and formalise" this traditional event, the evening started with a sketching competition (Art Throwdown) in an art classroom.



SCAD provided a male model -- yoga master with exceptional poses -- who delighted the artists and teachers from 7 participating high schools. The sketchers and audience filled the room, set up with easels and drawing tables by the SCAD instructor before the competition began. The SCAD professor led the competition by calling poses, times and sketching themes and instruction. Meanwhile, downstairs in the presentation gallery, the winning AHS AE work was displayed for arriving guests. SCAD provided a newly renovated room for this display, easels for each winning piece and refreshments for guests. The attendance included 75% of the winners, parents of winners and art teachers of winners, as well as the Art Throwdown audience and artists. The upstairs scrimmage continued for an hour, narrowing down winners to three: 5 minute, 15 minute and 20 minute overall winning artists. After the Art Throwdown ended the audience and artists went downstairs where the event presentation by SCAD and the AHS AE award presentation were ready to begin. Following a short presentation by SCAD representatives, awards were presented to Art Throwdown winners after the AHS AE winners by AHS AE Director Cheryl Myrbo. These awards included the Summer Seminar, a week-long SCAD residency for the Best of Show artist, Junior Claire Armstrong, and various art supplies for the evenings' Art Throwdown winners.



This year's **Art Institute of Atlanta** event was also expanded to include a Art Throwdown scrimmage with two heats: a live model sketch and a digital logo design competition for one of the long time AHS AE sponsors, **Red Wall Clay Studio**. The winning artist received a \$50 Binders card, and will be working with the sponsor this summer to complete the logo to her satisfaction. Again the display was in the AiA first floor Janet S. Day Gallery and visitors began arriving while the Art Throwdown happened

upstairs in two classrooms. Volunteers worked the Art Throwdown much like the SCAD event. Following the scrimmage upstairs, artists and audience members -- including two festival board members -- returned downstairs to enjoy refreshments and wait for the judges (also provided by the AHS AE) to make their Art Throwdown decisions. Awards were handed out in the gallery, including an AiA Summer Studio, a week-long artist residency program for juniors from all over the country, to the 2nd place AHS AE winner. AiA also honored the award given to last year's winner who was too young to attend until this summer. The exhibit of award winners as well as 45 more hand-picked pieces from the AHS AE remained on display for over a month.

SCAD and the AiA sanction the winner who receives their popular and highly rated summer residency program by providing one of the judges on the AHSAE panel, an instructor from the institutions in 2014. When this arrangement is not possible they will send a fourth judge specifically for the purpose of choosing that award winner. So far the judges have agreed with the AHSAE judges and matched the award to the Best of Show artist -- if the winner is a junior.

Art supply stores **Dick Blick/Utrecht** (\$500, increased from \$250 in 2013), **Binders** (\$500), and **Sam Flax** (\$350, increased from \$150 in 2013) donated \$1350 in supply funds to artists to purchase supplies for their awarded workshops, classes, etc. The **Jay Shapiro Arts Legacy Foundation** again honored our Peoples' Choice artist with \$500, but the funding goes directly toward the artist's tuition in whatever they choose for continuing education after high school.

On the Friday the festival opened the **CBS media partner** requested a live Art Throwdown for television. Four schools sent artists who sketched a still life for the cameras in front of the festival **AHSAE** space.



#### **f. Involvement by local ed ins/professional education**

On the 2014 festival site on Sunday seven high schools sent teams to participate in the Art Throwdown, a competition among Atlanta area high schools. Since the festival happened during spring break this year many of the standard Art Throwdown participants bowed out in the fall, saying none of their artists would come during their break, but we were pleasantly surprised by many private school, home-schoolers, and individual artists coming on their own to compete. (There were a few participants from the schools who bowed out as well, surprising the teachers. One teacher came to the festival with his family and visited the Art Throwdown, finding some of his own artists, proving to him that often healthy, energetic competition happens outside the school curriculum, without prompting or hand-holding by the instructors.) The event was focused on one competition only (neighbouring Grady was not in session), the live-model sketch. AHSAE hired a model from **AiA** previously employed for the **AiA** Art Throwdown, a woman with amazing balancing skills (photo). Following the judge's decision (**Buckets of Color** owner judged) the awards were presented to the winners and the last few unawarded AHSAE winners. (We allow the AHSAE winners to attend any one of the three award events to receive their award.) In this competitive environment artists find themselves pushed to perform and, consequently, improve their techniques.



Another aspect of the Art Throwdown is the involvement of Community Coaches for each competing school. The coaches -- professional artists -- work with the students in the weeks before the scrimmage to help prepare students, along with the art instructors, for the competition. Sports and competition terminology help to bring a crowd, placing the Art

Throwdown on a level with other sports; using these terms seems to gain respect from a new audience, prompting cheering and applause. In addition to the 7 participating schools, several more schools requested to be part of the event this year, but were not yet prepared to put in the pre-event time and practice.

Originators of the Art Throwdown, John Brandhorst and Jeff Mather, made a trip to San Diego, California this spring to present the Art Throwdown competition concept to the attendees of the NAEA Convention, and were met with interest and excitement by art instructors from around the country. AHSAE is proud to be affiliated with this project.

**OUMA, Oglethorpe University Museum of Art**, hosted the AHSAE Retrospective of Best of Show Winners. Early in scheduling we found that the weeks most often utilised by the museum for display of the AHSAE award winners fell on weeks between OU exhibitions when the museum would be empty, so Ms. Elizabeth Peterson came up with the idea of a retrospective. Over the fall and winter I found seven accessible pieces. (One was lost in a flood; one left behind in a move; one moved to Belgium; one could not be located by the artist; three artists did not respond.) The 1988 artist approached me in the festival, not aware of the OUMA show, and was able to find her winning piece and frame it to display with the others. Six of the fourteen chosen during my tenure are currently displayed in OUMA including the 1988 Best of Show piece. The high school work is shoulder-to-shoulder with Salvador Dali's "Legacy of Love" series, Kumo Minton, and fine prints by American mid 20th century artists Alexander Calder, Helen Frankenthaler, Larry Rivers, Jim Dine, Adolph Gottlieb, Joan Miró, Marc Chagall and American composer/artist John Cage with Carl Sumsion. These 1960s and '70s works are a powerful representation of the Modernist, Surrealist, Abstract Expressionist movements in the U.S. and abroad. They also touch on the Color Field, Dada, and Kinetic art movements.

The OUMA Curator, Ms. Elizabeth Peterson, greeted the artists who were able to attend the members-only opening along with the families of those artists who currently live out of state. Ms. Peterson said, "I often enjoy displaying work by fledgling or emerging artists alongside that of mid career artists and work by those who are long established and widely recognized. It was delightful to hang a 2014 abstract painting by a high school junior alongside a 1960's color lithograph by Helen Frankenthaler. They are both beautifully executed and compatible in the installation. I figure why not let the work speak for itself and level the playing field?" The Retrospective will be in the museum through August 31, 2014. [AHSAE Best of Shows Retrospective](#)



Best of Shows in OUMA: 2013, 2010, 2012, 2009, 2006, 1988, 2014

Classes and week-long art seminars were donated to the top winners. The two sponsors of these seminars – SCAD and AiA -- provided a week of on-campus room, board, and a full-time class schedule to winners. The Art Institute honored its promise to allow last year's Best of Show winner, now a junior, to attend this year's summer studio experience along with the 2014 winner.

Two additional Art Throwdown competitions were held on the evenings of award events at SCAD and the Art Institute. The SCAD coordinators scheduled one of its own art professors to run a live model sketching session among the five participating schools. This energetic yoga-posing male model amazed artists and high school instructors alike with his fast paced pretzel poses. The work was judged and winners were recognised after the AHS&A winners in the event downstairs immediately after the Art Throwdown. Both activities drew a crowd of college students and staff. Of course, refreshments were served and winning work, both AHS&A and Art Throwdown, was displayed. The goal of creating a synergy between the AHS&A and the on-site activity, Art Throwdown, seems to be happening.

The school assembly educational presenter from the Center for Puppetry arts, Jeff Domke, visited North Gwinnett High School, the Best Art Department of 2014. Schools are chosen on the basis of criteria below and cannot have been chosen before:

- \_quality of submissions (labelling, presentation, complete roster form);
- \_participation, (timely drop-off and pick-up of work);
- \_group effort;
- \_% accepted into AHS&A;

#### **g. Take-away for attendees/participants**

117 high school artists from around the Atlanta region exhibited in the indoor exhibition space in the Atlanta Dogwood Festival. 13 award winners received event tickets, museum and art center memberships, one-on-one workshop opportunities with various arts instructors and business owners, and funding for art supplies from four supply stores (Blick, Binders, Utrecht, Flax) amounting to \$1350. In addition, the Jay Shapiro Arts Legacy Foundation provided another \$500 toward higher education tuition to one winner of the People's Choice award. This winner was chosen by the public over the course of the festival weekend and announced following the Art Throwdown event Sunday afternoon.

Attendees, many returning year after year, experience a much broader array of art than the established festival market -- created by young emerging artists. High school artists are fearless, creating from the heart (and soul) instead of creating *what sells*. The art is unique, finely tuned, and may be the best the artist has ever done before. (The work would not be chosen otherwise. 2014 AHS&A judges narrowed down over 750 submissions to 117.)

Being chosen gives young artists the confidence to focus on art as a career.



“Thank you so much for all of your work, this show was such an amazing experience for me!” Claire Armstrong, 2014 Best of Show

Volunteers to the AHSAE gain the experience of working with an established professional art competition and all it entails. In addition, high school volunteers gain Community Service credit for their work inside the festival exhibit.

**h. Duration (start to finish), years as part of ADF**

The AHSAE begins with a *Save the Date* reminder in late December to an email list of over 300 Atlanta regional art instructors. The AHSAE Call for Art is out by January 1 and due by the third week of February; mini-exhibits (award winners and additional hand chosen pieces) display throughout March, and the main exhibition is held inside the Community Center at the Atlanta Dogwood Festival. The award winners (13 this year) exhibit at both SCAD and the Art Institute of Atlanta, where they were joined by an additional 40 pieces. The AHSAE has been a part of the ADF since 2003.

**i. Tie-in to Festival**

Supporting students and arts programming is an important mission of the Atlanta Dogwood Festival. Many arts educators consider the AHSAE to be the most prestigious competition for high school artists in the area, due to the educational opportunities offered by awarding institutions as well as the exposure of the Atlanta Dogwood Festival. For the past few years the ADF media staffer has utilized the presence of the high school artists in live broadcasts both before and during the festival. The Dogwood brochure, map, email blasts and website proudly exhibit the AHSAE as an integral element in their project.



Dogwood Festival Board members with AHSAE Director Cheryl Myrbo Art Institute of Atlanta event

**j. Overall Revenue and Expense Budget:**

Management Fee	\$7,500.00
Site Rental Fee	\$2,500.00
Supplies	\$1,000.00
Jury Fees	\$ 450.00
(In-kind, AHSAE donations \$1,592)	
Total Expenses	\$11,450.00

The AHSAE expenses are covered by ADF operations with support by a grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts and sponsorship income.

**k. Description of sponsor/charity/volunteer/school/other group involvement with program and benefits to each (if applicable)**

High School volunteers from participating schools work 4 hour shifts throughout the festival weekend. Some young volunteers have returned several years in a row, and a few continue to visit after graduation, after moving away from Atlanta. The volunteers earn Community Service graduation requirements for their school curriculums, however many do not want them. Pre-festival needs often require a volunteer, too, and I can call on several helpful teachers for this recruitment.

Sponsors enjoy displaying the winning pieces as well as having winners and their families visit prospective campuses, often recruiting artists in their programs after graduation from high school. Michael Panyard, Assistant Director of Admissions at AiA, writes, "This was my first year working with the AHSAE. During my time as an admissions representative at The Art Institute of Atlanta, I'd seen the exhibit in our gallery and always admired the work of such talented high school students. This year I had the privilege of working alongside Cheryl Myrbo to coordinate not only the artists' reception, but to also incorporate an Art Throwdown competition. Visitors to our campus were amazed at the level of skill and creativity of these young artists, and for any out-of-town guests it provided a natural invitation to visit again for the annual Dogwood Festival. The exhibit then pointed to both the talent of our local students and the cultural focus on the arts that Atlanta celebrates. I look forward to seeing next year's work from the AHSAE once again at The Art Institute of Atlanta!"

Several of the artists have gone on to attend SCAD and AiA. Artists who win classes in local arts centers sign up again in the familiar environment to broaden their skills on their own. Ongoing relationships form between young artists and local professionals in their fields. (Photographer Lisa Tuttle and 2010 award winner; 2012 Best of Show and High Museum staff; 2014 judge/gallery owner and 2012 Best of Show artist)

### **I. Overall Effectiveness:**

The decade in the Atlanta Dogwood Festival has shown not only growth in the number of AHSAE submissions, but an undeniable upgrade in the quality of work submitted. Many teachers send their best artists' work to the AHSAE, carefully selecting from dozens of annual art competitions. Instructors, artists, parents and the community is starting to notice the quality of the AHSAE in the Atlanta Dogwood Festival.

A young artist wrote an unprompted email after the 2014 festival: "My name is Cassie G. (I'm from Milton High School), and I recently participated in the Atlanta High School Drawing Throwdown. When I was there you gave me a MOCA membership. I just wanted to thank you again!! I went yesterday to turn in the form and saw the Shara Hughes paintings. I was really inspired by the work, and I think the membership is going to be really beneficial to my studies as a growing artist! Thank you so much, I really appreciate it!"

The 2014 Atlanta High School Art Exhibition reached 110 high schools from 14 counties in and around the city of Atlanta. AHSAE offers three days of visibility in a major national festival, the Atlanta Dogwood Festival, to all displaying artists. Awards consist of upper level educational opportunities in arts centers, art studios, arts organizations, museums, universities, and colleges. Pre-festival mini shows give student artists and their families direct access to several colleges and universities--the promoting sponsors--who host on-campus exhibitions and openings, Art Throwdown scrimmages, award ceremonies (to award the winners scholarships, internships, and workshops) and campus tours. Continued in 2014 was a 5-week exhibition in the Sandra S. Day Gallery, Art Institute of Atlanta, for 45 AHSAE pieces chosen by the judges from schools across the region.

### **Measurable Results: updates and changes, successful?**

♣ Museum memberships for many participants in the 2014 AHSAE was a great idea. Museums such as the High, William C. Carlos at Emory, MOCA and MODA, arts centers ACAC, Spruill and Hudgens sent as many as I requested and more. Emerging artists will be able to benefit from these throughout the year.

- ♣ Dick Blick sponsor Robert Stone expressed a wish to frame a piece for 2015.
- ♣ The 2012 Best of Show artist scored a show in a 2014 judge's gallery for the fall of 2014.
- ♣ Oglethorpe Museum of Art displayed/hosted the student award winners for the first time in 2011, among three rooms of Henri Matisse; in 2012 AHSAB winners accompanied mandala work by the patients of Carl Jung and in 2013, housed in a new, separate room, had exhibits on both sides. [OUMA](#)
- ♣ In 2013 Oglethorpe Museum of Art constructed a new room from the museum store, and the AHSAB exhibit was the introductory show in the space. A stand-alone event ended the week-long display when the current museum director/curator met with every artist to personally critique the work. Families attended -- taking time to view the main galleries -- and a few filmed the conversations between emerging artist and professional.
- ♣ Many AHSAB winners, especially Best of Show artists, use the line item on resumes for college, enabling them to aim higher and broader in their pursuits. The 2012 winner, for one, was awarded more funding as a result of his honor.
- ♣ The Best of Show winner--2001--works as a full time free lance artist in New York City and claims his experience in the AHSAB led directly to his career choice.
- ♣ The Best of Show winner--2006--received a \$20,000 scholarship to the Rhode Island School of Design based partially on AHSAB winning piece.
- ♣ Students are able sell their artwork directly to the public during the three day festival. Sales have increased from year to year and have acquired a following from local art collectors. (Artists give 15% back to the AHSAB to help defray costs as well as helping them to be comfortable with this standard practice.) Several students have been asked to do commission work. In 2013 a student was contacted through the AHSAB to do a restaurant mural. The owner has been searching for the right artist for his business for several years, and looks forward to working with the talented high school student.
- ♣ AHSAB has developed a citywide name recognition and destination for returning visitors each year. Numerous visitors made a point to let use know the AHSAB did not disappoint them this year and is always the space they *do not miss* when they visit the festival.
- ♣ Atlanta values stories about emerging artists, and the AHSAB gives the public what they want. Every year AHSAB artists are interviewed for local television coverage and print media. In 2013 the pre-festival media attention was extensive, with an hour-long in studio *Throwdown* among three schools on CBS Better Mornings in March. Three two-person teams created work, drawing and creating a collage from a still life in the space. Live bits were filmed during the pre-dawn hour, with the cameraman moving through the work. Competing artists and John Brandhorst (Grady HS instructor, responsible for the *Throwdown* concept) were interviewed on camera at the end of the bit. Another specifically AHSAB bit was recorded inside the Sandra S. Day Gallery (AiA campus) a month before the festival. 5 award winners talked about their work to the CBS producer. This edited piece played April 12, the Friday before the festival.

♣. After the 2013 CBS Better Mornings event AHS AE posted photos of the three teams with their teachers and the work on the facebook page for a vote. This generated a flurry of interest and accumulated hundreds of votes. The winning team was awarded at the festival along with the Throwdown winners in the park.

♣ SCAD Atlanta began donating a week long Summer Studio to a winner in 2013, a highly competitive summer event for high school students from all over the United States, and continues to offer this award every year.

♣ The Art Institute of Atlanta donated two week-long Summer Seminars in 2013, also highly competitive summer events for high school students from all over the United States, and an additional \$1500 tuition scholarship, and continues to do so today.

♣ Watkins in Nashville continues to donate \$26,000 in tuition scholarships each year.

**Supporting Questions: What did you do to update/change this program from the year before? Where the updates/changes successful?**

Museum memberships for many participants in the 2014 AHS AE was a huge success. Museums such as the High, William C. Carlos at Emory, MOCA and MODA, arts centers ACAC, Spruill and Hudgens sent membership letters. Emerging artists must follow through the application process and will be able to benefit from these throughout the year. (For high schoolers the entry fee is often more than they can handle; the High charges \$18 for a day visit.) The memberships encourage them to check out what work is displaying around Atlanta, ultimately broadening their horizons and sparking new ideas to bring into their own art. Many of these smaller museums and arts centers do not get the attention the High receives and we hope this brings in more visitors to these “out of the way,” delightful spaces. The most costly memberships automatically go to the top three AHS AE winners, but I requested the artists come to me for a membership of an institution in their area. By the end of the evening every membership went home with an emerging artist eager to visit the exhibits in their community.

Having two submission drop off locations for 2014 was convenient for many instructors and artists to submit original work, but some schools are over 50 miles from both sites. Next spring, with the anticipated sale of the ADF King Plow office, a 2014 judge, Dr. Steven Steinman (AIU) has offered his studio space for submissions, storage and judging. We will meet this summer (2014) to work out logistics. This more central, single location will be an improvement for a larger percentage of the participants.

To streamline submissions this year, a Dropbox option was added to the submission process. Intended to be an option for a few savvy instructors as a trial process, Atlanta’s unpredicted “snowmageddon,” resulting in lengthy school closings all over the city, caused many instructors to beg for more time. AHS AE emailed extended submissions the day before the original deadline. By the original deadline we had 250 submissions and could have had a *good show*, but by the new deadline three days later on a Saturday AHS AE received 750, a *great show*. This option will be highlighted in 2015, since it also made the AHS AE job easier and more efficient, relying less on the whims of the US Mail.

The “People’s Choice Award” this year was a highlight for the fifth year, rewarding a \$500 tuition donation from the Jay Shapiro Art Legacy Foundation to “further the artist’s career.” The vote in the festival exhibition site engaged visitors and encouraged entire

families to look more closely at the work. This little competition keeps visitors in the exhibition longer, and gives *every* piece a chance to be noticed and honoured, not just the award winners. A non-award winner won this year by dozens of votes, showing again how art *appeal and popularity* is in the “eye of the beholder,” not the judges.

The Art Throwdown drew new crowds interested in seeing the activity outside the venue and ultimately drew them inside to check out the exhibition. In 2014 the Art Throwdown gained momentum with additional scrimmages prior to the festival at SCAD and AiA. CBS requested a live mock Art Throwdown in front of the Community Center early Friday morning. In 2015 the festival falls at the end of spring break again, but we intend to continue the tradition of Art Throwdown that began four years ago.

A new Art Throwdown website was created. The AHS AE website continued posting new information throughout the spring, and the group Facebook page continued to post daily updates and photos about mini shows, award announcements, etc. After the festival parents, artists, artists’ friends, and teachers visited the pages, too, to tag the art and link back to their schools and students. AHS AE will continue to add on to the page to maintain a flow from year to year.

The **Piedmont Park Conservancy** Community Center, an indoor venue, was used again in 2014. This creates an upscale atmosphere and is a great fit to display Atlanta's best high school artwork. The location is becoming a known destination for festival attendees; several take the time to let me know every year that the AHS AE is their favorite part of the whole festival -- after visiting the Artist Market they compare the high school work and are impressed with how eclectic the work is. The lawn in front is open, grand and inviting, with ample room for a live model on the grass surrounded by three dozen sketching artists at a time -- and a festival crowd. A large patio is also available for the award presentation; using a bull-horn worked fine, allowing everyone to hear, without the added effort of running cords for power.

Working out more precise directions, parking and MARTA instructions – a continuing upgrade -- makes the visit to the AHS AE much easier and fun for the whole family. Every email announcement this year was accompanied by standard Google map location links in addition to the written addresses for GPS users. Parking is tough in the festival area, often a surprise to visitors from OTP (outside the perimeter), but word is getting out. Fewer and fewer problems arise when visitors are trying to visit the space for particular events. AHS AE tries to encourage attendance by the OTP visitors, especially when their son or daughter has work in the show and they have never visited the Dogwood Festival.

The **Art Institute of Atlanta** has expressed interested in displaying additional AHS AE work in its second campus location in Decatur next spring for the 2015 AHS AE.

A new sponsor this year for 2014, the **Atlantic Institute**, has promised to meet with AHS AE over the summer to arrange a 10 day trip in Turkey for the 2015 AHS AE Best of show winner. This organization has sponsored similar chaperoned group trips to members of the Atlanta arts community and art instructors in the Atlanta school system for the last few years and recipients speak highly of the project. In order for this award to work within this competition, the AHS AE will try to raise funding for two round trip airfares to Turkey for the artist and accompanying art teacher.

The AHSAE in the 2014 Atlanta Dogwood Festival was better than it has ever been. Promotion by the ADF staff prior to the festival was exemplary, not only offering even more visibility for the work, but sending a message to the community that the AHSAE alone is worth a visit. The educational opportunity awards continue to get more valuable, and these local, week-long live-on-campus adventures are more accessible now to the sophomore and junior winners than are the tuition scholarships for the distant future. The Jay Shapiro Arts Legacy Foundation award added a new twist this year, designating their \$500 directly toward the winner's continuing education after high school. With the addition of the Art Throwdown, the AHSAE project epitomises what an educational outreach and community relations event can be.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Myrbo, Director AHSAE  
cherylmyrbo@gmail.com

Website: [AHSAE information](#)

Facebook: [AHSAE Facebook](#)

Throwdown: [Art Throwdown](#)



Atlanta Dogwood Festival  
Inside AHSAE in the Community Center, above  
Entrance to Community Center, left

# AHSAE 2014

Atlanta High School Art Exhibition  
78th Atlanta Dogwood Festival  
Piedmont Park

April 11 - 13, 2014



ATLANTA  
DOGWOOD  
FESTIVAL™



## History of the AHSAE

by Cheryl Myrbo, Project Director since 1999

The old *Youth Art Exhibit*, Atlanta high school art, was a staple of the Arts Festival of Atlanta in the seventies and eighties. Recently renamed the AHSAE (Atlanta High School Art Exhibition), this exhibition, hosted by the Atlanta Dogwood Festival for more than a decade, affords accessibility and visibility for the high school art to as many as 300,000 visitors each spring. Since 2009 the AHSAE has been staged in the Piedmont Park Conservancy Community Center, an indoor space that surrounds the work with a formal atmosphere in contrast to the casual outdoor festival venue.

Rewarding the student winners with educational opportunities began in 1999. This year award-winning artists received almost \$40,000 worth of higher education opportunities including:

**Tuition Scholarships:** Watkins College of Art, Design & Film (Nashville); four scholarships;

Art Institute of Atlanta: two Summer Studio scholarships;

SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design): Summer Seminars Atlanta residential scholarship;

**Workshops:** Center for Puppetry Arts (Jeff Domke), Red Wall Studio & Clayworks (Christine Tholl), Buckets of Color (Jes Gordon);

**Classes:** Color Wheel Studio, Chastain Arts Center, Roswell Visual Arts Center;

**Memberships:** High Museum, MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art), MODA (Museum of Design Atlanta), Hudgens Center for the Arts, Spruill Center for the Arts, ACAC (Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center), Emory William C. Carlos Museum;

The *Jay Shapiro Arts Legacy Foundation* donated \$500 for a People's Choice award.

## Best of Show "Dancers Passion"

Claire Armstrong  
Roswell High School Junior  
*acrylic on panel*  
Matt Phillips, instructor



*Binders, Dick Blick/Utrecht and Sam Flax* awarded funds for art supplies. In 2014 *TOCO Hills Picture Framing* (since 2000) and *Custom Framing by 2 Veterans* (new this year) framed two winning pieces. *Speedpro Imaging* donated our on-site printing again.

The AHSAE itself is a five-time award winner, recently earning a Gold Award from the SFEA (Southeastern Festivals and Events Association).

In 2014 45 schools and over 700 students submitted work, in spite of a rough winter for entering artists and teachers. The show is 117 strong with a 13-piece award exhibit that displayed in *SCAD* and 45 pieces on display in *The Art Institute Janet S. Day Gallery* from March 15 - April 9.

On Sunday at 1pm in front of the AHSAE in the festival there will be a repeat of *Art Throwdown-x* -- an invitational art competition among area high schools -- with live-model timed sketching.



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# 2014 AHS AE Award Winners

### Second Place

*Up and Up*  
Christina Voss  
Walton High School Junior  
Kathleen Petka, instructor

### Fourth Place

*Up, Up and Away*  
Chase Matheson  
Phoenix High School Sophomore  
Pasha Souvorin, instructor

### Sixth Place

*The Twelve Dancing Princesses*  
Kendyll Romine  
North Cobb Christian High School Senior  
Nate Rupp, instructor

### Eighth Place

*Naivete*  
Lesley Chang  
North Gwinnett High School Sophomore  
Yvette Kim, instructor

### Honorable Mention A

*Sister, Sister*  
Erika Bevers  
Chamblee High School Junior  
Lisa Guyton, instructor

### Honorable Mention C

*Stuck in Time*  
Su Kim  
Mill Creek High School Senior  
Mike Lasseter, instructor

### Best of Show

*Dancers Passion*  
Claire Armstrong  
Roswell High School Junior  
Matt Phillips, instructor

### Third Place

*Ataraxis*  
Ziyan "Lisa" Tan  
Starr's Mill High School Senior  
Todd Little, instructor

### Fifth Place

*Madonna of the Mac*  
Alexis Jacob  
Brookwood High School Senior  
Marie Thomas, instructor

### Seventh Place

*Sheilded*  
Erin Kim  
North Gwinnett High School Junior  
Yvette Kim, instructor

### Ninth Place

*A Mountain Range in My Palm*  
Kevin Fuentes  
Brookwood High School Senior  
Chris Vigardt, instructor

### Honorable Mention B

*The Motherhood*  
Hareem Park  
North Gwinnett High School Senior  
Debi West, instructor

### Honorable Mention D

*Untitled*  
Becca Jones  
Milton High School Senior  
Heather Meyer, instructor



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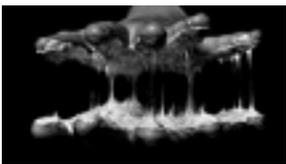
A



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Thank you Atlanta Dogwood Festival for supporting AHS AE artists for over a decade.

Thanks to Tim Settini, Arlene Hocking, Dr. Pam Carsillo, Noël Marts and especially Clara for their assistance. Thank you SCAD and The Art Institute for hosting AHS AE events, shows and throwdown-x. Thank you John Brandhorst and Jeff Mather for granting me the freedom to borrow throwdown-x and run with it.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave us their time and commitment.

And a HUGE thanks to all the hard-working teachers everywhere who gladly give so many unpaid hours on behalf of their students.

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