2015
West Virginia
Diversifying Perspectives
Art Contest and Exhibition

The Culture Center
Charleston, West Virginia

Promoting
National Disability Employment Awareness Month
September 3 – November 7, 2015

The Culture Center
Charleston, West Virginia

Purchased works may not be removed prior to the close of the exhibition.
Greetings from Education and the Arts  
Cabinet Secretary Kay Goodwin

I am proud to present this second annual Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition, a result of the collaborative efforts of two of my charges, 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 opens a window to the very soul. These artists have shared a piece of themselves, allowing us to witness their varied and creative perspectives. I applaud our exhibitors for their courage in putting themselves and their works on display.

I congratulate this year’s participants and give special kudos to those artists selected as winners! I hope this event will encourage them all to continue growing their creative abilities.

Your artistic voices speak volumes and this exhibition is fabulous!

Kay Goodwin  
Cabinet Secretary

Message from 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
2015 West Virginia Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest Juror

Pat Roberts, West Virginia Artist
President of Gallery Eleven, Charleston

Juror’s Statement

I am proud to have been asked to judge this year’s Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest.

I grew up in rural Vermont where, much like West Virginia, the beautiful scenery and the wonderful colors of the changing seasons instilled in me a love of nature and its beauty. I believe art exists to help us see our world more intimately and to stimulate our imagination and perception. Art carries me away to another dimension where there is color, freedom and tranquility with the absence of time and pressure.

I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of reviewing and evaluating this year’s entries. The artwork certainly stimulated my imagination and perceptions.

I commend the artists for sharing their artwork and their creative spirits with us. This exhibit features some fantastic pieces, demonstrating originality and innovation by many of the artists. I was also impressed with the use of color and the artists’ skillful use of materials in their presentations.

I encourage each of you to continue pursuing your artistic dreams, growing and advancing in your craft with each stroke of the brush, pencil mark to the page, click of the camera or experimentation with diversely creative materials.

I applaud each of you and your work! And, I sincerely congratulate those selected to receive the top honors for this year’s show. This exhibition will transcend viewers to many dimensions!
Grand Exhibitor

Greg Siegwart
Wheeling, Ohio County
1865
Colored Pencil

1865
This is a surrealistic, visual biographical portrait of Abraham Lincoln. There’s an American flag above Lincoln’s head, with the colors fading into his hair.

About Siegwart
This year’s Grand Exhibitor is Greg Siegwart for his colored pencil drawing, titled “1865,” a visual biographical portrait of Abraham Lincoln.

Born in Wheeling, 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.
National Disability Employment Awareness Month

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 “My disability is one part of who I am.”

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

My disability is one part of who I am.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October 2015

Greg Siegwart – 1865

This year’s Grand Exhibitor is Greg Siegwart for his colored pencil drawing, titled “1865,” a visual biographical portrait of Abraham Lincoln.

Born in Wheeling, 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.

2015 West Virginia Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition
Forrest Ash
Mineral Wells, Wood County

**Luck**
Mixed Media
$150

**Luck**

Luck is a mosaic picture made from small pieces of magazine paper. The picture shows a pine cone, leaves, twigs and rocks laying on the floor of the West Virginia woods.

**About Ash**

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

He feels he squandered away his artistic talent for almost 20 years due to mental illness and addictions to drugs and alcohol.

Currently, he works part time in the art department at SW Resources. Being paid for working with art has been his lifelong dream and he is grateful for the opportunity.
Award of Excellence

_Rodeo Bull Fighter_

This colored pencil drawing of the rodeo clown, or bull fighter, shows a portrait of the bull rider’s best friend with a painted face dressed in a red and white checkered shirt, red suspenders, a blue bandana and an orange and yellow cap.

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.
Carli Ratliff
Oak Hill, Fayette County

*Moonlight Stalker*
Mixed Media
$1,250

**About Ratliff**

Carli Ratliff is a 2010 graduate of Concord University, where her studies focused on art and music. Currently, she is painting wildlife and pet portraits and working on continuing her education. Her ultimate goal is to teach art.

Ratliff, who has epilepsy, photographs the animals and foliage in all her illustrations, and paints from her own photographs, using mixed media on heavyweight watercolor paper.

Moonlight Stalker

Moonlight Stalker is a mixed media painting of a screech owl sitting in a hollow tree framed under glass in distressed barn wood.

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, was awarded 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.
Diversifying Perspectives Exhibitors

Brian Anderson
Forrest Ash
LoriAnn Butler
Cheryl Childers
Joel DeAlba
Hope Doherty

Wesley Eary
Simon Feather
Sarah Fox
Lieselotte Heil
Colin Kelley
Philip D. Miles

John Panek
Carli Ratliff
Greg Siegwart
Christie Wilfong
Frederick Zacher
**Brian Anderson**  
Huntington, Cabell County  
**Fire and Ice**  
Photography  
$25

*Fire and Ice*

Fire and Ice is a photograph of a multi-colored autumn leaf against a background of distressed wood.

**About Anderson**

Brian Anderson has autism and epilepsy. After graduating high school, he started working at K-mart. He loves to play ultimate Frisbee in his spare time and he likes art and photography.

Anderson began photography about two years ago and he takes lessons with Ana Gaston to improve his skills. He likes to capture images of things that catch his eye – specifically the repetition of patterns and colors. His work can be closely tied to photojournalism and his teacher compares his work to the styles of photographers such as William Eggleston and Henri Cartier-Bresson.
**Brian Anderson**  
Huntington, Cabell County  
*White Out*  
Photography  
$25

*White Out*  
White Out is a photograph of a winter scene with snow-covered trees in the background.

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**Brian Anderson**  
Huntington, Cabell County  
*White Duo*  
Photography  
$25

*White Duo*  
White Duo is a photograph of park benches and trees covered in snow.
Forrest Ash
Mineral Wells, Wood County

Freedom
Mixed Media
Not for sale

Freedom
Freedom is a mosaic picture made from small pieces of magazine paper. The picture shows an eagle with the American flag flying in the background.

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

He feels he squandered away his artistic talent for almost 20 years due to mental illness and addictions to drugs and alcohol.

Currently, he works part time in the art department at SW Resources. Being paid for working with art has been his lifelong dream and he is grateful for the opportunity.
LoriAnn Butler
Ronceverte, Greenbrier County
**A Spring Day at the Lake**
Marker
Not for sale

**A Spring Day at the Lake**
A Spring Day at the Lake is a drawing, using washable markers, of a lake set against spring foliage with the sun in the background.

**About Butler**
LoriAnn Butler was born and raised in Greenbrier County, where she has participated in local amateur arts, on and off, since childhood. She has several online artistic projects, including blogs, photography and videos that she's created. She's been writing poetry since she was 16. She lives and struggles with depression, anxiety, allergies and fibromyalgia. She lives a very quiet, private life. She has a great love for the arts, nature, animals, human and animal rights, music and literature, as well as her favorite movies and television shows. A favorite hobby is entering art contests and her artistic interests continue to grow and evolve.
Magnified Snowflakes is an acrylic painting of impressions of magnified white snowflakes set on a light blue background.

About Childers

Cheryl Childers uses art to help her cope with and manage her disability, which is schizoaffective disorder bipolar type. She has been in many hospitals for her illness and her treatment has been successful. But, she still deals with the pain of mental illness.

She has found art to be extremely important. In a sense, the arts rescued her as did her faith in God. She manages her illness daily and now holds a part-time job. She also leads a small support group called RAMI (Raising Awareness on Mental Issues). She is very open about her illness and believes that we need to start talking more about mental health issues and not worry about the stigma.

Her art has been exhibited at several different locations in West Virginia, including the West Virginia University Creative Arts Center in Morgantown, the Culture Center in Charleston and at the Mental Health Awareness Exhibit at Artworks in Wheeling.
Cheryl A. Childers
Moundsville, Marshall County

Candlelight and Sunflowers
Acrylics
$60

_Candlelight and Sunflowers_
Candlelight and Sunflowers is an acrylic painting of a burning candle setting beside a vase of sunflowers.

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Cheryl A. Childers
Moundsville, Marshall County

Swallowtail
Acrylics
$145

_Swallowtail_
Swallowtail is an acrylic painting of an orange and black butterfly on pink flowers.
Joel DeAlba
Huntington, Cabell County

*Implied Texture*
Pen and Ink
$575

**Implied Texture**

Implied Texture is a black-and-white contour drawing of bread slices which conveys the feel and look of the observed texture of an acorn using a two-dimensional surface.

**About DeAlba**

Joel DeAlba became interested in art at an early age and enjoys illustrating, drawing and working with pen and ink. DeAlba was born in Huntington and resides there to this day. He is a senior at Marshall University, majoring in graphic design. In early 2009, DeAlba was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure and was placed on dialysis. He received a kidney transplant in 2011 and began attending Marshall University in 2012.

DeAlba hopes to become employed in the arts, specifically in the area of illustration, after receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Marshall University.
Joel DeAlba
Huntington, Cabell County
Living and Dying
Graphite
$875

Living and Dying
Living and Dying is a black-and-white graphite drawing of an image of a hunter and his prey.
Hope Doherty
Big Bend, Calhoun County
*Footprints in the Sand*
Mixed Media
Not for sale

**About Doherty**

Hope Doherty is employed with SW Resources in Parkersburg as writer and editor of The Insider, the organization’s monthly newsletter. Doherty enjoys photography in her leisure time. By sheer practice, she has improved her artistic talents.

**Footprints in the Sand**

Footprints in the Sand is a photo collage depicting the artist's spirituality and love of God. There are six photographs of children praying and playing the guitar, surrounding a print of the famous Footprints in the Sand poem by Mary Stevenson.
Wesley Eary
Charleston, Kanawha County

Marici
Mixed Media
$600

Marici
Marici is a painting that was inspired by the Buddhist deity “Marici,” goddess of sun and light. Marici’s brightly lit image is in the center of the painting. Her image is surrounded by a brightly colored crown of thorns.

About Eary
Wesley Eary was born and raised in Charleston. He is a graduate of Capital High School, and later went on to receive a bachelor’s degree in art from West Virginia State University. Eary has ADHD, which made education more challenging for him. He works at the East End Family Resource Center at the old Roosevelt Junior High. He hopes to further his education by obtaining a Master of Fine Arts degree in community arts and be a part of making Charleston shine!
**Simon Feather**  
Morgantown, Monongalia County

**Goatee Guy**  
Clay  
$150

*Goatee Guy*  
Goatee Guy is a clay mask of a man with a goatee.

**Pirate**  
Clay  
$150

*Pirate*  
Pirate is a clay mask of a pirate.

**About Feather**

Simon Feather, who has fragile X syndrome, started working seriously in clay while he was a high school student in Morgantown. He continued his exploration of the medium when he moved to New Jersey in 2001, studying at Millburn High School and following graduation, with master potter Peter Syak at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. His mask, “Hagrid,” won an award at the Center’s Members Show, a competition for neurotypical artists.

Upon his return to Morgantown in 2009, Feather began a partnership with potter Jeff Ryan at Zen Clay. Feather is particularly fond of creating faces and is very proud of his work, which has appeared in exhibitions in New Jersey, New York and West Virginia.
Unmasking Self-Injury

Unmasking Self-Injury is a phantom mask hand painted with acrylics. This mask wears thoughts and feelings on its face. Words and feelings associated with self-injury are painted on it including: hate, abuse, alone, alienated, dead, hurt, worthless, cutter, blood, label, SAR, sex, ’96, ’03 and hope.

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.
Lieselotte Heil
Alderson, Monroe County
*Not-Quite Still-Life*
Mixed Media
$1,000

*Not-Quite Still-Life*
Not-Quite Still-Life is an abstract “still life” painting that includes glasses, bottles and fruit in bright colors of lime green, purple, red and blue.

*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 process 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

**Bicycle**
Mixed Media
$1,000

*Bicycle*
Bicycle is a colorful abstract painting of a bicycle. The painting includes tones of pink, purple, blue, green and rust.

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**Lieselotte Heil**
Alderson, Monroe County

**Summertime in Alderson**
Watercolors
$1,000

*Summertime in Alderson*
Summertime in Alderson is a representational abstract painting of the town of Alderson along the river. The painting is comprised of bright colors, including purple, yellow, green, red and blue.
Colin Kelley
Parkersburg, Wood County

*Kitten Watch*
Mixed Media
$150

**Kitten Watch**

*Kitten Watch* is a mosaic picture, which was drawn and then made using small pieces of recycled magazine paper. The picture is of a gray and white kitten lying on a red sofa with a yellow background.

**About Kelley**

Colin Kelley is employed by SW Resources in Parkersburg. He works in the Marble Tree and Cardability divisions, which make greeting cards, brochures, mosaics and other artistic creations. Kelley has worked with SW Resources for 15 years. He enjoys building model cars and art.

Kelley likes to create art because he says it helps him to relax and to express himself better. Kelley is deaf and feels that art is often a way to help the hearing world hear what he is thinking and feeling.
The artist sees what others only catch a glimpse of.

~Leonardo da Vinci

The idea is not to live forever; it is to create something that will.

~Andy Warhol

No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If he did, he would cease to be an artist.

~Oscar Wilde

Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

~Pablo Picasso

With his hands, Michelangelo only catch a glimpse of.

With his brain, Leonardo da Vinci will create.

The idea is not to live forever, it will be.

~Andy Warhol

A man paints with his brains and not with his hands.

~Michelangelo
Robin Daily Growth

Robin Daily Growth is a photographic collage documenting the daily growth of three baby robins from April 24, 2014, through May 6, 2014.

About Miles

Philip Miles has a bachelor's degree from Fairmont State University and works for the state of West Virginia. Miles has had a congenital heart defect since birth. His disability restricts him from lifting and performing manual labor. For hobbies, he enjoys bike riding, fishing, spending time with his family and friends and especially photography.
Philip D. Miles  
Dunbar, Kanawha County  
**Four Seasons at the WV State Capitol**  
Photography  
$100

*Four Seasons at the WV State Capitol*  
Four Seasons at the WV State Capitol is a photographic collage showing the seasonal changes around the State Capitol grounds. There are four photographs of the Capitol set in spring, summer, fall and winter.

Philip D. Miles  
Dunbar, Kanawha County  
**WV Wesleyan Chapel at Night**  
Photography  
$30

*WV Wesleyan Chapel at Night*  
WV Wesleyan Chapel at Night is a photograph of the Chapel on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College, where the photographer’s parents were married in 1971.
John Panek
Shinnston, Harrison County
Mountain Men in the Rockies (Circa 1825)
Oils
$2,000

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.

Mountain Men in the Rockies (Circa 1825)
Mountain Men in the Rockies (Circa 1825) is an oil painting of two fur trappers on horses moving through the river into the mountains with their equipment on pack animals, while looking for beaver. The green Rocky Mountains are in the background.
A Vegan’s Delight
A Vegan’s Delight is an oil still-life painting that includes a silver pot, eggplant, squash, onion, carrot, a head of cauliflower and peppers.
Carli Ratliff
Oak Hill, Fayette County

**Clover for Lunch**
Mixed Media
$1,250

Clover for Lunch is a mixed media painting of a groundhog eating Clover in a field of green grass. It’s framed under glass in distressed barn wood.

**About Ratliff**

Carli Ratliff is a 2010 graduate of Concord University, where her studies focused on art and music. Currently, she is painting wildlife and pet portraits and working on continuing her education. Her ultimate goal is to teach art.

Ratliff, who has epilepsy, photographs the animals and foliage in all her illustrations, and paints from her own photographs, using mixed media on heavyweight watercolor paper.

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, was awarded 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.
Carli Ratliff
Oak Hill, Fayette County
*Whoo, Who Goes There?*
Mixed Media
$1,250

*Whoo, Who Goes There?*
This is a mixed media painting of a Great Horned Owl perched on a tree branch. It's framed under glass in distressed barn wood.
**Greg Siegwart**  
Wheeling, Ohio County  

*Her Universe*  
Oils  
$600

*Her Universe*  
Her Universe is an oil painting of a small girl dressed in a blue and white gown with Monarch butterflies and planets floating in front of her.

**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.
Greg Siegwart
Wheeling, Ohio County
*Never More*
Oils
$400

*Never More* is an oil painting of three ravens at play on the canvas.
Christie Wilfong
Weston, Lewis County
**Red Flowers on Bird House**
Acrylics
$85

**Red Flowers on Bird House**
Red Flowers on Bird House is an acrylic painting of red flowers on a birdhouse with green grass, a tree and blue sky in the background.

**About Wilfong**
Christie Wilfong is a life-long resident of West Virginia. A brain stem tumor survivor, she was diagnosed with post-radiotherapy syndrome in 2000. She currently resides at Holbrook on the Hill in Buckhannon, where she fits artwork in between therapy and various testing for continuing health issues. Knitting, photography and painting are her favorite activities.
Christie Wilfong
Weston, Lewis County
*Flower Border*
Watercolors
$95

*Flower Border*
Flower Border is a watercolor painting of blue and pink flowers with green leaves on a pale blue background.

Christie Wilfong
Weston, Lewis County
*Itty*
Photography
Not for sale

*Itty*
Itty is a photograph of a gray tabby cat sitting in a flower bed.
**Frederick Zacher**  
Peterstown, Monroe County  
**Penthouse Dream**  
Pen and Marker  
$60

**About Zacher**

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

After graduating from James Monroe High School, Zacher attended Mercer County Technical Education Center. Since obtaining a certificate in graphic design, he has maintained employment at Mercer County Opportunity Industries, Inc. Print Shop.

**Penthouse Dream**

Penthouse Dream is a drawing that depicts the “ideal” living environment. The drawing consists of nine different scenes, including a game room, a library, a kitchen, a swimming pool, a drafting table, a bedroom, a living area with a bar, an airplane and a sports car.

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.