



2012 Visual Arts Achievement Program (VAAP)

March 16 - April 27, 2012

In recognition of outstanding achievement in visual arts, 91 middle and senior high school students from across Alabama will be honored at the Alabama State Council on the Arts Visual Arts Achievement Program Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 27. The ceremony honoring these young artists will be held in the auditorium of the State Capitol from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m., with a reception immediately following at the Alabama Artists Gallery, located at 201 Monroe Street. The Alabama Artists Gallery is situated within the lobby of the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

This Visual Arts Achievement program, which is in its twenty-sixth year, provides an opportunity for talented middle and high school students in Alabama to receive local and state recognition for their achievements in visual arts. It is designed to showcase the quality of art being created by Alabama's students enrolled in both public and private school systems.

During the awards ceremony, students, their parents, guests, and teachers will have an opportunity to hear Tara Cady Sartorius received her BA in Ceramics and Art Teaching Credential from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her MFA in Sculpture and Art Criticism is from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. She taught art and designed curricula for eight years in Santa Barbara. She served as

Curator of Education at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts for 21 years. After retiring in 2007, she coordinates technology at the Art Museum, and is a consultant and artist (ceramics and fused glass) facilitating arts integration. Tara writes for Arts and Activities Magazine's segment, *Art Across the Curriculum*. She is a regular presenter, contributor and facilitator for a variety of professional development workshops for teachers.

For the Visual Arts Achievement Awards, the state is divided into six districts. The participating art teachers within the districts selected the most creative and technically executed work done in their classrooms. These pieces were submitted for the district competition. Works selected at the district level are currently displayed for the month of April at the Alabama Artists Gallery, located in the lobby of the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

Selected professionals juried all district winners in order to select a group of state winners. Medallions and gift certificates will be presented to students whose works are designated "Best of Show" and "Best" in each category, and "Best of Each District." Additionally, an annual award will be given to an exemplary art teacher and school system that encourages and supports young artists. All district winners will also receive certificates.

The Arts Council's Visual Arts Achievement Awards provide an opportunity for twelfth grade students who have excelled in visual arts to receive financial assistance in the form of scholarships. Scholarship awards are made in two

phases. First, the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA) awards up to five \$500 scholarships based on the quality of work submitted in art portfolios. Second, a student who receives one of ASCA's scholarships will have the option of increasing the scholarship to \$1000 if he or she elects to attend one of the institutions that have agreed to match the ASCA scholarship. The art departments of the following institutions have agreed to partner with ASCA for these scholarship awards: Auburn University Montgomery, Birmingham Southern College, Jacksonville State University, Samford University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Troy University in Troy, University of Alabama in Huntsville, and the University of Montevallo. The Alabama State Council on the Arts has provided scholarships to seniors in high school since 1986. Students receiving scholarships have excelled in the visual arts and have not only demonstrated their artistic abilities, but have also planned to continue their education in the field of art. Scholarship awards are based on the quality of work submitted in portfolios.

