

MASF SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS' ART STATEMENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

2009 SHOW CATALOGUE

ASHLEY M. COOLEY: Art is the window into someone's mind, it's how we express ourselves, no matter what the form. There is nothing else in the world so complex yet so simple. It's impossible to explain the splendid feeling I get from a completed piece of work in which I have successfully conveyed the message I wanted to express.

CAITLIN N. KAELBER: Art is not simply the act of making marks on a surface or constructing a form, it is a way of thinking intelligently and creatively, it is problem solving. Art stimulates, develops, and nurtures elevated thinking. Art, for me, is a path out of mediocrity and unchallenging thought, so in turn I hope that my art inspires thought in the viewer. Whether they like or dislike my work, I hope it causes them to think, feel, and be mentally and emotionally stimulated.

JESSICA KNIGHT: Art can be imagination, manipulation, frustration, an avocation for a nation's liberation. It just depends on what you do with it. For me it's just fun...and what I plan on doing for my career.

ELAINA D. BERKOWITZ: Art is important to people around the world; not only as a way to preserve a society's values and history, but as a way to develop an individual's mind to think critically and independently about their place in the world. The most important thing I've learned from art is that I have the ability to see problems or situations from all sides and think critically about the most effective, productive, and creative outcome.

KELSEA GUSTAVSON: Art is not only a form of self-expression, but is also a state of mind. Art has influenced the way I perceive my surroundings, which helps me to illustrate my ideas to others. However, it is upon creating art for myself that I find the inspiration to continue to grow as an artist.

2010 SHOW CATALOGUE

LINDSAY NOEL RAPP: Art has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My love for art was exposed to the world when I was three years old and I won my first public art competition. It was so exciting as a three year old to be interviewed on television and be awarded a Savings Bond at a special ceremony. Today, at the age of eighteen, I am even more passionate about art. It is my life. To me, art is putting ideas into images and delivering them with emotional impact. My goal is to put myself into the shoes of others and explore what they may see, think and feel in their hearts. With this empathy, I create art. My art is a reflection of life – one frame at a time. The best thing about a finished work of art is how the piece speaks for itself and takes on a life of its own. I appreciate how the unspoken “holes” in my art are filled with one’s individual interpretation based on their own vantage point in life. In August, I will begin college at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. I am really looking forward to this exciting chapter in my artistic journey. I am so grateful for the generous support given by the Miniature Art Society of Florida in helping me pursue my dream in the field of visual arts.

RACHEL L. HARGRAVE: Art is a way of communication that everyone can understand. It is one of the very few universal languages, along with music and emotion. It is a mean of peace and understanding. I want to keep exploring and learning from this amazing language and push its limits. I want to discover new techniques, processes, and points of view. It is the one thing that is definite in my future.

STEFANIE MOREHOUSE: Art is simply an expression of my complete and utter eccentricity. I use color and movement to “get out” all my feelings of happiness, frustration sadness, etc. All around me I see things begging to be captured: emotion, shape, situations that could not be given proper justice elsewhere. Certain things have just fascinated me since I was a toddler, such as the human body and presence of color. Above all, art is a stress reliever. Whenever I become flustered all I have to do is pour it out via pencil, pen, brush, anything that I can find. I do not know what I would do without such a wonderful way of expression such as the visual arts.

KEVIN BROPHY: Ms. Kevin Brophy is the recipient of a Miniature Art Society of Florida, Inc. \$1,500 scholarship as an art student St. Petersburg College, Tarpon Campus. This scholarship will assist in her plans of pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art at the California State University, Long Beach. She intends to continue her focus on drawing and painting as she learns to explore and understand the many mysteries of art.

2011 SHOW CATALOGUE

DEANNA M. SCHNEIDER: Beginning with my earliest memories, I have been passionate about my art and having art as a part of my life. The arts have fueled my life in a purposeful direction that has led me into new experiences, friendships, and dreams. Because I see my creative imaginings as stories and pictures in my head, my dearest dream is to become an animator. In pursuit of this dream I took after-school art classes and attended summer art-camps at my local Fine Arts Center. When I outgrew the Art Center's offerings for children, they created Teen Art Classes by invitation only but mostly for my benefit. While serving as a Student Assistant at the Arts Center, I met Dania Allen a local artist, who became a friend, mentor, and great inspiration. When it came time for me to start High School, I applied and was accepted at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA) at Gibbs High School my county's Arts Magnet High School on the other side of the county. Although it would have been much simpler to follow my friends to my local High School, that would be average. My dream is not average; my dream is lofty, requiring dedication and sacrifice. I decided the quality of my Arts education was worth forgoing the safety of starting High School with well known friends and accepting an extended daily commute. All this hard work has paid off! I have been accepted as a Computer Animation major at Ringling College of Art + Design. A school regarded by many as the preeminent school for Computer Animation. I'm on my way! I'd like to thank the Miniature Art Society of Florida for their consideration and support.

JILLIAN N. HARLAN: The process of art-making is, for me, often much more satisfying than the final result. I love thinking of ways to overcome the challenges that my own work presents me with. I am constantly researching other artists to see what inspires them and then trying out different media and techniques to find something new that inspires me as well. I will be attending the Savannah College of Art and Design this fall to major in Advertising Design and also to take courses in curating and fibers.

JAMES A. KAUFMAN: As a graduate of Seminole High School and an alumnus of St Petersburg College's Early Admissions Program, I am honored to be receiving a MASF scholarship. The MASF scholarship will help fund a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in Technical Theatre Production at USF. It is my experience that the Performing Arts, much like many other fields that fall under the category of Fine Arts, is under-represented in today's society. In my time as a stage technician I have been given the privilege of meeting and working with many talented artists and performers of diverse backgrounds. It is my goal to continue down the path of a Technical Director professionally, and most of all have fun doing it!

2012 SHOW CATALOGUE

PHILIP J. A. CHAROS: I play music for the adventure of it. I write music to share my dreams. I create music to connect with people. I write music to be understood. I write music to understand myself. I write music because the world needs something new. I write music to test my limits. Music is my medium of creativity. Music is my canvas of expression. Music is my closest friend.

KELSEY CONLEY: Being a 7th generation Floridian, my work draws inspiration from the flora and fauna of the area as well as Southern Folktales and stories. Folktales originated as an oral tradition, thus the stories changed and evolved overtime. It became not important how accurate the story was told, but instead what style it was told with. I feel like my pieces have a style different from traditional narrative illustrations. A majority of my work focuses on displaying each tale in a graphic and organized manner. The contrast between the simplicity of a balanced, symmetrical composition and the intricacy of a precise line drawing interests me and I would like to convey this. Recently I have been inspired by the aesthetic of altarpieces and my use of ambiguous space and arrangement refer back to these. I was also inspired by the iconography and symbolic nature of religious imagery. The concept of symbols and motifs are also found in folktales as well as my work. The repetition establishes a sense

of unity and character development. I also hope to establish a sense of unity in my choice of medium; ink on wood. Ink is a medium that best showcases my drawing abilities and the illustrative quality of my work. Because of this I would like the viewer to be able to look at my pieces and develop a narrative in their head whether it be from a story they already know or a story they create on their own. Similar to how folktales began, it does not necessarily matter how accurate each tale is, but that my art can tell a tale.

JESSICA A. HVOZDOVICH: Art has taught me the value of human imperfection and the benefits of failure, because the strength we gain through struggle can even be more significant than a victory. As I pursue artistic goals, studying the work of others to improve my own, experimenting with a variety of media, I have learned to appreciate the exploratory nature of an art-based lifestyle. My research and studio geared arts education in Palm Harbor University High's International Baccalaureate program has fueled my interest in a possible artistic career. While my intended path of study at the University of Florida is currently broad, stretching from fields of chemical psychology to graphic design, I know I will eventually discover my true passion. Regardless of my future career, the lessons I have learned through the arts and my creativity will be great assets, and art will always be a key component of myself.

LAURA A. WELLS: I've always found it difficult to articulate my feelings with words, so art was my way of expressing my feelings. Whenever I'm working on an art piece I escape to my own little paradise, relax, and everything around me dissolved, the stress and the confusion of the real world momentarily stops, and I can create art with ease. I'm always looking for inspiration, whether it be from the small things in everyday life, or the places I've been, of always dreamed of going to. I'm always trying to expand my horizons, by using different mediums, trying something new, and not limiting myself to what I'm capable of achieving. I plan on one day becoming an art teacher to share my love of art with many others.

2013 SHOW CATALOGUE

SIDNEY S. HOWARD: Art is a never-ending journey of creativity and problem solving. As an artist I approach the world differently. When I look around my environment I see materials, subject matter, textures, precious colors, and opportunity. I seek inspiration and collect ideas for new compositions. Even the mistakes are steps towards a finished piece because I learn from them. Art is a broad universe; there is always something new to see, to find, to explore, or invent. Creating is my outlet to express all the thoughts wandering around in my head. I've found that in art, and in printmaking especially, you start off with a vision or idea and end up with something slightly different, something better. For some, this process might seem unnerving because you lose a bit of the control. This aspect of the process is appealing to me because that's how life is.

KIRA E. OGLESBY: Art plays a major role in my life. I think that it is something essential and unavoidable. I view art as a way for me to explore and depict my thoughts, transforming an idea into something more, no matter the medium. I constantly find myself inspired, keeping my mind open to the various possibilities art provides. Almost every day of my life becomes a devotion to the arts. No matter the content, I see it as my goal to personalize all of my artworks. Even in a serious subject matter, I will find a way to make the piece mine, adding a sense of frivolousness to them all.

JOHN J. SCHMITTAU: Art is the driving force in my life. If I'm not in the process of making art I become restless until I am making art. What I truly like about art is how it drives me to do better. Yes, there are art contests and juried shows that are competitive, but that is not the competition I am talking about. My biggest competition is myself. I think my latest artwork is always my best artwork. With that in mind I'm always driven to be better. Art gives me the drive and the confidence I need to make it through the day. But most importantly, art grants me a feeling of significance. In this big world where everyone is just a speck of dust, art makes me feel important. That when I'm long gone my art will be there, telling everyone that I was here.