

A Word About Juried Shows

The Annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District is a juried competition. This means that while the show is open to all high school students in the Eighth Congressional District, **not all submitted work will be hung in the exhibition at VisArts.**

Every year a panel of three highly qualified artists with teaching or gallery experience serves as jurors for this competition. This panel has two responsibilities: first, to select from all the entries the pieces that will hang in the show and second, to choose the artwork that will receive awards. This is no easy task and there are always pieces that are not selected due to lack of space. All decisions are made without the jurors knowing the names of the artists or the schools they attend.

Each year, unfortunately, some very strong work is compromised by poor presentation. For this reason, it is important that artists pay close attention to the matting and framing of their work. Framing guidelines are included in this packet. Students and faculty should contact the Art Competition Coordinator, Linda Pepper, at (301) 657-8650 or pepper461@aol.com for assistance in obtaining reasonably-priced, sturdy frames.

Because so many students participate in this competition, all students who submit their work should understand that there is a chance that their piece will not be hung in the exhibition. Each piece is given serious and thoughtful consideration and it is the collective decision of the jurors that determines the content of the exhibition. Submitting work to a juried competition is a valuable experience from which all participating artists can benefit, including those whose work is not ultimately selected for exhibition.

Please be sure that the work you submit is available for the entire length of the exhibition. Artwork selected for inclusion in the show cannot be released until May 17th.

Work that is not selected to hang in the exhibition may be picked up at the Arts Celebration and Awards Reception or at scheduled times only, unless specific arrangements are made beforehand with Linda Pepper. This is to ensure the safe return of all artwork to the proper student and to avoid placing an undue burden on VisArts staff.

All student artists are encouraged to attend the **Arts Celebration and Awards Reception on Monday, April 30, 2012.** Every student will receive a certificate of participation from Congressman Van Hollen, view the exhibition, and gain insight from the work that was selected. Students will also have an opportunity to speak with some of the jurors.