

Promoting the creative power in people with disabilities.

Unique art & exceptional talent...

## Visual Expressions: A Call for Art Exhibition

Dramatic, whimsical, sophisticated, and exotic are just a few words that describe the works that were submitted to VSA Wisconsin's 2013 Call for Art. Nearly 300 artists submitted 407 two and three dimensional works and the



Skyline, Barb Priem

resulting exhibition was a kaleidoscope of color, shapes and themes. The exhibition was on view at the VSA Wisconsin Gallery in Madison from March 16 – April 10 allowing visitors ample time to enjoy the artists' creative expressions in watercolor, acrylic paint, pastel, ceramics, sculpture, photography and a variety of other mixed media.

A jury of independent arts professionals reviewed the entries and selected 10 works which were added to *Creative Power: VSA Wisconsin's Traveling Exhibition* in May. Award winning artists include: Stasia Wilson, White-water; Barb Priem, Monona; Roy Bedward and Mai Thao, Madison; Joyce Gust, Winneconne; Arianna Griffore, Green Bay; Sterling Solberg, LaCrosse; Laron Birmingham, Milwaukee; Torin Wilke, Hortonville and Bridget Kowalski, Wau-nakee. Ten additional works received honorable mention awards and six entries received recognition awards. A ceremony recognizing these artists was held on April 6.

The ideas and emotions expressed in the art is very powerful. A common theme among the artists . . . they love to create art for themselves and others to enjoy. Their work was inspired by other artists, heroes, pets, nature, imagination, historical figures and family.

Stasia Wilson paints subject matter that moves her emotionally. She uses art as a therapeutic outlet for herself and her viewers. The visual arts are Stasia's first passion, keeping her motivated and allowing her to cope with life's rollercoaster. She hopes her pieces communicate her deepest sorrow and her overwhelming joy of being alive.

When Roy Bedward paints, he feels more normal and happy than any other time in his life. Art is real for him, it is a way of communication and a way to show how much love is in his heart.



Me, Sterling Solberg

Sterling Solberg's mother tells us the Call for Art initiative is "a great outlet for people with various disabilities to have a moment of greatness whether they see themselves as artists or not."

## Working together...

This newsletter is intended to keep our friends, donors and participants up to date on our activities. To our wonderful donors and sponsors, thank you for your support of programs that improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. We appreciate all you do!

--The VSA Wisconsin Team

# Vsa

WISCONSIN

The State Organization  
on Arts and Disability

## & News Events

### Art Exhibitions

#### Creative Power

30 award-winning works  
from across the state

Dwight Foster Library  
Fort Atkinson  
Aug. 1 - Sept. 27

Timber Lane  
Coffee and Cafe  
Boscobel  
Oct. 13 - Nov. 13

#### Do You See What I See?

PhotoTown photographers

Capitol Lakes  
Retirement Community  
Madison  
Aug. 6 - Sept. 3

#### Open Doors Studio

selected works of 12 artists

VSA Wisconsin Gallery  
Madison  
through Sept. 4

### Events

#### From Tee to Green Golf Exhibition

featuring Win McMurry &  
Dennis Walters

Advance tickets required

Cherokee CC, Madison  
Sept. 12

VSA Wisconsin  
1709 Aberg Ave.  
Suite 1  
Madison, WI 53704  
608-241-2131  
www.vsawis.org

*Tiles, paint, paper...*

## Mosaics, Murals and More

### Life In Bloom

Nearly 100 residents and staff at Central Wisconsin Center in Madison created a beautiful mosaic mural that is now permanently installed in the gymnasium at Stevens Hall. The mosaic process is one of the most accessible art processes because it's not intimidating and doesn't require a lot of knowledge about art technique. Placing the tiles can be random, so this art medium was perfect for the individuals participating in the program. With mosaics, everyone gets a chance to create something beautiful.



### Mural Transforms School Cafeteria

This spring, more than 300 students at Mendota Elementary School in Madison designed and created a 28-foot painted mural which is now installed in the school cafeteria. During the design phase, students participated in a surrealist word association game to generate unique and original imagery for the mural. Students worked in pairs and as one person read a word that related to school, his/her partner said the first thing that came to mind. After the students played the game, they were asked to circle a pair of words that popped out at them the most. These words were then used as the inspiration for a 15-minute drawing session which led to the master mural design.



### Full Circle - The Art of Acceptance

Students with disabilities at Hamilton, Wauwatosa, Whitnall, Franklin and Riverside University High Schools explored the theme of understanding, respect, compassion and acceptance while participating in a VSA Wisconsin artist residency this year. As they learned the art of mosaics, the students used mathematical concepts associated with patterns and also learned about concepts such as symmetrical destiny, border, and choosing images or shapes that have meaning. The final designs were exhibited at Alverno College in May.



### Book Arts

Students at Golda Meir School in Milwaukee created scrolls and explored the use of mosaics in ancient cultures. They made paper mosaic covers for the books that they were creating. This collage project was very successful and had a positive impact on one student who seemed to get in trouble nearly every day. By the fourth class, he was on task most of the time enjoying the projects and the information about Greece and the Greek language. The teaching artist said, "I think it made him want to remain in class."

*Help VSA Wisconsin...*  
**There Are Many Ways**

VSA Choirs in several Wisconsin communities give individuals with disabilities an opportunity to actively participate and express themselves as singers and musicians through regular rehearsals and public performances. Jack and Penni Pautz of Kaukauna are dedicated fans of the VSA Choir of Appleton and attend concerts whenever they can to hear their friends perform. They are also committed donors. "Penni and I feel that we are 'blessed to give back.'" says Jack, and over the years they have made valuable donations that strengthen the choir program. If you would like to join Jack and Penni and support VSA Wisconsin programs, please use the form below, or you can give securely online at [www.vsawis.org](http://www.vsawis.org).



Annually, VSA Choir of Appleton director Tiffany Vollrath receives some resistance from members who doubt their ability to learn new pieces or pronounce some of the words. However, they always manage, and when the day of the concert arrives, Tiffany says, "members are so excited to share their accomplishments with the audience."

*Poetry can be...*  
**Picture Perfect**

*Picture perfect,  
 Is the goal,  
 To make it worthwhile,  
 to make it whole.*

*When we sit,  
 And do our art,  
 It is a beginning,  
 It is a start.*

*Be proud of what,  
 You create today,  
 A way to begin,  
 To be on your way.*

*Painting a picture,  
 Or molding clay,  
 Picture perfect,  
 Every day.*

*So do your best,  
 At what you do,  
 To be creative,  
 To be you.*



Dylan Abraham  
 July 2013

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The mission of VSA Wisconsin is to expand the capabilities, confidence and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities by providing programs in dance, drama, creative writing, music and visual art.

VSA Wisconsin is a member of the VSA affiliate network, a program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This newsletter is made possible in part through funding provided by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support has been provided by: Advertisers Press and xpedx.

*To receive this newsletter in an alternative format, contact VSA Wisconsin.*



**From Tee to Green: A Golf Exhibition for Arts and Disability featuring Win McMurry and Dennis Walters**

Thursday, September 12, 2013  
 Cherokee Country Club in Madison

Demonstration by Dennis Walters at 8:45am  
 Exhibition with Win McMurry & guests at 9:30am  
 Luncheon, auction and Q&A session with the golfers at noon

Exhibition and luncheon tickets, \$175 per person; Gallery tickets, \$50 per person.  
 For tickets call (608) 241-2131