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ILLUSTRATOR
Deborah Fletcher has a philosophy to always continue learning. It was this philosophy that led her to Art Instruction Schools. Today, she uses her art for the education and pleasure of others.

Deborah teaches art at the Coral Springs Museum of Art. Deborah finds joy and satisfaction in teaching others. She indicates it is very rewarding to have some of her students receive prestigious art awards. However, Deborah's own credentials are exemplary. Her work has been on display in art galleries and juried art shows where she has won “Best of Show.” She is well-known for her formal interiors paintings.

Deborah is co-owner of an art gallery called The Painted Easel Art Studio. In addition, she does extensive volunteer work with her art. Her latest venture is developing a coloring book involving numerous illustrations for Coral Springs’ 50th anniversary.

"The instructor critiques were positive, informative and encouraging. I have become more confident in my teaching and I feel I owe that to Art Instruction Schools."
Robert Bates enrolled in Art Instruction Schools while he was still in high school. After his high school graduation in 2001, Robert joined the Marines. He decided to put his art education on hold to focus on his duties to his country. Robert left the service in 2005, and re-enrolled in Art Instruction Schools to finish the assignments he had left. In 2008, he reenlisted into active duty, before leaving the service once more in 2012. Robert then went to Afghanistan as an embedded journalist for two and a half weeks. From December 5th through the 21st of last year, he was tasked with “Sketching the Draw Down,” which meant that he was sketching soldiers, taking photographs, and recording the stories of soldier’s day-to-day life of the war.

“I believe in creativity, but I also believe that it is at its most potent when articulated well.”

Since then, Robert has enrolled at the University of North Carolina Charlotte to study Illustration and Art Education. He is also a freelance illustrator for Extra Mustard, Sports Illustrated’s pop culture site. He earned this opportunity simply by emailing Sports Illustrated and showing them his talent.

Robert has also been deeply involved with the Joe Bonham Project since 2011. He works with several illustrators including some from Rolling Stone, The National Review and GQ on the Joe Bonham Project. The Joe Bonham project was based off of the 1938 Dalton Trumbo novel called “Johnny Got His Gun.” Robert said, “It has been an ongoing adventure. In early 2011, Michael D Fay, retired Marine Corps Combat Artist, started the Joe Bonham Project.”
Joe Bonham was a World War I soldier who lost his arms and legs in battle. He was forgotten and worked hard to show America the rigors of war. The Joe Bonham Project is to ensure that today’s Joe Bonhams are not forgotten. “We visit hospitals and do warrior events to visit with them and tell their stories. While visiting with these warriors, the International Society of War Artists and the Society of Illustrators, work together to create drawings helping to tell their stories.” Drawings are then formed into larger paintings to be put on display in several exhibits along the east coast. They are working informally with the Smithsonian Institution of National Museum of American History Military and Diplomatic Collection to set up a collection for the post war.

Currently, Robert is working on a piece of a warrior swinging a baseball bat on a team called “The Wounded Warriors Softball Team.” This particular warrior is missing an arm and is swinging a bat one handed while hitting a ball. They played on Memorial Day at the Charlotte Fire Department and offered Robert a chance to be in their dugout and take photographs and make drawings of warriors to help tell their story.

Robert has always strived to produce pieces of art that the public will enjoy as opposed to making art for the “Art World.” He believes that the public is who matters. “The work that I make has genuine purpose, whether it’s to heal, document history, or to make people think. I believe in creativity, but I also believe that it is at its most potent when articulated well. Think of art as a verbal language; a person may have a brilliant idea, however, if he or she cannot speak intelligently, then that idea will flounder. Same goes for writing, singing, drawing, painting, sculpture, anything. Artists must arm themselves with the tools and skill-sets necessary to make their creativity work for them, not against them.”

“The work that I make has genuine purpose, whether it’s to heal, document history, or to make people think.”

“Artists must arm themselves with the tools and skill-sets necessary to make their creativity work FOR them, not against them.”
Art Instruction Schools is where Robert believes he learned the fundamentals and basic principles of drawing and painting. He is a self-motivated individual and enjoyed the opportunity to have the tools and resources to help him succeed. He said Art Instruction Schools gave emphasis on structure and more or less – traditionalism.

His advice and encouragement for aspiring artists are four things:

- Do what works for you and your future
- Keep an open mind and accept critique
- Plant seeds and never burn bridges
- Association leads to assimilation

Robert Bates is now preparing for his solo show, The Art of War, which will be held at UNC Charlotte Campus next summer. He will also continue to work on combat art from the 2012 winter embed in Afghanistan. “I plan to delve deeper into the world of editorial satire and to keep exploring with my art.”

“Think of art as a verbal language; a person may have a brilliant idea; however, if he or she cannot speak intelligently, then that idea will flounder.”

TIPPY GOES TO COMIC-CON!

For over 50 years, Tippy the Turtle has been part of Art Instruction Schools and remains one of the most iconic and recognizable “Draw Me” characters.

This year, Tippy made a special trip down to San Diego Comic-Con, the epicenter of everything pop culture.

Tippy was seen all around the convention area. The first two days of Comic-Con, Tippy stayed in the Art Instruction Schools booth where he met many excited attendees. He was thrilled to see alumni and current students who gave him hugs and high-fives. Over the weekend, he made a trip down to the marina and Gaslamp Quarter where he posed for pictures with his fans.

Tippy made sure to stop by his favorite restaurant to fully indulge in the fine San Diego cuisine while taking a break from all the excitement happening at the convention.

We asked Tippy if he would be visiting San Diego Comic-Con again next year. The turtle of very few words simply gave a nod and a smile.

We will see you next year Tippy!
Our Annual Art Competition for the Professional Category award level is to recognize our students and graduates who generate income from their art. We honor these Professional winners and hope that you draw some insight and inspiration from these talented and skillful career artists. These images will now become part of the Art Instruction Schools Permanent Gallery Collection.

If your artwork sells at retail, in galleries, or if you create art as a paid staff artist or freelancer, or generate commissions through your art, you’ll want to submit your entry to the next Annual Art Competition in the Professional category. All Annual Competition Grand Prize winners will automatically compete at this level.

This artwork is truly amazing!

ART INSTRUCTION SCHOOLS
2012 Annual Art Competition
Professional Category — $1000 Purchase Award Winners

Professional Category Finalist Award Winners

The original pencil drawing, acrylic and oil painting shown here were among many great entries we received for the 2012 Professional Category judging. In addition to the winners shown, we would like to acknowledge the exquisite work entered by the following professionals:

Donna Jean Carver Willmar, MN
Verdella Inskeep Excelsior Springs, MO
Joseph Matose Middletown, RI

Larry Smitherman
Austin, TX

Rollie Brandt
Webster, MN

Jvan Chinea
Angeles, PR

Sheryl Hughes
Pompano Beach, FL
ART INSTRUCTION SCHOOLS

Annual Art Competition

2012 Winners

CONGRATULATIONS to all who competed in our 98th Annual Art Competition. This year we received entries representing artists from almost every state in the United States, as well as Canada.

All 35 winning images have been faithfully reproduced here, although greatly reduced in size. As always, the full size art is very impressive. Congratulations to all the winners!

We received so many good entries it was very difficult to arrive at the top 35. Congratulations to all that received a Finalist Award this year. Their artwork was included in the top 10% of all entries received and made it into the final round of judging. Congratulations to you all!

We hope you will enter the next Annual Art Competition… and we hope you will be among the winners published in the next issue of the ILLUSTRATOR magazine. Keep up the great work – the world needs more artists.

The 2012 Grand Purchase Prize Winner is James Henson, from Tonganoxie, Kansas. Serene’s exceptional prize winning print is shown to the right.
First Place Winners - $500

Krista Bisceglia
Milwaukie, OR
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Lydia”

Angel Raising
Baker, LA
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Beloved”

Angel Raising
Baker, LA
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Beloved”

Rachel White
Mt Airy, MD
“Deep Sea Dive”

Noreen Beardsley
Manchester, NH
“Bouquet”

Wendy Bartel
Ogilvie, MN
“Real Attitude”

Bryan Arehart
Mt. Jackson, VA
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Sweet Tooth”

Angel Raising
Baker, LA
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Beloved”

Rachel White
Mt Airy, MD
“Deep Sea Dive”

Sandrine Curtiss
Wells, ME
“Scents of Hawaii”

Second Place Winners - $100

Wendy Bartel
Ogilwie, MN
“Real Attitude”

Angel Raising
Baker, LA
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Beloved”

Rachel White
Mt Airy, MD
“Deep Sea Dive”

Sandrine Curtiss
Wells, ME
“Scents of Hawaii”

Ryan Collinson
Greenwood, WI
“Lucy”

Tim Bernard Cruz Jr
Yabucoa, PR
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Corruption”

Sureya Davis
Hemet, CA
“Pugly”

Wendy Bartel
Ogilvie, MN
“Real Attitude”

Angel Raising
Baker, LA
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Beloved”

Rachel White
Mt Airy, MD
“Deep Sea Dive”

Sandrine Curtiss
Wells, ME
“Scents of Hawaii”

Ryan Collinson
Greenwood, WI
“Lucy”

Tim Bernard Cruz Jr
Yabucoa, PR
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Corruption”

Sureya Davis
Hemet, CA
“Pugly”
Second Place Winners - $100

Irina Harper “Mardi Gras Girl”
Crowley, LA
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Melissa Denelsbeck “Looking Back in Time”
Canby, MN
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Trent Gabriel “Belgium - Home of the Sax”
Dallas, TX
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Gustavo Gomez Garcia “Sisters”
Brossard, QC
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Tabitha Hamilton “Angel Bell”
Beaumont, CA
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Olivia Karagdag “Oak Tree”
Las Vegas, NV
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Raymond Perez “Erunise”
Streamwood, IL
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Jim McLain “Brothers”
East Windsor, NJ
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Pauline Nelson “A Time of Rest”
Corryton, TN
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

Alisha Lehigh “Priceless”
Spring Grove, PA
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student

T C McMullen “Time”
Loretto, PA
Current Art Instruction
Schools Student
Second Place Winners - $100

Melvin Rice
Pine Bluff, AR
“Remember When”

Rachel Porter
Locust Grove, GA
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Daniel”

Emily Richardson
Fayetteville, GA
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Whitney Speaks”

Claudia Rendon
Louisville, TX
“Young Jesus”

Stadia Watson
Toronto, ON
“Love Sense”

Francisco Rivera
Houston, TX
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“Hello, My Name is Frank”

Steven Rollins
Whitwell, TN
Current Art Instruction Schools Student
“The Darkest Day”

Abel Sosme
Plainfield, IL
“Brown Bear”

Saadia Wasim
Toronto, ON
“Love Sense”

Lisa Simon
Windermere, FL
“Zen Peacock”

Corey Talk
Shiprock, NM
“Protector”

Kurtana Ynith
Lincoln, NE
“Little Red Riding Hood”

Brady Sutherlin
Durango, CO
“The Betrayal”

Karissa Vieth
Lincoln, NE
“Little Red Riding Hood”
CHARLES SCHULZ
CARTOON ART SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION WINNERS
FOR 2012

Over the years, Charles Schulz has been an inspiration to us all. He created a world of innocence – and insight – while making us laugh and reflect on the little truths we find in our daily lives. He did this as a Master Cartoonist, every day, year after year, because he loved the feeling of being creative. He never tired of his life’s work and he continued to push himself creatively throughout his entire career. He will be an inspiration for many years to come.

Through a special endowment fund, Art Instruction Schools offers a unique opportunity to three current students who show interest, technical skill and creativity while working within the “cartoon” format. One full scholarship and two half scholarships are awarded each year, to students at or above Lesson 7.

The winning entries for the 2012 Competition are shown here.

CONGRATULATIONS to:

- Full Scholarship: Christopher Hilbig  San Antonio, TX
- Half Scholarship: Stephanie Vega  Cartersville, GA
- Half Scholarship: Cici Polk  Santa Clara, CA

We received many good entries it was very difficult to arrive at the top 3. Congratulations to all that received a Finalist Award this year. Congratulations to you all!

We were pleased to see the high quality and varied styles represented in your entries. You all should feel proud to follow in the footsteps of Charles Schulz. He was an Art Instruction Schools student too, just like you, and dreamed of being a professional cartoonist for many, many years... So, keep working on your cartoon concepts.
Stephanie Vega
Cartersville, GA

“Cosplay Café
Man-Fri 8am-10pm
Sun 10am-5pm

Now, PJ, we're going to test your eyes. Please cover your right eye, and read the letters I point to.

Cici Polk
Santa Clara, CA

Half Scholarship Winner

“First Visit to the Eye Doctor”
ANNOUNCING THE
ART INSTRUCTION SCHOOLS
2013 ART COMPETITIONS

CHARLES SCHULZ CARTOON ART
SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

May 1 – June 30
One Full Scholarship and two Half Scholarships
Awarded to current students only – at Lesson 7 or above

99th ANNUAL ART COMPETITION

August 1 – September 30
$1000 Grand Prize
Awarded to a current student or graduate

Four $500 First Place Awards
Two $500 First Place Awards reserved for students only

Thirty $100 Second Place Awards
Minimum of ten $100 Second Place Awards reserved for students only

PLUS

Five $1000 Professional Category Awards

40 Cash Prizes in All – A Total of $11,000

Complete rules – and official entry forms – will be mailed to you with the return of your graded lesson assignment.
For more information visit www.ArtInstructionSchools.edu