



# Dogwood Festival/AHSAE Art Throwdown Profile

Saturday, April 13, 2024 (Rain date April 14, same time frame)

Dogwood Festival in Partnership with the AHSAE (Atlanta High School Art Exhibition)

Piedmont Park Community Center near the corner of Piedmont and 12th, by the Noguchi Playscape

This competition is intended to add to the existing exhibition paradigm for student art presentation and competition. It asks each art department in a school to create a deep bench of talent in multiple disciplines. Like other interscholastic events, points are awarded and tallied. At the end of the competition individual competition winners will be acknowledged as well as team awards for most total points accrued. We invite you to create a full team with contestants in each event. Please hold practices and select a team that showcases the best students you have in each medium. It is like selecting a varsity starting team. The more complete your roster the more chances you have to win as a team. Of course, smaller groups and individuals as well as home school students are invited and encouraged to compete.

**The total number of students per team may vary** depending on how teacher/coaches assign artists to events. For example, 2 students may compete in all of the figure drawing competitions, or there may be 6 individuals to fill the seats for the same three heats. A team may choose to fill all the slots in all events, or leave some seats empty.

**There will be a \$5 cash fee per contestant** to cover the cost of materials, live model, and other supporting expenses.

Please reach out to John Brandhorst at [jbrandhorst@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:jbrandhorst@atlanta.k12.ga.us) at Midtown High School with any questions and to register your team. In the next week or so registered teams will receive a request for a detailed team roster so that we may accurately prepare materials and anticipate numbers of contestants.

## Schedule of Events:

12:30-1 PM Convene and check-in at the AHSAE in the Piedmont Park Community Center

1:15 Welcome announcements

1:20 Divide into competition specific groups for expectations and questions

1:30 Begin 90 minute team events, landscape, and Individual Drawing Competitions

1:45 Begin Formal Portraiture 30 minute drawing and figure drawing competitions

3:00 End all 90 minute competitions. Judging and point tallying

3:10 Begin Speed Portraiture

3:30 Announcement of Individual and Team Winners

## Throwdown Competition Events

**Figure Drawing:** 1:30PM, 2 contestants per heat

**Formal Portraits:** 1:45, 2 contestants per team

**Face Off Speed Portraits:** 3:10, 6 contestants per team

**Landscape Painting:** 1:30, 2 contestants per team

**Fibonacci Sculpture:** 1:30, 2 collaborating contestants per team

**Lillian Blades Collage:** 1:30, 2 collaborating contestants per team

**One Shot Comic:** 1:30, 2 contestants per team

**Digital Photo Triptych:** 1:30, 2 contestants per team

**Cartographic Challenge:** Open digital entry, open to ALL students statewide

## Event Descriptions

### Figure Drawing Challenge



**1:30PM, Up to 6 individually competing contestants per team. 2 contestants per heat. Individual students may compete in more than one heat.**

Chairs, paper and drawing boards will be supplied by the event. Contestants are to bring their own preferred drawing media. Contestants will be positioned in a circle around the live model. Contestants will be sitting on chairs with the drawing board positioned on another chair positioned backwards in front of them to create an improvised drawing mule or may position themselves in some other way they find comfortable.

**There are three separate judged heats in this competition:**

**Heat 1:** The 5-minute drawing will focus on gesture, drawing power, and speed. Artists are to use only provided graphite pencils for this heat.

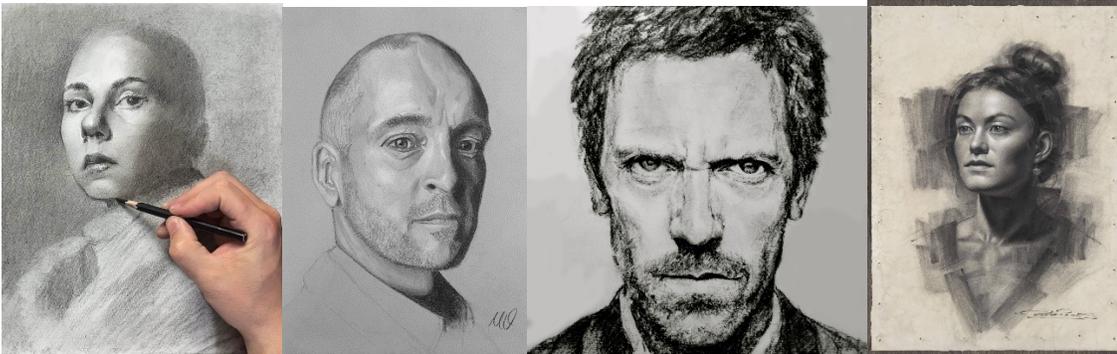
**Heat 2:** The 10-minute drawing will focus on correct proportion, anatomy, and correctly observed light and shadow. Artists may use provided graphite and add their own black charcoal or conte crayon if they wish.

**Heat 3:** The 20-minute drawing will focus on stylistic interpretation using the model as a basis for interpretation and imaginative expansion. Artists may use a variety of dry media to complete this challenge including graphite, charcoal, colored pencil, and/or pen. Aqueous media and spray media will not be allowed in this challenge.

Time will be called at various intervals to keep the artists abreast of the available time remaining.

Judgment will occur immediately upon completion of each heat.

## Formal Portraiture



**1:45PM, 2 Individually Competing Artists per team.**

**Sitter TBA**

In this challenge artists will create a formal portrait in pencil and/or charcoal in 30 minutes. The drawings will be made on 12" x 18" drawing paper. The rendering is to be a life-sized likeness showing the full bust of the model. Artists are allowed and encouraged to engage the background negative space but the background should not overwhelm the likeness of the model. No color will be allowed in these portraits. The model sitter will be TBD>>>>> Artists are encouraged to research the features and demeanor of the sitter and practice the portrait drawing in advance of the competition using the reference photos above.

As a special thank you to the model, the winning drawing will be given to the sitter for their collection.

All works will be formally documented.

Judgment will occur immediately upon completion.

## Face-Off Single Elimination Speed Portraiture



### **3:10PM, Up to 6 contestants per team**

In this event teams may enter up to 6 artists to compete in timed portrait drawing. Contestants will face off and draw each other in heats that are 4 (and less) minutes long. At the end of the heat a judge will walk down the competition table and select the artist that will move on. The losing artist is eliminated. With the process the brackets reduce by half with each heat. As the heat continues the time will reduce by 15 seconds. In the event of an odd number of contestants, one artist may face off against two others. The single artist will choose one of the opposing artists to draw. The judge will choose one winner from this trio. When three pairs remain, the judge will choose the 5<sup>th</sup> place drawing. Final Four artists will go head-to-head with the judge choosing the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers and the final two. Then in a final heat the champion and second place finisher will be selected. The drawings will be executed on provided 9 x 12 drawing paper with provided black standard medium ballpoint pens. This event will require practice, luck, and nerves of steel.

## **Landscape Plein Aire Challenge**



### **1:30PM, 2 individually competing artists per team.**

This will be a single **90-minute** heat in which the contestants will go out into the Piedmont Park terrain and create a landscape interpretation using media of their choice. Contestants shall be supplied with 9" x 12" watercolor paper and a drawing board. All preferred drawing and painting materials (watercolor paint, gouache, color pencils, graphite, paper towels, cups) and tools, and stools shall be brought by the contestant. Upon the judges signal the contestants will have 90 minutes to find a suitable position and create a landscape representation that captures a sense of grand space: ground and sky, flora, possibly fauna and people, and park-based and/or Atlanta skyline architecture. Contestants must return to the AHSAE area and check in before the 90-minute timer runs out or they will be disqualified.

Judgment will be based on spatial illusion created by atmospheric and size extinction, arboreal and botanical correctness of form and placement, architectural inclusion, and stated stylistic intentions. A short statement shall be written by the contestant briefly outlining their intentions. The statement must create clear parallels between the image and the artist's intentions.

Judgment will occur immediately upon completion.

# Fibonacci Sculpture Challenge



1:30PM, 2 Collaborating Artists per team

[The Fibonacci Sequence](#) (click for link to TED Talk) is a well-known way to understand the growth patterns we see in many living things and processes. This challenge will focus on the beautiful spiral formations that result from forms following this sequence. Artists will be presented with a box filled with a variety of materials. Each team will receive a box with the exact same materials. Teams are required to bring a tool box of hand tools, and other materials they think may be necessary. Teams are welcome and encouraged to preconceive and even rehearse their approach to this challenge. Each team will then have **90 minutes** to create a new sculpture that exhibits an understanding of this concept. Teams may choose to augment the materials in the box with objects and/or materials found near the competition site. The resulting sculpture will be judged on elegant form, novel and technically excellent use of the materials, and the presentation of the sculpture. Teams will also be judged on their collaborative success and clean-up of the presentation site.

# [Lillian Blades](#) Assemblage Challenge



1:30 PM, 2 Collaborating Artists Per Team.

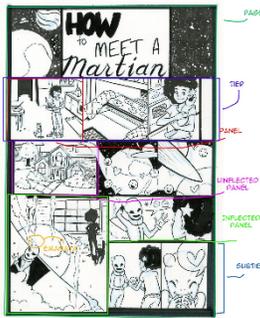
Artists will have **90 minutes** to create a 12 x 18 collage on heavy paper using materials that they find at the Dogwood Festival during this event. Some dimensional materials like popsicle sticks, coffee stirrers, buttons, beads, foam core, and other found objects will be provided. Tin foil and some transparent materials will also be provided. Artists are also allowed to dash into the festival and seek flyers, maps, newspaper, leaves, and other interesting 2 and 3-dimensional collage materials to create a final composition that utilizes a strong understanding of the elements and principles of art. Artists are to bring their own cutting tools of choice. Some heavier cutting and shaping tools will be provided. Brand new UHU sticks, Tacky glue, and Mod Podge with brushes will be provided. No spray adhesives, or other types of adhesives will be allowed. Final compositions should be richly built, complex, and technically excellent using line, shape, color, imagery, text, texture, and a strong awareness of layout.

You are to specifically reference the work of **Lillian Blades**. Her work is the spectacular backdrop for the Orchid Daze installation currently on display at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. These are not to be “mood boards”. Final collages may use multi-layer transparency and/or interactive components. Judgment will be based on strong use of the elements and principles of art, fascinating juxtapositions, strong sense of unity, and compelling thematic approaches to the Dogwood Festival, “Atlanta”, “Art”, and the collective cultural force of our enlightened people.

# One Shot Comics

## Chuck the Ninja Starfish

By Jean Zilinsky Marshall



## 1:30 PM, 2 Individually Competing Contestants per team.

In this **90 minute** challenge the artists will create a one page stand-alone comic that addresses the variety of smells in the air that are present at the Dogwood Festival. Work will be completed using traditional pen and ink on 14" x 20" illustration board. They will have **90 minutes** to walk through the festival to research the page, sketch and ink the multi-frame comic and return to the competition area. Work will be judged on clear character rendering, action, language, environmental representation, whole-page composition, and overall impact.

Artists will be presented with a "curve ball" design or theme concept drawn from a hat at the beginning of the competition.

## Digital Photo Challenge



## 1:30PM, 2 Collaborating Artists per team.

Artists will have **90 minutes** to complete this challenge. In this challenge artists will use any digital photographic devices available including phones, digital SLRs, ipads, etc to capture and manipulate a triptych of images that capture the total atmosphere of the Dogwood Festival: People, art, Piedmont Park, food, music, Atlanta.... Artists are allowed to use any app and/or program to manipulate the images to create a unique and coherent series. Artists are encouraged to practice this process prior to the competition using available imagery to develop a planned procedure.

Final series will be judged on total triptych compositional and color coherence, representation of the Dogwood Festival atmosphere, and masterful use of apps and programs to manipulate and extend the impact and effect of straight documentary photographs.

# Cartographic Exhibition Challenge Sponsored by Georgia Power



**Individual digital submission: All contestants, including non-participating students, are invited to participate in this unique challenge.**

In this challenge we are asking **ALL students from competing schools** to create a unique composition based on cartographic imagery. This piece **MUST** be in a square format with horizontal and vertical orientation. Actual square dimensions may vary, however. There are no restrictions on media or substrate. Submissions to this challenge will be collected digitally. This piece is to be executed **PRIOR** to the event and submitted via the Google Forms link below. Georgia Power has a special office dedicated to economic development in Georgia. There are exhibition areas in these offices that are seen by representatives from all levels of service and industry seeking to do business in our great state. Your entry into this challenge will be considered for display in these auspicious spaces to help create a clear sense of the diverse voices and places that make up our unique population. Your work will be digitized and turned into a high-quality mounted print. You get to keep your own work!! We are hoping to create an ongoing project that will allow for periodic changeover of the exhibitions to keep the voices fresh. Recognition will be granted to you, your art teacher, and your specific school and community.

Please submit entries to this challenge [HERE](#). Deadline for submission to this contest is 1PM on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. After this deadline we will be receiving submissions openly for inclusion into the Georgia Power exhibition in their offices.

## Scoring

In each event, points will be awarded to individuals with their scores contributing to the team total.

First Place= 10

Second Place= 7

Third Place= 5

Fourth Place = 3

Fifth Place= 1

Final judging placements will be binding, and judges are not required or allowed to explain or defend their final decisions to anyone. Contestants, parents, and coaches are not to approach and/or question judges independently after their decision is rendered.

## Awards

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### **Press**

Press releases and announcements are being sent to various publications and websites in the Atlanta community. Participating schools are asked to communicate their involvement to their systems and any community partners or organizations that they wish.

Each team should secure proper parental, school, and district release forms from their respective systems to allow for maximum potential coverage.

### **Volunteers**

Each team may bring a few volunteers to handle peripheral concerns, logistics, and extra documentation. Please remember that there will be limited parking. Teams should maximize carpooling and MARTA.

### **Feedback/Debriefing**

During and after the event we will be actively pursuing feedback regarding the event and how it should evolve to create a durable and impactful series of competitions. It is the intention of these competitions to keep the arts actively in the public eye while affording the students an elevated experience, solidifying and activating art programs in the schools, and creating a greater sense of consistency and collegiality between art programs across the region.

### **Documentation**

All participants are encouraged to fully document the experience from start to finish. This year we ask that images be posted to Instagram @DogwoodThrowdown2024