

Dogwood Festival AHSAE Art Throwdown Profile

Sunday, April 13, 2025

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

Piedmont Park Community Center near the corner of Piedmont and 12th, behind Willie's.

This event 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 the most total points accrued. We invite you to create a full team with contestants in each event. 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.

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 john.brandhorst@woodward.edu 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..

Time line:

12PM	Welcome and Organization
12:30 PM	begin landscape, sculpture, comic, and photography competitions
12:45 PM	Begin formal portrait and figure drawing competitions
1:15 PM	End Formal Portrait competition
1:30 PM	End Figure Drawing competition
1:45 PM	Begin Speed Portraiture
2 PM	End landscape, sculpture, comic, and photography competitions
2-2:30 PM	Judging and score compilation
2:30 PM	Announcement of Individual and team scores and winners
2:45 PM	Dismissal

Scrimmage Events



Figure Drawing Challenge

Judge: Magda Dumitrescu

Up to 6 individually competing contestants per team. 2 contestants per heat. 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 backward 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 bring and 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.



Single Elimination Speed Portraiture

Judge: TBA

Open to all willing participants.

Speed portraiture is a very demanding event that requires a good deal of practice to master. Competing artists will sit facing each other at a long table. Using only copy paper and black ballpoint pen the artists will draw their opponent directly across the table. Each heat will result in the elimination of half of the competitors by a judge assessing each pair of drawings from each competing pair. Artists will rearrange along the table to face a new opponent in the next heat. As the heats progress the drawing duration will reduce. The first drawing will last 3 minutes. The second will be 2:45, etc. The final heats will determine the awarded scores. When the final 6 artists compete, one competitor will be eliminated. When the final 5 artists compete the judge will choose the 5th, 4th, and 3rd place winners. The final two artists will then compete in the final round to select the 2nd and 1st place point winners.



Landscape representation Challenge

Two individually competing artists per team.

Judge: Carl Linstrum, SCAD Professor

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 18" x 24" watercolor paper and a drawing board. All drawing and painting materials and tools 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 ASHAE area and check in before the 90-minute timer runs out or they will be disqualified.

Judgment will be based on spatial illusion, 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.



Dogwood Festival Orchid DAZE Collage Challenge

2 Collaborating Artists Per Team.

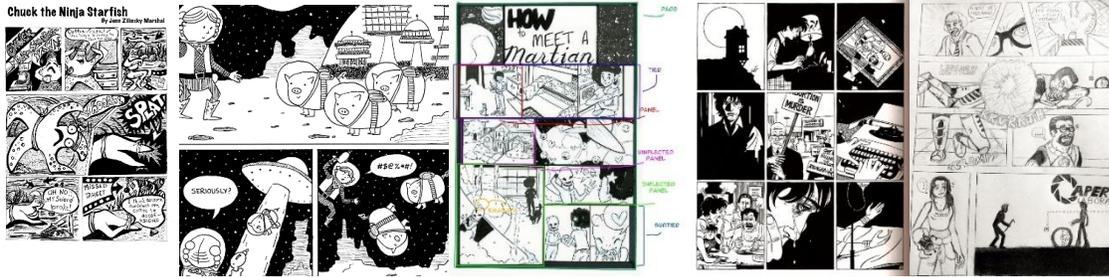
Judge: TBA

https://www.google.com/search?q=orchid+anatomy&rlz=1C5GCEM_enUS1121US1122&oq=orchid+ana&gs_lcrp=EgZiaHJy bWUqBwgAEAAyqAQyBwgAEAAyqAQyBggBEEUYOTIHCAIQABiABDIHCAMQLhiABDIH CAQQABiABDITCAUQLhivARjHARiABBiYBRiaBTIHCAyQABiABDIHCacQABiABDINCAg QABiGAXiABBiKBTINCAkQABiGAXiABBiKBagCALACAA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&s afe=active&ssui=on#imgsrc=XO5Bu-9m4G0TXM&imgdii=Wlgz3DCQqETygM

<https://www.countryliving.com/gardening/g32261131/orchid-types/>

<https://atlantabg.org/plan-your-visit/atlanta-garden-calendar/orchid-daze/>

Artists will have 90 minutes to create a well-researched Sculptural “Dogwood” Orchid with heavy paper using only materials that they find at the Dogwood Festival during this event. Artists are to dash into the festival and seek cardboard, flyers, maps, newspapers, leaves, and other interesting 2-dimensional collage materials to create a final sculpture that utilizes a strong understanding of the elements and principles of art and a clear knowledge of the orchid anatomy. Artists are to bring their own cutting tools. Teams may bring printed images of orchids to use as the direct influence on their work. Teams are encouraged to practice making orchids prior to the competition. Brand new UHU sticks, masking tape, sticky tack, and Mod Podge with brushes will be provided. No hot glue, spray adhesives, or other types adhesives will be allowed. Final sculptures should be richly built, complex, and technically excellent using form, color, collage, and floral anatomical awareness. Final sculptures may use collage to interpret the colors and patterns found in orchids. Final sculptures should respond to the particular shapes and proportions found in orchids. Sculptural interpretation is encouraged. The final piece should measure NO LESS than 18” from side to side. Other measurements may vary depending on species choice and sculptural interpretation. Judgment will be based on strong use of the elements and principles of art, 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

2 Individually Competing Contestants per school

Judge: TBA

In this challenge, the artists will create a one-page black and white stand-alone comic that addresses the concept of ????? at the Dogwood Festival. Work will be completed using traditional pen and ink on 14" x 20" illustration board. Contestants are to bring their own pen and ink supplies of their choice. Contestants 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 completion, 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

2 Collaborating Artists per school

Judge: TBA

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.

The final series will be printed and 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.



Formal Portraiture

2 Individually Competing Artists per school

Sitter: TBA

Judge: 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. Artists are encouraged to research the sitter and practice 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.

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.

Funding

Minimal funding should be necessary to create a viable team. At this early stage no discussion has been formalized regarding sponsorships or of creating a formalized "league" or "Conference". It is worth discussion to relate this effort to existing interscholastic organizations like Thespian, Robotics, CTE, GMEA, and others, to tailor our experience to best suit the individual needs of our programs and district initiatives. Schools are encouraged to pursue funding and sponsorships as they see fit.