Sponsored by the New York State Art Teachers Association

OLYMPICS OF THE VISUAL ARTS

Originality, Brain Storming and Creative Problem Solving

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Saratoga Springs City Center
Saratoga Springs, New York
Showcase for OVA Programs

The Olympics of the Visual Arts is an extracurricular school program for students across New York State. Its founding group, the New York State Art Teachers Association, views the visual arts as a discipline equal to other disciplines that challenge and stimulate our youth, and believes that creativity and creative problem solving in the visual arts is vital to a full and enriched life in our technological and scientific society.

The Olympics of the Visual Arts presents a series of problems that require utilizing historical references, brainstorming, problem solving, and creative solutions. There are two forms of problem solving. One is a long term problem that will require research, planning, and creativity, and is completed prior to the State Competition. The other form of problem will be a short-term or spontaneous solution and is done on-site during the State Competition.

There are eight different long-term problem categories: architecture, photography, fashion design, sculpture, painting, drawing, illustration, and game design. Each problem in each category will have a specific performance standard to meet through the visual arts. All problems are connected by a general theme.

OVA Participation Requirements

There are three entry levels for participants: grades K-6, 6-8, and 9-12. Students will compete within their age level groups in each problem category. Problems may be solved by an individual or a group.

Each participating school district may enter only one solution for each problem, in each grade level group, at the State Competition. If more than one solution is achieved locally, individual school districts are encouraged to have their own mini-OVA program to select the most appropriate solution for State competition.

Students throughout New York State should showcase their solutions in their own school district during YOUTH ART MONTH in March.

School districts should engage their students in solving spontaneous problems related to their entry category. Each entry should be adjudicated, with a single category entry selected to participate in the OVA State Program.

Each teacher who enters student work must be a member of the New York State Art Teachers Association. All registration will take place online at http://www.nysata.org/olympics-of-the-visual-arts. Upon registration, school districts should forward a check or purchase order in the amount of $150.00 (made payable to NYSATA). Once registration and payment are received, the contact person for the school district will receive a participant's packet describing in detail the OVA Program and schedule at Saratoga Springs City Center on Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

State Level OVA Procedures

Solutions to long-term problems must be original and complete prior to state level competition. All entrants will be required to exhibit a portfolio with their long-term solutions, providing evidence of how they used historical references, examples of problem solving, working sketches, and reflections to arrive at their solutions.

A short-term, or spontaneous, problem will be assigned on-site in Saratoga on the day of the State adjudication of the long-term solutions on April 23, 2013. Each district team in a problem category (whether group or individual) competing in the OVA that day will be required to solve the short-term problem within a limited time frame and with limited materials. A short list of materials to bring will be sent to each registered district.

During the State Program the score for the long-term problem will be combined with the score for the spontaneous problem to determine the top three winners at each grade level in each category. A special award will be given to the most creative solution for each problem. In the category of Fashion Design the presentation of the long-term solution will be counted as the spontaneous solution.