
Check out the 2011 The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition Winners

Ernest Castillo

"I felt like I won the lottery." That's what 17-year-old Ernest Castillo says he thought when he found out he had won The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts National Poster Competition, earning a full-tuition scholarship to The Art Institute of Las Vegas. Castillo's passion for art started in first grade. He says it just came to him naturally.

The Las Vegas Academy graduate credits his art teachers for nurturing his talents and says he could not have created his winning design without the skills he learned in their classrooms. He says, in a way, those teachers are like his second moms.

The inspiration for his first place design comes from the conceptual aspects of art. Castillo says he likes to take inspiration from the unknown, like outer space and underwater.

Castillo says his family is very enthusiastic about his love of art. And his friends think it's cool. When he's not creating art, Castillo says he's just a regular teen. He likes to hang out with his friends and play video games. And those video games may wind up part of his career path. Castillo is considering creating games or making movies after he graduates from The Art Institute of Las Vegas. He is studying to obtain a bachelor of arts degree in Media Arts & Animation.

Adrianna Simmons

Although Adrianna Simmons recalls having a passion for art at a very young age, the 18-year-old West Allis Central High School (In West Allis, Wis.) grad knew she wanted to translate that passion into a career when she was in junior high.

The national second place winner in The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition says her French and art teachers expanded her interests beyond the world around her and encouraged her creativity.

Adrianna has put artistic abilities to use for good causes. She sold commissioned artwork on her website with proceeds going to tsunami relief efforts in Japan. She's also used her artwork to raise money for Invisible Children, a charitable organization that assists children in war-ravaged Uganda.

Adrianna says she was in "shock and disbelief" when she found out that she had earned a half-tuition scholarship to The Art Institute of Wisconsin. She plans to study Media Arts & Animation and hopes to use her bachelor of arts degree to work for a major animation studio when she graduates.

Paulina Zaborny

Paulina Zaborny started making picture books with her brother when she was just four years old. Her passion for art has always been supported by her family and friends. The national third place winner in The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition says she's also lucky to have had an art teacher who began

inspiring her in second and third grade, who went on to teach her art classes in both junior high and high school in Fairview Park, Ohio.

Paulina says she was shocked when she found out she had earned a quarter-tuition scholarship to The Art Institute of Pittsburgh. The 18-year-old Fairview High School graduate says her design's inspiration was the art we see around us every day but take for granted, like clothing and tattoos. She wanted her audience to remember that art is all around us; it's not just paintings that hang on walls.

Paulina plans to study **Graphic Design** at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh. While her career choice is not set in stone, Paulina says she's interested in heading up a creative department at a magazine, but knows she has time to decide how to put her degree to good use.

Comment [KC1]: Need to disclose the degree type as well.

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