
Check out the 2012 The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition Winners

Joshua Allred

Joshua Allred says he's always wondered how people create design and art to look so professional and has strived to attain those skills. He began to combine his love of art and graphics to create his designs when he started working with film and computer-generated graphics.

The 18-year-old grand prize winner of the 2012 Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition in the high school senior category says he feels honored and blessed to receive this award.

Allred says he's excited to begin his studies at The Art Institutes after graduating from Lakeland Senior High School in Rathdrum, Idaho. "I am hoping to gain the skills I need to propel me further in my passion for art whether it is design, film or painting, and I hope it presents me with a job that I will love to do for the rest of my life."

He says his friends and family are extremely supportive of the path he's chosen and are a big reason why he's so motivated. Allred plans to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Digital Filmmaking & Video Production from The Art Institute of Seattle.

Megan Avery

"I was extremely thankful, shocked and amazed because everyone in the competition had such wonderful ideas – it felt as if anyone of us could win," says Megan Avery of her Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts second place honor. Her submission went on to earn the 19-year-old a half-tuition scholarship as the 2nd place winner in the high school senior category of the national competition.

Avery's interests include photography, Adobe Photoshop, scrapbooking, visiting art museums, traveling and spending time with her dog, Daisy. She cites Daisy as a frequent subject of her artwork.

Inspired to pursue photography following a trip to London, England, Avery realized her passion for the art. She says her work is inspired by optimism and partially by her father, an amateur photographer in his own right.

Avery says her family and friends are very supportive of her art. Strangers have complimented the young photographer on her work and have encouraged her to pursue a career in the field. Avery plans to work toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in Photography at The Art Institute of Raleigh-Durham.

Andrea Knapp

"I've come to be able to see it, or at least its possibilities, every day," says Andrea Knapp of art. The 3rd place national winner in The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Competition in the high school senior category goes on to admit that her friends and family knew she'd be following an artistic career path before she did.

The 18-year-old's art has now earned her a quarter-tuition scholarship to pursue her passion at The Art Institutes. "I strove to represent 'You Can Create Tomorrow' in every aspect of my art. I wanted to show that everyone plays a

role in creating the future and in each of us is a philosopher, an inventor, just like those who shaped the world before us,” says Knapp of her second place winning design.

The Maplewood Career Center graduate credits her art and graphics instructors with stressing the importance of effectively communicating a message through one’s art. She is interested and inspired by street art, pop art, anime/cartoon, realistic portraiture, impressionism and abstract pieces. Knapp also enjoys reading, writing poetry and stories, playing video games, watching anime, playing soccer and dabbling in cooking/baking.

She plans to work toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Visual Effects & Motion Graphics at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

Tyrell McGruder

“My inspiration for my design came from my love of music, poetry and graphic design,” says Tyrell McGruder, the 2012 national grand prize winner in the high school graduate category of The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition. The 21-year-old Smyrna, Ga. resident earned a \$10,000 tuition scholarship to attend The Art Institutes.

McGruder says he’s interested in all types of art and design. You may have not heard of his favorite artist, his Uncle Richard. And McGruder’s family is very supportive of him as well. They are thrilled with his accomplishment and supportive of the Rapid City, Michigan native’s move to Georgia so that he could have a better life and pursue his passion.

When he is not pursuing art, McGruder enjoys working with children. He currently works at the Boys and Girls Club and hopes to one day use his art to help inspire and encourage kids to pursue their creative aspirations.

McGruder is still deciding between Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Graphic Design or Media Arts & Animation. He began his program of study this summer at The Art Institute of Atlanta-Decatur, a branch of The Art Institute of Atlanta.

The Art Institutes (www.artinstitutes.edu) is a system of more than 50 schools located throughout North America. The Art Institutes schools provide an important source for design, media arts, fashion and culinary professionals. Several institutions included in The Art Institutes system are campuses of South University or Argosy University. OH Registration # 04-01-1698B; AC0165, AC0080; Licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education, License No. 1287, 3427, 3110, 2581. Since The Art Institutes is comprised of several institutions, see aiprgrams.info for program duration, tuition, fees, and other costs, median debt, federal salary data, alumni success, and other important info.