

STUDENT



EXPRESSION

finesse
women's club art show
north suburban conference art show

Students display art for public

By Liz Whitehurst

The art hallway just doesn't feel the same as the rest of Antioch Community High School. When you enter the ceramics room, light streams in from the windows, the smell of paint surrounds you, and everything is covered in a layer of clay dust.

"It's just so free," said Kjersten Martens, an ACHS senior who draws, paints and sculpts. "Everyone is in there doing what they want to do," said Martens.

Julie Elver, ACHS art teacher, gestures excitedly as she describes the 13-foot concrete sculpture her ceramics students have been working on.

Elver was also excited about two recent shows where ACHS artists had the opportunity to showcase work. The North Suburban Conference Art Show displayed the top 50 pieces of art from every school in the conference, including ACHS. Eight students attended the show at Lake Forest High School on April 23 and created a display of the ACHS work.

Then, teachers from other schools choose the top ten pieces from each school for awards. According to art teacher Cindy Howell, the students had the opportunity to attend workshops and hear from keynote speaker Doug Smithhenry, a painter.

From the workshops, students can learn

about areas of art that aren't available at ACHS, including effigy pots and kite-making. Students who attended the conference enjoyed the experience.

"I was able to learn not only about the history of batik, but the techniques firsthand," said ACHS junior Brynn Schwaba, who attended the show.

Soon after the NSC show, on April 25 and 26, ACHS had its own show, sponsored by the Antioch Woman's Club.

"It's a chance for kids to show their work," said Howell. It is one of the few opportunities students have to share their art.

Judges who were selected by the Woman's Club named Brad Hoogerhyde's piece "Not Yet Together" best in show. The viewers choice award went to Katie Houghton's piece "Hummingbird."

Other standouts, Howell said, included Schwaba, Lauren Coffing and Vicki Sanderson. Elver said Ed Forman's ceramics were notable. "He has done phenomenal work," she said.

The art hallway feels different, and it makes students feel different. Schwaba said the program has affected her high school experience a lot. "Not only do you get to meet a lot of the ACHS students who walk a little off the beaten path, but it's a learning environment based largely on your creativity," said Schwaba.

Finesse goes color, downsizes

By Jessica Halston

A void was left in the creative community at Antioch Community High School for more than a decade. A failed literary magazine from the 1960's had long since dissipated, and there was no showcase for student writing affiliated with the school. That was until ACHS English teacher John Whitehurst began his teaching position at the school.

"About five years after I started teaching, I started a small magazine with a few students that we ran off on a Xerox machine," said Whitehurst.

Now in its 21st year, the literary magazine, called Finesse, has grown in popularity and size. Due to recent contributions from area businesses and organizations such as Abbott Laboratories, Sequoit Pride, District 117 Board of Education, Antioch Rotary, and the Antioch Women's Club, this year's Finesse staff was able to put out a full color publication at a reduced size.

"We wanted to try something new, and the smaller size makes it feel more intimate," said Finesse art editor Laura Bookwalter.

Other changes to this year's magazine include the loss of a central theme. "We didn't really choose a theme because of the diversity of all the writing. We didn't want to limit the pieces we selected," said editor in chief Sharon Gray. "The staff wanted to let the writing speak for itself."

The Finesse staff received approximately 600 submissions, but only 8-10% are actually featured in the magazine. According to Whitehurst, this year's publication will contain more prose and one long piece.

"I mostly chose things that were more unique, if the subjects were less commonplace. We don't choose a lot of pieces about relationships, so the writing would have to be stronger if it were going to touch on that subject," said Gray.

Finesse will be available on May 20 for \$5, or \$8 with a compact disc of student music.



Photo courtesy of Finesse

ACHS senior Brad Hoogerhyde's mixed media work "Not Yet Together" won Best in Show at the Women's Club Art Show and is featured in Finesse.

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