

MYARTSPACE.com

MYARTSPACE.com announces winners of the MYARTSPACE 2009 Art Scholarship Competition

Myartspace.com, the premier online venue for contemporary art, has announced the winners of its 2009 Art Scholarship Competition for both the Graduate and Undergraduate categories.

Palo Alto, CA – February 15, 2010 -- MYARTSPACE.com, the premier online venue for contemporary art, has announced the winners of the 2009 MYARTSPACE Art Scholarship Competition.

Catherine McCormack-Skiba, the founder of MYARTSPACE.com and CEO noted "We had entries to the scholarship program from students at over 3000 colleges and universities around the world. The submissions were top-notch and the jury struggled to pick the top winners given both the scale and quality of work to draw from. We've now got two incredibly successful years invested in the scholarship program behind us, and we will be launching our 2010 scholarship program later this spring and hope to see more incredible participation and interest. MYARTSPACE.com remains focused on improving the lives and careers of its community members, with advancing education as one of its primary planks."

Three Top Graduate Winners and Finalists

The three top graduate winners were in 1st place: Damon Mohl from the University of Colorado at Boulder, CO. 2nd place: Sophia Ruiz from the Universidad De Costa Rica and 3rd place: Natan Dvir from the School of Visual Arts, NYC. The winners work can be viewed at <http://www.myartspace.com/scholarship/winners>.

Damon Mohl has been studying and making art for over fifteen years. He received a BFA from The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia in 2000 and since that time has devoted his time to painting, theatrical sculpture, writing short fiction and digital video projects. Damon is currently attending Graduate School at the University of Colorado in Boulder to complete his MFA. Mohl, reflecting on his work notes "My work stems from my desire to tell stories and to explore concepts within those stories using narrative based images. The theatrical and the cinematic, as well as realistic elements continually resurface in my work and I

use them in combination to achieve a quality that is believable but at the same time palpably dreamlike.”

Sophia Ruiz currently lives in Heredia, Costa Rica. At the age of 16 she began her art studies with the master Hugo Sanchez , for a period of two years. In 2000 she entered the University of Costa Rica's School of Fine Arts, completing her BFA in Painting and Printmaking. Sophia has shown her work quite extensively, participating in over 30 group and 10 solo shows. During the last 3 month of 2008 she was the artist in residence at the Experimental Printmaking Institute at Easton Pennsylvania. Sophia is now back at the Universidad De Costa Rica working towards her MFA.

Natan Dvir is an emerging Israeli artist who examines contemporary human, social, political and cultural issues. Natan is currently living in New York City and working on completing his Master in Fine Arts degree at the School of Visual Arts. Dvir’s work has been shown extensively in New York, the UK, Israel and Germany. Dvir’s work has received recognition winning a number of prizes including the ‘American Photography Award’ (US, 2009), ‘New York Photography Festival Award’ (US, 2009), ‘Houston Center of Photography Fellowship’ (US, 2009), ‘Black and White Spider Award’ (US, 2008), ‘Santa Fe Singular Image Award’ (US, 2008), ‘Jewish Artist of the Year’ (UK, 2007), ‘Photo District News Annual Award’ (2006) and the ‘Picture of the Year Award’ in the Israeli press (2005 & 2007). His work have been published by many leading magazines including Newsweek, Glamor, The British Journal of Photography, fotoMAGAZIN, Journal de Dimanche, Stern, Focus, Die Zeit, Build, Weltwoche, Corriera Della Sera and others. Natan has a bit of an unusual education for an artist – he holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science and Economics from Tel Aviv University.

The finalists for the graduate competition were:

Alexandra Bodea	JF Lynch	Carmen Abbott	Douglas Bosley
Amanda Barnett	George M Turner Jr	Jelena Opacic	Yulia Lanina
Loren Siems	Yael Zaken	Anna Ogier Bloomer	Cobi Moules
Ekaterina Bazhenova	Evvy Johova	Hana Knizova	J Robert Reed
Melanie Fidler			

Top Three Undergraduate Winners and Finalists

Undergraduate Winners

The three top undergraduate winners were in 1st Place: Aaron Dunn from the Maryland Institute College of Art, MD. 2nd Place: Chris Willcox, Washington University in St Louis, MO and in 3rd Place: Priscilla Aleman from the Cooper Union School in New York.

Aaron Dunn, the top winner in the undergraduate competition is a native of Livonia, Michigan. He is currently earning a Bachelor's Degree at the Maryland Institute College of Art, where he is a Painting major double- in Printmaking and Art History. Dunn notes about his approach to art "I don't see many clear-cut boundaries these days. Scientific knowledge tells us that we are tied to the world down to the atoms, and we might share an electron with any mote of oxygen passing by. I see a similar mixing of cultures and flavors in the arts, when a previously foreign idea can enter Youtube, Facebook, Google Image, or a cell phone, and in an instant become absorbed into the collective brain-stream. This hybridization is a new force to harness-- I can read a poem by John Ashbery, then watch my favorite band's new music video, then look up pictures of Russian folk art, then bring it all to my work."

Chris Willcox is studying art at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. Chris is a native of the Washington, DC area and is in his senior year. Chris's work tends to have a bias towards medicine. Willcox reflects on this pattern "My interest in the medical stems primarily from an obsession with the basic existential issues of life and death. The invention of modern medicine has had a profound impact on the way we look at these things. Pervading our culture is an unspoken belief that medicine has cured death: while we all accept the inevitability of death in others, we continue to secretly believe that we will continue living forever. The daily procession of medicine and multi-vites further supplements this internal notion that we will never age and never die."

Priscilla Aleman was born and raised in Miami Florida, and attended the magnet art school Design and Architecture Senior High. Her personal interest in art began early, at age two. Priscilla has since graduating high school; continued her studies in the fine arts in New York at The Cooper Union. She has received a Scholastic Gold key and American Vision nomination for her sculpture "Ironing Out my Wrinkles"

Undergraduate Finalists

The finalists for the undergraduate competition were:

Michael Batty	Daniel Schmid	Long Tran	Greg Pasternack
Francisco Moreno	Adam Winnie	Rebecca Rome	Agata Masternak
Katie Koti	Morel Doucet	Ahmed Aldoori	Nicholas Mancini
Iringo Demeter	Lazarina Nedelcheva	Will Pesta	Engin Dogan
Amy Boewer			

The MYARTSPACE Art Scholarship program began in July 2008 and in now in its third year of existence. Over 2000 art schools have fielded representatives to compete in the scholarship program. \$16,000 of cash scholarships are awarded to the top 3 winners in the undergraduate category and the graduate category each year. Entry to the competition is free as is membership to MYARTSPACE.com.

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About MYARTSPACE.com:

MYARTSPACE.com, the premier online venue for contemporary art, is one of the fastest growing and diverse communities on the internet. Its members include more than 100,000 artists, collectors, galleries and other art world professionals from across the globe, and it currently has on display almost one million pieces of fine art. Membership is free and artist can upload their artistic work including images, music and video. Myartspace is created and run by CatMacArt Corporation, located in Palo Alto, California. www.catmacart.com. CatMacArt Corporation has also created MYARTSPACE.tv (www.myartspace.tv), a 24-hour streaming contemporary art channel and The New York Art Exchange (nyaxe.com), an eCommerce site for artists and buyers to sell and buy fine art.

Website: <http://www.myartspace.com>

scholarship: <http://www.myartspace.com//scholarship/winners>

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info: info@catmacart.com