

Visual Art Contest 2019

THE JUDGES

Dan Havel has been a practicing artist and art educator for over 30 years. Born in St. Peter, Minnesota in 1959, he grew up in the suburbs of Minneapolis. After receiving his MFA in 1981 from Minnesota State University, Havel was awarded two years in the international artist residency program at PS1 in Long Island, Queens, NY. After the residency, Havel moved back to Minneapolis and took part in the growing downtown art scene in the 1980's.

Havel moved to Texas in 1990, living for 6 months in Fort Worth and exhibiting in Dallas before moving to Houston in 1991. He was an active member of Houston's 90's era underground art scene and is best known for his large-scale installations in alternative public settings.

Havel continues to create both private and public art, both individually and with sculptor Dean Ruck as part of Havel Ruck Projects. Havel and Ruck actively seek abandoned or unused sites prior to their demolition or renovation to stage artistic actions. Both Dan Havel's work and the work of Havel Ruck Projects have received numerous awards. Their work has been reviewed and published in many books, magazines, newspapers, and online blogs, exhibited in both national and international exhibitions, and are part of numerous collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Havel Ruck Projects have recently been chosen as the 2014 Texas Artist of the Year.

For the last 25 years Havel has been an art educator. 23 of those years have been spent teaching art to high school students at St. John's School in Houston.

Lea Weingarten began the Weingarten Art Group in 2006, after more than fifteen years of working with both public and private art collections in achieving their collecting goals. The Weingarten Art Group's clients have included Fortune 10 corporations, national and international private collections, and commercial enterprises seeking artwork and/or artist collaborations. Recent public art programs led by Ms. Weingarten have included the 2018 installation of Carlos Cruz-Diez's Spatial Chromointerference at the Buffalo Bayou Cistern, the Discovery Green Art Program, Hermann Park's Centennial Art in the Park, and Main Street Square Art Blocks. The Weingarten Art Group managed and installed "Hello, Trees" for the Winter 2017 season at Discovery Green, and is currently serving as a consultant for the University of Houston Public Art Program. Weingarten Art Group has received numerous national awards for bringing internationally acclaimed, highly accessible and extraordinarily popular artworks to the City of Houston's most visited public spaces.

Ms. Weingarten co-founded The Menil Collection's popular Contemporaries collecting group at the personal request of Mme. Dominique de Menil, serves on the Discovery Green Houston Public Art Executive Committee, on the Glassell School Core Committee, on the Menil Society Committee, on the Prints and Drawings Committee of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and on the Civic Arts Committee of Houston Arts Alliance. She is a founding board member of Holocaust Museum Houston and of its Art Circle, chairs the Jewish Community Center's Visual Arts Committee and plays key leadership roles with Houston's own Texas Contemporary Art Fair. Ms. Weingarten has also served several terms on the boards of the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, the Jewish Community Center, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Houston, and Meals on Wheels, Houston. She travels extensively both nationally and internationally to art fairs, galleries and artist studios to meet the needs of her clients.

Lea holds a BA from Tufts University and an MBA from The Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.



● Group A ●

Grades 9-12

First Place:

"Remembrance"

Kaylee Yu

9th grade

Kaylee's portrait of a bagpiper is both refreshingly original and very professionally realized. The skillful paint application creates a uniquely realistic portrait - from the concentration of the musician to the textural qualities of the hat, beard and bagpipe itself. The verdant background provides a wonderfully abstract contrast to the figure and lends credibility to the dappled light falling on the subject. Very impressive work! (L.W.)

Second Place:
"Beijing Opera Lady"
Jessica Wang
 11th grade

This exquisite painting draws the viewer in to the intricate details and overwhelming beauty of the subject. A great deal of effort has gone into conveying each and every jewel-like element of the headdress, while not overwhelming the striking beauty of the face. One can almost hear the music playing as this performer poses mid-dance. Lovely and resolved painting skill! (L.W.)



● **Group A** ●
 Grades 9-12



Third Place:
"Blue Melody/ Ballet Dancer"
Elina Chen
 11th grade

Elina's aerial composition of a ballerina in position evokes not only a dancer in motion, but also implies abstractly the iris of a beautiful blue eye or the petals of a flower. The skill to realistically communicate shoulder position, strength and elegance is not to be underestimated. Well done! (L.W.)



Honorable Mention :
"Forest to a Beat"
Jerin Savio John
 9th grade

This lovely painting of a happy, reclining panda playing a violin is vivid in detail. Jerin has created a magical setting in which the music occurs by moonlight, under the bow of a tree that is laden either with vibrant yellow flowers or possibly a beehive! I like how the notes fly into the twilight sky. (L.W.)

● **Group B** ●
 Grades 6-8

First Place:
"In the Moment"
Nicole Xu
 8th grade



Nicole's daringly stark portrait of a violinist under the spotlight requires both strong painting skill and disciplined restraint, a quality that is rare in an artist of this age. The technique required to communicate the bow - three, singular white strokes - is impressive. Even more so, the light play on the performer from the profile to the instrument is extremely well done. Superb work. (L.W.)

Second Place (tie):
"The Song of the Pipa"
Runyan Zhou
 8th grade

Runyan's colored-pencil drawing of a girl playing the Pipa is wonderful in its exquisite detail and balance. The hands, often the most difficult anatomy to draw, are delicately and realistically created. The folds of the dress and the muted palette choices create a delicate harmony that compliments the nature of the instrument. Very sophisticated and balanced drawing. (L.W.)



Third Place (tie):
"Dance"
Sophia Zhang
 6th grade

What first struck me about this colorful drawing was the concept of the guitar face as dance floor. How fresh and unique! Sophia's use of a vivid palette to anchor the composition shows a strong sense of understanding of how to structure the artwork. The details of the dancers in the foreground are impressive and important. This feature lends a necessary and lively motion to the piece. Well done for this young artist! (L.W.)



● **Group B** ●
 Grades 6-8



Second Place (tie):
"Floating Music"
Joana Liu
 7th grade

This complex work on paper guides the viewer's eye well with its strong perspective and use of light. The surrealist-inspired musical orbs bring a whimsy and mysticism to the work that is refreshing. Color is very successfully applied to create reflections within the image and an arrestingly attractive palette overall. Excellent creation. (L.W.)



Third Place (tie):
"Continuous Music"
Ella Wang
 8th grade

This detailed and wonderful drawing features a montage of instruments - saxophone, piano keyboard and horn all woven into a lively composition. Sheet music weaves its way through the instruments as birds observe the music being played. Indeed, a lot of planning and skill went into this artwork. Well done! (L.W.)



Honorable Mention :
"A Breeze of Music"
Stephanie Han
 8th grade

The palette of colors Stephanie employs to create the composition are vivid and brave. She understands that a face may be many different colors and still read as a face. The brushwork in the figure is vibrant and active, conveying a sense of the notes being played in the composition. (L.W.)



Honorable Mention :
"Road Trip Down"
William Sun
 6th grade

William's depiction of driving a Lamborghini with a deer as passenger and with the music blaring made me smile! He has accomplished a very clever perspective of the drawing from inside the car, and impressive detail depicting a songful canary reflected in the rear-view mirror. I wish I knew what song was playing! (L.W.)

Honorable Mention :
"Flowing Music Notes"
Ruifan Nang
 7th grade

Ruifan's sophisticated composition reminds me of a George Braque cubist work. There is a very strong understanding of color and of objects placed in space. Each element in the drawing plays an important role, but my favorite may be the metronome in the foreground. Impressive. (L.W.)



VAC 2019

● **Group C** ●
 Grades 3-5

First Place (tie):
"The Light of Music"
Katherine Han
 5th grade

Katherine's lovely painting of a violin still life was striking in its sophisticated cubist composition, use of color, and the ambition of a large canvas. Along with a strong composition that reflects the musical theme, her painting technique reflected a strong craftsmanship. (D.H.)



HYAC VAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Director: Jennifer Liao
- MC: Philip Liou, Isabel Lan
- Program Manager: Peggy Chiu
- Photographer: Deborah Lin
- Event coordinator: Paul Liou
- Event Assistants: Chien Ling Lee, Joanna Lee, Lily Chen, Magret Lan



VAC 2019

First Place (tie):
"Hamster Harmony"

Kately Mai

5th grade

Kately's exquisite mixed media drawing illustrating a hamster peeking from within a guitar is incredibly crafted both in composition and technique. I giggled out loud while admiring her attention to detail in the broken and stretched strings. This drawing is a tremendous achievement for such a young artist. (D.H.)

● **Group C** ●

Grades 3-5

Second Place (tie):
"Tale of the Lilies"

Vanessa Qi

5th grade

This wonderful colored pencil drawing of a young girl playing a violin while sitting on a lily blossom captured my attention for its lyrical qualities. I wanted to know the story behind this musical girl. Is it a self-portrait? Was she a fairy of the garden? Then, I am drawn into the work by Vanessa's amazing attention to details. I will imagine the song she is playing the next time I am in my garden. (D.H.)



Second Place (tie):
"Self Portrait - Playing Piano"

Tian Wei Yao

5th grade

The level of detail and overall sweetness of the scene drew me to Tian's lovely self-portrait of a poised young pianist. Her lovely dress compliments the bold shape of the piano, creating a wonderful balance. It is easy to imagine the beautiful music emanating from the piece. (D.H.)



● **Group C** ●
Grades 3-5



Third Place (tie):
"Autumn Whispers"
Yin Yun Ji
4th grade

The first thing that captures my attention when I look at Yin's wonderful oil pastel drawing is the soulful eyes of the Labrador puppy. Then, as I explore his surroundings, the beauty and music of a beautiful fall day reveals itself. The level of color blending and detail, a difficult skill with pastels, is very sophisticated for such a young artist. (D.H.)

Third Place (tie):
"Ice Wonderland"
Anna Yi
5th grade

This lovely painting of ice skates is ambitious in its large scale and bold use of color. Anna was very creative in how she used the laces to create a rhythmic linear flow through the composition. I can imagine holiday songs playing as I look at this wonderful work. (D.H.)



Honorable Mention :
"Orchestra"
Jake Chung
4th grade

This playful drawing gives the viewer a birds-eye view of an orchestra performing in a concert hall. I particularly enjoy how Jake treats each musician individually, giving each unique instruments and details. I also enjoy how he illustrated the architecture of the hall itself, with geometric forms used for acoustic purposes. (D.H.)



Honorable Mention :
"Elegant Lady"
Jenny Wu
3rd grade

I was struck by the vivid detail given to this wonderful drawing of a musician playing a stringed instrument. Jenny depicted the embroidery work on her traditional costume with exquisite care and showed great drawing skills in the realistic facial features. The work is an amazing drawing for such a young artist. (D.H.)

Honorable Mention :
"Kitty Me"
Lilly Di
3rd grade



Where else would a Siamese cat with a microphone sing but on a pillow outdoors! This fun are quite advanced, having convincingly depicting the realistic texture of the cat's fur and coloring. She used the background well to frame the musical cat with plants and flowers. A very fun drawing, indeed!. (D.H.)



Honorable Mention :
"New Year Joy"
Lily Tian
5th grade

This colorful drawing depicts the dramatic dragon puppet dance during a Chinese New Years celebration. With vivid color and playful depictions of the instruments, Lily captured the sound and rhythm of the dancer's movement and the excitement of the occasion. (D.H.)



● **Group D** ●
Grades 2 and under

First Place:
"Under the Music Rain"

April Cao
1st grade

April's exuberant drawing is wonderfully lyrical. Each character is detailed and richly drawn. Particularly clever is the primary pink creature's using a leaf as an umbrella as the musical notes "rain" down. A cricket plays on, delighted with the effect of notes as accompaniment, and is particularly powerful though small. Talented work for a 1st grader! (D.H.)

Second Place:
"The Piano Panorama"

William Tang
2nd grade

This orbital image illustrating a pianist at the center of his universe is vibrant and well realized given its complexity. Impressive skill to realistically draw the progressive landscape of tall buildings, sky and trees! One feels that the musician is creating a composition in which he is completely lost in the moment. A lot of time, talent and effort went into creating this work. Well done! (D.H.)



Third Place:
"Ballet Shoes"

Zoe Ziyang Chen
2nd grade

Zoe's beautiful canvas isolates the viewer on a ballerina's feet "en pointe." The background is skillfully painted to transition from a deep maroon to a rose pink. The position of the feet is very realistic and elegant, as butterflies dance around the composition- an impressive achievement for a 3rd grader. (D.H.)



VAC 2019



Honorable Mention :
**"Mozart's Magical Band
 in the Woods"**

Hiroaki Suzuki
 2nd grade

I was very impressed with the complexity of this drawing and the story being illustrated. Mozart (in his period wig) is conducting eight Elf-sized musicians - a work requiring a lot of concentration and effort. My favorite is the one that is the cellist hiding behind the toadstool! (D.H.)



Honorable Mention :
"The Dancer"
Abigail Douglas
 2nd grade

Abigail's silhouetted ballerina appears in a soft-palette geometrically abstract back-drop. The concept is very creative and I found myself wondering if we were looking at a dancer at the beginning or end of a performance, as the curtain rose or fell. (D.H.)

● **Group D** ●
 Grades 2 and under

Honorable Mention :
"The Ice-Skating Music Bird"
Yu-Tian Ma
 2nd grade

Yu-Tian's rainbow-hued bird is inventively and happily skating across the pond in this drawing as three smaller birds cheer her on - one of whom is cheering and clapping! I love the details of the bird's very long eyelashes and very fancy pink ice skates. Altogether a drawing that makes one smile. (D.H.)



HYAC FUTURE EVENTS

Outreach Concerts
 March 2019 (TBA)

Outreach Concerts at Miller Outdoor Theatre
 Monday, June 24, 2019 at 11:00AM
 Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 11:00AM

Outreach Concerts
 June and July 2019 (TBA)

Outreach Concerts
 December 2019 (TBA)

**Concert at Stude Concert Hall,
 Rice University**
 Saturday, January 18, 2020

Auditions for Season 2021-2022
 December 2020 (TBA)

For more information, please visit
www.HYAC.org.



<https://www.facebook.com/HoustonYoungArtistsConcert>