

The Stippled Catfish

Articles:

Rising Star Award:
Ashley Thurman



Important Dates

Fall MAEA Conference
November 12-14, 2020
MS Museum of Art &
Madison Middle School

NAEA Conference
(Chicago)~
March 4-6, 2021

Get Involved In MAEA News

Members are invited to
submit articles through
the editor,
Catie Stoltzfus

[cstoltzfus@madison-
schools.com](mailto:cstoltzfus@madison-schools.com)

Next News deadline:
Sept 1st

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www.msarted.org

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TEACHER: ELISE PAYNE &

RENNA MOORE

SCHOOL: POWER APAC

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Stellar Embroidery
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HONORS CHOOSE

President's Note...

Greetings MAEA Members!

I hope that all of you are staying safe and protected. The spring of 2020 will always amaze me. Not only did we lose many lives to a deadly disease, but we faced a pandemic that disrupted our lives and changed the way that we function as a society. We fight an invisible killer – the *coronavirus*. After a rocky spring, the battle lines are now drawn, and we have identified essential precautions to take for the sake of our health and safety. This quest for action has challenged us at home and work. As we begin the fall, we will renew our efforts to extinguish this deadly disease. I pray for clear vision and focus. We must adhere to the guidelines for *social distancing* and act responsibly. Only then will we get relief from this historic pandemic.



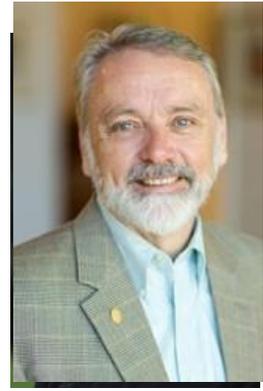
Randy Miley
President, MAEA

Due to COVID-19 the decision was made in March to go home and teach remotely. This had significant implications. First it meant that teachers and students establish a way to communicate online. It also meant that we all had to adapt to a new way of teaching and learning. Both of these presented a challenge. Related to education, art has always been the “visual field” and it prided itself as hands on learning in a social studio environment. Social interaction in the classroom has always been the norm. Now we are placing this rich visual learning and all its methodologies online. My first response was doubt. However, I failed to remember that we are artists and educators. We spend our lives thinking, working, and teaching creatively. Since March I have watched many art educators stand up to the challenge and offer students a new, challenging, and creative way of learning.

Personally, I accepted the challenge to go online in my teaching. At MC I completed two drawing courses and a watercolor course online. In addition, I worked with several other students independently. They were all doing studio work. We ended the semester on a very high note. In the process I learned so much about myself as an artist and teacher. I had to present my information in a completely new way. I had to adjust the way that I communicated with my students. Also, “critique” took on a whole new meaning and quickly became the center of instruction. I am thankful for this experience. As I move back to the traditional classroom this fall, I will remember the valuable lessons that I learned from the spring. Art remains a visual field and we can continue a social interactive environment whether online or face to face.

President's Note continued...

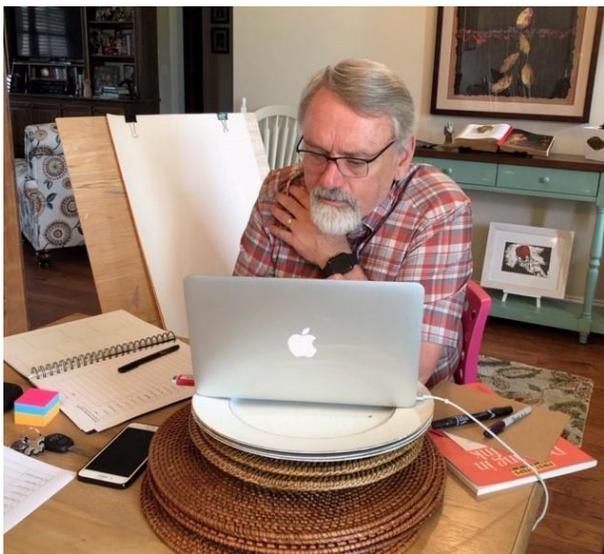
And now moving forward... MAEA has a very aggressive plan for the fall and spring. We begin with a Fall Conference on November 12-14. Our theme is *Schoolyards and Beyond: Bringing Hope*. Our feature artist/speaker is well known printmaking artist H C Porter. We will continue with our popular workshops presented by our talented members as well. Look to the website for the workshop proposal form. We will also continue with our 3 spring programs: *Day at the Capitol*, *Spring Conference*, and *NAHS Allstar Art Challenge*. All of these programs are very successful and are in need of volunteers to help. Look to the website or newsletter for more information.



Randy Miley
President, MAEA

Finally, I would like to commend the MAEA Board of Directors for their innovation and leadership. We are so fortunate to have 24 people who really care for art education and the state organization. They work long hours to make this organization run. I thank each one of them for their faithful service. And now it's time to prepare for fall. *Don't forget to stay 6 feet apart and add masks, hand sanitizer, and disposable gloves to your yearly art supply list.*

Dr. Randy Miley
MAEA President



Distance Learning 2020:

Look at what some of our AMAZING teachers did across the state!



Brandi Hoxie
Southern Region Representative

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Hello all, I hope everyone survived teaching art remotely in 2020! I'm sure you all agree that we, as art educators had to come up with clever and creative ways to teach our students art while they were quarantined during this pandemic. I know it has not been easy, but now more than ever is the time to prove why art education is so important to children. During the quarantine, I saw children creating all kinds of art!! I saw chalk art, exploring nature, and taking time to slow down and enjoy the simple things in life. I think this time at home sparked an appreciation of ALL the arts as a whole. Who knows what teaching in the fall holds for us, but I am confident we will all be successful!

People expect to be bored by eLearning- let's show them it doesn't have to be like that!

Cammy Bean

Tara Meleones teaches art at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School in Long Beach, MS. Tara taught a clever "Nature Art" lesson remotely that got her students creating art outside! Students 1st-6th grade watched a video and read the lesson instructions, and gathered materials such as: leaves, rocks, sticks, flowers, petals, stones, pinecones, etc. Students sorted and arranged the materials they gathered into a "Nature Sculpture" and then took photos to email back to school. These are fantastic!



Distance Learning...

Students at Popp's Ferry Elementary in Biloxi, MS enjoyed a remote art lesson about artist, Joan Miro. Students created Miro inspired Cats using any materials they had at home. Students could print the art packet lesson at home, or pick up the art packets from school. After reading about Miro and seeing examples of his style, students followed directions to draw, color, or paint their Miro Cat. The Miro Cats were so colorful!

A collection of student art created during the quarantine is on display in our school hallway. I turned to several online resources for inspiration and support groups for art educators. I joined the private Facebook Group: Elementary Art Teachers (K-5th grade) and art educators from all over America share helpful information



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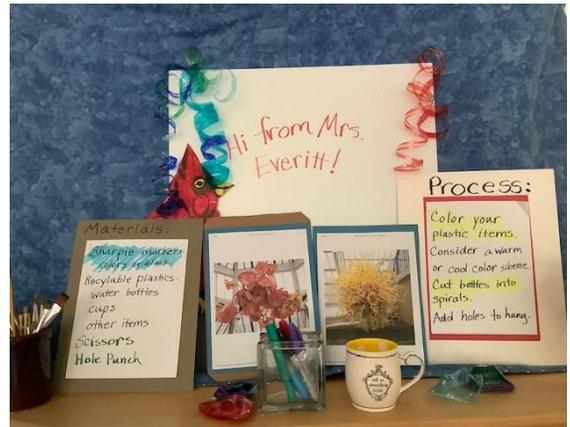


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Distance Learning...



When Gene Everitt at St. Richard School in Jackson, MS, transitioned to distance learning, the Dale Chihuly lesson came to mind. She shared the work of Chihuly in a YouTube lesson. Creating Chihuly style “glass” from recyclables was a way to use simple materials at home. Older students could do the entire project; younger students would need help, especially in cutting the water bottles. She envisions continuing this as a whole student body project, creating a large group “sculpture” for their school in an area with lots of light. Making the YouTube lesson was challenging but surprisingly enjoyable!



I participate in the Celebrating Art publication contest each year. While we’ve been out I still submitted my students work to the competition. Of the 19 students I submitted artwork for, I had 8 selected for publication. I also submitted my after school elementary art students work and had 7 of them selected for publication. It’s a really cool competition and if a teacher has 5 students published you receive a free book.

Here is a link to their [website](#).



Renna Moore
Secondary Division Director*

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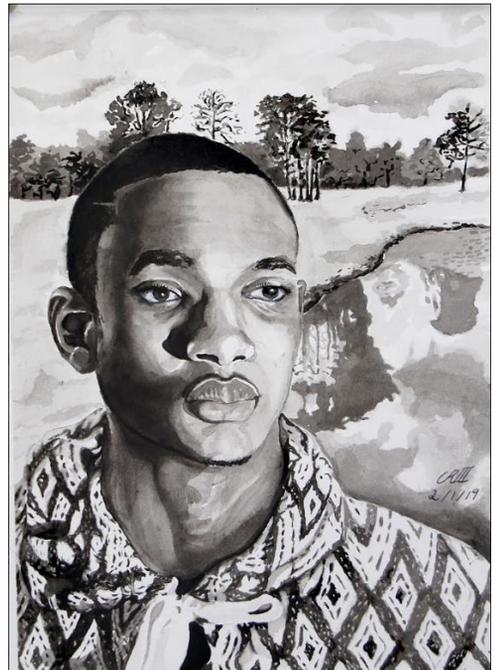
Distance Learning...

Renna Moore and Elise Payne had a student receive over \$20,000 in scholarships this Spring. Charles Rounds was a 2020 graduate of Power APAC in Jackson, MS. He will be attending Mississippi State University majoring in Art and Architecture in the Fall. He received the following awards:

- Gold National Scholastic Portfolio: \$10,000 Scholarship
- Maurice Robbie Robinson Vision Award: \$5,000 Scholarship
- Grand Prize in the ArtEffect Project by the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes: \$6,000 Scholarship
- National Scholastics: 1 Gold Medal, 2 Silver Medals
- Regional Scholastics: 1 Gold Key Portfolio, 1 Silver Key Portfolio, 8 Gold Keys, 2 Silver Keys, 4 Honorable Mentions
- Best in Show for the 2019 Chimneyville Artist and Artisans of the Future Show
- 1st Place for Drawing in the 2020 Micheal Guest Congressional Art Competition
- Chosen for the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) Juried Art Show



Distance Learning...



2020 Rising Star Award: Ashley Thurman

Ashley Thurman is a graduating Senior from Power APAC and Forest Hill High School in Jackson, MS. She was nominated for this award by Renna Moore and the below article was published in the NAHS News Spring 2020 Volume 50, No 1 edition.



Q & A with Ashley Thurman

Why is visual art so important to you?

Visual Arts has always given me a way to speak without having to say a word. There is no better way to show my self-expression. I also found that immersing myself into the world of visual arts came with a sense of community. When you are surrounded by people doing the

same thing that you love, you begin to create a place where you can share ideas, brainstorm together, and feel accepted. Basically for me, Art is home.

How have you used your talent to impact your community?

For two years, I was a member of the Teacher Academy program through my school district, Jackson Public Schools. During this time, I mentored elementary and middle school students by tutoring to improve test scores. One very helpful part of the program was how we had to write our own lesson plans and then teach them to different groups of students. I, of course, chose to incorporate art in my lessons and even had the chance to teach a painting lesson in the art classroom at my own high school. By creating my own art lessons, I felt like I was able introduce the visual arts to students that do not have art available to them at their school. By teaching them art and giving them a chance to express themselves, I

2020 Rising Star Award: Ashley Thurman

hope that gives them a voice when they feel like they might not have one themselves.

I also am getting the opportunity to be a part of creating a mural in Jackson for the art's center at Thalia Mara hall. We have been designing this in Ms. Elise Payne, my digital teacher's class and will be working with a local private school to paint this in March.

What are your plans after high school? How does art play a part in those future plans?

After I graduate high school, I plan on going to college to get a degree in art education, so I can further share my love of art to new generations.

What do you use for inspiration?

I take inspiration in many ways but mainly it's simply from my life around me. I want to be able to capture the beauty I see in everyday life and project that into the world. Seeing people do what

they are passionate about is also extremely inspiring to me. I currently attend Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex, which is my district's art school and am surrounded by so much amazing talent. Since my time in the Power APAC Visual Arts department began, I have never felt more connected to the arts.

What has been your biggest influence in life and why?

My biggest influence in life has honestly been my art teacher, Ms. Renna Moore. Before I started taking her classes, I didn't know who I was or what I wanted to do, and she was the one who took me under her wing and guided me through everything.



2020 Rising Star Award: Ashley Thurman

Renna Moore said this about Ashley. “Ashley is a wonderful scholar with a focused drive, creative outlook, and a very strong work ethic. While Ashley uses her positions in clubs to show strong leadership and the ability to teach others, I have always felt the strongest way that Ashley shows her leadership abilities is through her ability to explain art concepts to others. She is always willing to help her classmates and she is able to explain things in a way that others comprehend. As her teacher, I have watched the hours and effort that Ashley has put into completing work and excelling at techniques she is learning. She is naturally good at Art, but because she is willing to work at it she has shown great growth in her work.”



Artist Statement:

My fascination for art has always held a strong part in my life. It started as admiration towards art and the artist behind it then it evolved into something much more. Mindless doodles in my notebook turned into cohesive pieces that told more about myself than I ever could with words. I spent my free time watching videos and learning different techniques and processes behind different art forms. The more time I spent observing the world around me, the more I realized that art was more than on paper. It was everywhere.

Through the time I spent trying to communicate what message I wanted to convey, I learned new ways to look at things. Art isn't just a pretty picture on a page. It teaches you many valuable skills that can translate into other parts of life. Even if you aren't planning to go into the art field yourself everyone can benefit from taking art classes.

2020 Rising Star Award: Ashley Thurman

My interest for going into art education peaked my sophomore year when I was placed into the Teacher Academy class my school offered. Throughout the course of the two years that I was in this program my love for both education and art grew tremendously. With first-hand knowledge on how a great teacher can affect life, I decided to pursue a career in art education.

My hope is that I can have an impact on the lives of students for the better. Art is an applicable skill that they can transfer the knowledge to anything they decide to pursue in life. The reward of seeing students go on to be successful in their own right is invaluable to me.



Elise Payne, Power APAC Visual Arts program, observed:

“ As a student, Ashley is part of the Visual Arts program at Power APAC, and she is also active in National Art Honor Society at both her previous school and Power APAC. She is a meticulous and dedicated artist who spends many hours on her work both in and out of class. Ashley often takes work home to complete outside of class and regularly attends the after-hours studio sessions at school. She consistently approaches all challenges with a positive attitude and is always willing to push forward until she succeeds. As a result, her artwork has been chosen for many awards and accolades.”



2020 Fall Conference

Theme: Schoolyards & Beyond: Bringing Hope

Keynote Speaker



H.C. Porter

<https://www.hcporter.com>

Dates:

November 12-14, 2020

Locations:

- Thursday: MS Museum of Art & Pearl River Glass
- Friday: MS Museum of Art
- Friday night: MS Civil Rights Museum
- Saturday: Madison Middle School



The Thinker

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[Proposal Form](#)