

Information about the ECSU Design Group and their Work

Stefanie Tanguay and Kimberly Wiknik collaborated on “**Unity**,” an image about the power of touch. Stefanie and Kimberly photographed the hands of their fellow design students to create this piece, which shows hands reaching, connecting and speaking a silent language of support and solidarity.



Claudette Weir’s striking piece, “**You Are Not Alone**,” uses photographs of real students, with a real understanding of the juvenile audience. She has created an image that is moving in its direct and compassionate statement that help is here—you are not alone.



In “**Positive Outlook**,” Sarah Reed uses the outline of a house to contain her images and tell a story of struggle and triumph. Her piece depicts a variety of emotional states, all contained within the structure of “home,” indicating that a positive outlook has the power to influence our future.



“**Grow, Nurture, Triumph**” tells its story with exuberant sunflowers that virtually burst through the picture plane and up the wall. In this piece, Alyssa Morello has created a wonderful visual metaphor that sends a message of joy, hope and connection to nature.



Amy Pjura created the concept, shapes and color palette of “**Putting the Pieces Together**,” a collaborative piece that contains contributions from each member of the Design Group. Amy worked with each artist and assembled the puzzle pieces to create this animated house-shaped piece, which focuses on the important pieces of our individual puzzles—reminding us that we all have to put the pieces together in order to have a complete life.



Suzanne Connors uses the bold, graphic style of pop art in “**Inspired**,” an energetic image of celebration and togetherness. The image is based on photographs of Suzanne’s friends actively communicating and having fun, and Suzanne successfully shares this feeling of inspired connection through her piece.



Hollie Knight’s “**Hands of Hope**” addresses the notion of home as the place from which care, comfort and all good things originate. The bright colors, fanciful shapes and encircling hands define home as a safe, welcoming place—and as a state of mind as well.



Kyle Osolin and Chris Turiello collaborated to create “**Words of Wisdom**,” a beautiful quote-based banner that features the words of two great leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Buddha. Kyle and Chris used visual contributions from all the artists in the Design Group, modifying and assembling them into this powerful piece in which words become image, and image becomes message.



Jessica Emrich asked for input from the entire Design Group to create her collaborative crossword-style piece “**Connections**,” which promotes ideas of trust, courage, respect, love and hope. She has used a strong, focused color palette to make this piece easy to “read” in many different directions in order to engage the viewer in a positive dialogue about connection.



Jeffrey Fitzgerald’s “**Respect**” was inspired by the powerful youth-oriented work of artist Kieth Haring. The two almost identical faces looking seriously at one another, remind us that we are all very much alike—and that to get respect you must first give it.

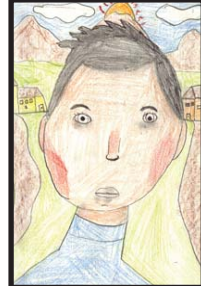
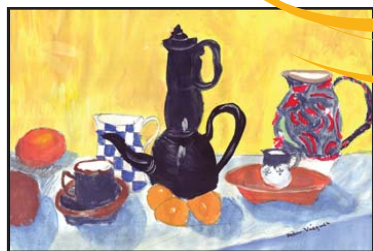


The Connecticut Judicial Branch and Eastern Connecticut State University are pleased to present

The Juvenile Court Art Project Vision Of Optimism Friday, February 2, 2007, 2:00 pm



Superior Court for Juvenile Matters
81 Columbia Avenue
Willimantic, Connecticut



Program

Welcome

Judge Antonio C. Robaina
Administrative Judge
Windham Judicial District

Remarks

President Elsa Nuñez
Eastern Connecticut State University

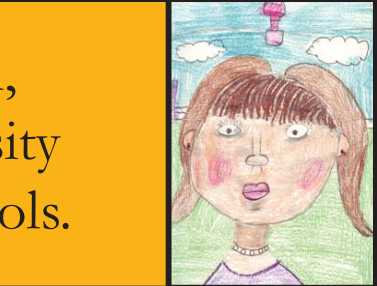
Judge Michael A. Mack
Deputy Chief Court Administrator

Dr. Anne Dawson
Professor of Art
Eastern Connecticut State University

Closing Comments

Judge Francis J. Foley III

The Connecticut Judicial Branch,
Eastern Connecticut State University
and Windham County Public Schools.



Vision Of Optimism

Artwork by students from Eastern Connecticut State University
and the Windham County Public Schools

The colorful banners and engaging children's artwork that now enliven the lobby and hallways of Willimantic's Juvenile Court Building were created by students from Eastern Connecticut State University's Design Group, and the Windham County Public Schools. In response to a request from Judge Francis Foley, students contributed work designed to send a message of hope, strength and courage to young people passing through the Juvenile Justice System.

Eastern's Design Group students named the project Vision of Optimism because their thoughtful and inventive banner designs reflect their collective optimism and belief in the future and its possibilities. The Design Group is a senior project experience for Eastern Digital Art & Design seniors in which students use their creative skills to connect with and contribute to the local community in a variety of ways. In this project, they separately and collaboratively created work that transforms the courthouse lobby into a positive visual environment and will engage young viewers in an imaginative dialog about love, trust and the possibility of a better life.

Along with the banners are thirty pieces of children's artwork from the Windham County Public Schools, collected and curated by Eastern Art History student, Rachel Ensling. The young artists, who range in age from elementary through middle school, have contributed unselfconscious, personally meaningful images that will resonate with viewers of all ages. Landscapes, portraits, fantasy images and work referencing the Impressionist masters are included in this uplifting collection of children's art. Participating Windham County schools are: Windham Center Elementary School, North Windham Elementary School, Natchaug Elementary School and Windham Middle School.

Visual communication has the power to help us understand problems, envision solutions and offer help to others. Vision of Optimism: the Willimantic Juvenile Court Project, is a testimony to the power of visual statement, and the compassion and generosity of the young people in our community.

June Bisantz, Professor of Art
Eastern Connecticut State University

Participating Artists

Eastern Connecticut State University Design Group

(see artwork on next page)

Suzanne Connors – *Inspired*

Jessica Emrich – *Connections*

Jeffrey Fitzgerald – *Respect*

Hollie Knight – *Hands of Hope*

Alyssa Morello
– *Nurture, Grow, Triumph*

Kyle Osolin & Chris Turiello
– *Words of Wisdom*

Amy Pjura – *Putting the Pieces Together*

Sarah Reed – *Positive Outlook*

Stefanie Tanguay and
Kimberly Wiknik – *Unity*

Claudette Weir – *You Are Not Alone*

Windham County School's Artists

Windham Center

Elementary School:

Curtis Chagnot, Kindergarten
Alexis Rollert, Kindergarten
Kiara Vasquez, Kindergarten
Noah Guarino, 2nd
Kelsey McAllister, 2nd
Holly Weldon, 2nd
Ironeida Aviles, 4th
Jacob Avery, 4th
Nicholas Cranmer, 4th
Jordin Sanborn, 4th
Dana Lattanzion, 4th

North Windham

Elementary School:

Shawn Paulhus, 2nd
Desiree Rivera, 2nd
Nayomi Alicea, 4th
Austin Yarnott, 4th

Natchaug Elementary School:

Jalen Ortiz, 1st
Mariya Bilyk, 2nd
Carolyn Coleman, 2nd
Shane Morin, 2nd
Rebecca Bowling, 4th
Taenirah Jones, 4th

Windham Middle School:

Jean Carlos Alvarez, 7th
Mark Maldonado, 7th
Antonio Ruperto, 7th
Yadier Vazquez, 7th
Victoria DeJesus, 8th
Edwin Gonzalez, 8th
Jose Hernandez, 8th
David Hughes, 8th
Anna Oshima, 8th

