

2013 Cleveland Wheelchair

Veterans Creative Arts Show

MARCH 2013

THE 2013 CLEVELAND WHEELCHAIR **VETERANS ART SHOW IS A COLLECTION OF** ART FROM WHEELCHAIR **VETERANS** WHO GET **TOGETHER** AT THE CLEVELAND VA TO HELP PROMOTE A CONNECTION **AMONGST** PEERS WHO **SHARE THE SAME AMBITIONS AND CHALLENGES** TO CREATE ART.

THIS YEAR
WAS THE 7TH
ANNUAL SHOW

THE ARTISTS
WISH TO SHARE
A SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO
ALL OF THOSE
WHO
SUPPORTED
THIS EVENT.

Judges Choice

Wood n? was the star of the 2013 Cleveland VA Wheelchair Art Show created by Andrew Shienkaruk as he took Judges Choice with his technical ambition to cave this wood chunk into a very creative work of art. He was unable to attend the show for the award presentation, but his effort was noticed.





Best of Show

Landscape in watercolor created by Desiree Douglas was honored with this years Best of Show award.

Desiree stated that she had much difficulty with the creation of this painting, but her determination to accomplish it kept her goal in sight.

Peoples Choice

Desert Casanova created by Russell Scott wins Peoples Choice. Russell stated that he is new to the artistic world and his ambition to create this painting was a fun project to learn from. He also mentioned that if he can do this - anyone can.

Congrats to Andrew, Desiree and Russell for their ambition to win the 2013 event!



Many various types of art entries were entered this year by our veteran contestants. They ranged from acrylic, water color painting to pencil sketch and photos. Some even dared into sculpture, quilts and live performances Several veterans added creative writing entries into contributed to the event.

The 2013 Cleveland Wheelchair Veterans Creative Art Show hosted a well rounded display of talent and much personal expression as each entry had a story that went with it. Thanks to those who took the time to create such talented ambitions and participate with this years annual event. Below are the 2013 winners Desiree Douglas and Russell Scott being presented with their winning plaques from our 2013 judge Jennifer Schwartz Wright of the Art Therapy Studio. The plaques were sponsored from the Buckeye PVA as well as a cake.

The following pages will show some of the separate entries and scenes from the event.



Art is everywhere in and outside of you!

2013 Art Show Winners!













Creative Writing



Frank I Am



The 2013 Cleveland Wheelchair Veterans VA Art Show began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Amy Riter and then pursued into the Creative Writing format. The first presentation was a performance of the Creative Writing efforts of Desiree Douglas and Robert Redden with their poem "FRANK I AM" - a rhyme that is similar to Green Eggs and Ham but with the ambition of "being frank" with their thoughts of being in a wheelchair status.

Then the show proceeded with the presentation of awards to each art category defined by the National Creative Arts Festival regulations. Each winner has the opportunity to submit their creation into the national festival. The show ended with the three finalists being presented with their plaques followed with refreshments including a cake from the Buckeye PVA.

Thanks to all who supported our event - including our 2013 judges Fran McClellan, Sheila Smith and Jennifer Schwartz Wright, our event coordinators Emily Carver and Janelle Howard, Denise Cooper, our Cleveland VA Art Therapist who conducted the motivation for our Veterans to create, and the many others who were part of the team to help with the rehabilitation of our peers.

Jennifer Schwartz Wright



2013 Cleveland Wheelchair Veterans Art Show Recap

Special Thanks to Jennifer Schwartz Wright for attending the 2013 show and presenting the awards to our winners.

Jennifer is the executive director of The Art Therapy Studio of Cleveland. Below are some words from her.

Jennifer Schwartz Wright, ATR-BC
Executive Director - Art Therapy Studio
www.arttherapystudio.org
"Enhancing the quality of life through art since 1967"

Art therapy is a relatively new profession, but we art therapists are tapping into a human need that is as old as the dawn of creation. The earliest known art studio, dating back 100,000 years ago was recently discovered in Africa. Making art is something humans have always been doing as part of our survival, and it has brought us far! Art therapists continue to maximize the healing aspects of art making to this very day. The Art Therapy Studio is very proud to partner with the Stokes VA Hospital to provide art therapy for the patients in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit and outpatient support groups. Our art therapist Denise does a fantastic job of helping patients overcome their reservations and self-criticisms, adapt to changes in their lives, and enjoy and celebrate life through their art.

Creating every piece of art is an act of courage. The blank canvas, the stark whiteness of the paper, the amorphous chunk of clay, the raw materials of each work of art can be daunting and meaningless in the beginning. The artwork displayed in this exhibit clearly shows not only the artistic talents and heartfelt self-expression of the artists, but also their courage in facing the new challenges that art and life can bring.

Many thanks to those who helped support this 2013 Cleveland Wheelchair Veterans Art Show



2013 Event Support

Emily Carver - Cleveland VA Therapist and 2013 Show Coordinator

Denise Cooper - Cleveland VA Art Therapist

Janelle Howard - Cleveland VA Rec Therapist

Holly Koester - Buckeye PVA Support

Barb Breen - Cleveland VA Multi Media Specialist

Cory Anderson - Emcee of the 2013 show











Special Thanks to everyone who participated and supported this years show and continuously helps to support our wheelchair veterans rehabilitation!



Hope you enjoyed some of the creations at our 9th annual event and maybe you will take an interest and create some ambition that will be entered into the

2014 Cleveland Wheelchair Veterans Art Show

which will be hosted in the Spring of 2014.

Remember that this event follows the rules of the

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

and you can google any regulations if you wish to have your creation entered into a national level.

Best wishes for a safe and fun 2013 and hope you can join us at the 2014 show! Cory Anderson - www.OhioWheelchair.com (e-mail at OhioWheelchair@gmail.com)

This 2013 newsletter can be found on the Ohio Wheelchair website under VA Art Show (in the menu).