



SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.
KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARY



2017 Storm Drain Artists

Karns and Bearden Library Branches

Christine Cobble

4th place

Artist Bio

I have been working as a freelance artist for over a decade. Achieving a degree in graphic design, I used those lessons taught to me in school as a foundation for my designs. Since I was little, I have always held a love for art and the many mediums it can take. In 2016, I earned the Chalk Walk T-shirt Award at the annual Dogwood Arts Chalk Walk, along with placing in the Single Artists division. I have had the pleasure of designing pieces for: several local restaurants, weddings, special events and murals for children's rooms. It is wonderful therapy for a busy working mom! My love of drawing continues through my children, whom both have their own little art stations where we play and create every chance we get!



Art Statement

I wanted my storm drain design to reflect that water is life! I chose to use lots of green plants, flowing blue waterfalls and vibrant fish. I wanted the colors to really stand out; to look very nature and clean. I do hope my little pond will remind people that these drains lead to somewhere beautiful and special.



Astrid Galindo

10th place

Artist Bio

Astrid moved to Tennessee almost twenty years ago to be reunited with her family and she has been living in Knoxville since. Now one of her grandchildren is in the USA Air Force. Astrid loves art and she has always been involved in cultural and educational activities. She is a member of the Arts and Culture Alliance of Knoxville and of Hola Hora Latina cultural organization. She has been painting for many years, and although now she is not a prolific artist her artwork has been exhibited at the Knoxville Emporium, at Mayor Rogero's office, and at the Knoxville Museum of Art during the annual celebration of the National Hispanic Month.



Art Statement

When Astrid learned about the Knox County Storm Water project, she understood the importance of keeping the storm drains clean for environmental protection, and she believes this is an issue that concerns all of us.

Ellen Hubrig

9th place

Artist Bio

I have been a Knoxville resident for almost 29 years and am originally from Philadelphia, PA. Before moving here, in the 80's I was in town doing a project at ORNL in April when I saw the Dogwood Arts Festival flyer. When we decided to move, I had the opportunity to join the Tennessee Artists Association and became President in 1993. I started doing murals and faux finishes and symphony show houses and several years ago, my husband and I developed a technology for clean water. We love to swim in the river as we enjoy boating.



Art Statement

I am thrilled to have my design for the storm drain chosen. It's come full circle for me to be painting again and helping promote wanting our lakes and water to be clean. I hope that this design shows that we 'love' our river and our state of Tennessee and that the river connects to the ocean and we should all want to keep our waters clean. We need to stop before putting anything down the storm drain as it goes directly to the river so only rainwater. We're all one on this planet and we need to do what is right for now and the future.



Cindy Hughes

8th place

Artist Bio

Cindy Hughes is a wife, mom, and dog-mom extraordinaire. Spent the last 10 years working as a merchandise planner in both Boston and Nashville, and just recently relocated back to her hometown of Knoxville. Taking a break from corporate life, Cindy is now a stay-at-home mom pursuing her artistic career on the side. She owns Urban Farm Girl Design, a design studio specializing in hand-lettering, illustration, and painting.

www.urbanfarmgirldesign.net

www.etsy.com/shop/urbanfarmgirldesign



Art Statement

My design is meant to catch the viewer's eye through the use of color. The circular design encourages the thought of cyclical movement; showing that clean water and doing your part will have a "down the stream" impact on the environment.

Eric Johnson

3rd place

Artist Bio

I am a loving husband and father of 2. I have always enjoyed doing art. I started painting graffiti with friends at Laurel High School in 1995. Other than Laurel, I am a self-taught artist. I started tattooing in 2004. I currently work at Distinked Tattoos on Broadway in Maryville, TN.

www.seedecay.com



Art Statement

I wanted something very bright to catch people's attention. I went with a river otter because they are so cute, and who can deny a request from something so adorable?



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Ryan Christopher Logan

5th place

Artist Bio

Ryan Christopher Logan has been drawing since he was two years old. He is on the Autism Spectrum, using art as his preferred form of communication until age seven. Home schooled since the third grade, he also has a professional private art teacher to develop and guide his natural gift. He won a first place award with a drawing done in second grade during the "Through My Window: Work By Young Artists With Disabilities" July 2012 art exhibition held here in Knoxville. Ryan's favorite subject matter is marine life. He has a deep interest in any body of water he is exposed to and the creatures that live in that water.



Art Statement

After looking at numerous animals in this area that would benefit from an increased supply of clean water, Ryan chose the Valley Flame Crayfish. Not only is it indigenous to the East TN area, but is also occurs in a variety of gorgeous colors that appeal to Ryan's artistic senses. The blue one was particularly attractive because it is the symbolic color of water. "It's believed more species of this little critter are found in Tennessee than any other state. While most of them live in our numerous streams and rivers, some are more at home away from those areas, in moist lands near water....even underground. That's one reason why the crayfish is such an interesting, unique, and beautiful animal. Crayfish diversity brings researchers here from all over the world to study their habitat and life habits." (Quoted from an Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative article).

Hannah Taylor

6th place

Artist Bio

I'm a 20 year-old self taught artist from Knoxville. I grew up on my family's small farm where I developed a love for horses, chickens, and of course, my dogs. It was because of this that I began drawing and painting, starting with portraits of the animals I grew up caring for.



Art Statement

My art has expanded tremendously as I've worked with mediums of all sorts. I do portrait drawings, custom leather painting, jewelry crafting, and sculpting; all while giving it the sassy farm girl touch I grew to love.



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Carson Whittaker

1st place!

Artist Bio

My name is Carson Whittaker and I am a visual artist living and working in Knoxville, TN. I earned a bachelor's of fine arts from the University of TN in 2015. At school I studied the arts of printmaking and painting and fine tuned my skills. Now I am following my passion as a painter and spreading my love for creating art by using a big imagination. There are no limits in imagination! This sense of boundlessness gives me space to create playful work. I tend to use bright colors, whimsical themes and narratives in my art. I want to inspire and delight my viewers by showing them unique, new ideas!

<http://cwhitta3.wixsite.com/carsonwhittaker>



Art Statement

This storm drain design was inspired by the need to raise awareness about protecting our creeks and rivers from harmful pollutants that get dumped into the storm drains. This issue is important to me because I have a huge love for nature! I especially love our mountainous East Tennessee region and am always exploring, hiking and swimming in it. Our region has rich ecosystems of interesting animals and critters. By far, one of the cutest and most special animals that live here are river otters! However, they have become more rare in our state because they are very susceptible to water pollutants. This is why I have chosen to paint a design with a playful river otter swimming around in the Tennessee river. I want to remind people of the animals that live in our creeks and rivers and that they need clean homes in order to survive. The tagline in my painting will be, "Clean water, happy otter! Only rain down the drain!" People love otters and would certainly be motivated to do what they can to protect them and their homes in Tennessee. The goal of this design is to show people where the storm drain leads and exactly what is at stake when we use storm drains as dumps for pollutants.

Vera Lynn Byrd

7th place

Artist Bio

As long as I can remember I have been an artist. My dad has said he wondered why I, was wasting so much paper, now he totally gets it. I love to draw and paint portraits of children. I am also a pediatric nurse and I find ways to use my art in my work. I have a BS degree from UT in education not in art because I didn't feel as an art major I could actually honor the artist I already was. I did incorporate art education into that degree and studied the therapeutic benefits of art. I have won several scholarships to study art and also been rewarded a few awards along the way for some of my artistic adventures. One of my recent favorite prizes was winning 1st place beginner in The Great Bake for The Imagination library in 2014. I have a MA from McGregor-Antioch University in Yellow Springs Ohio with an emphasis on forensic art, an art that can help crime victims. I believe art helps us see the world and be in the world much more meaningfully.



Art Statement

I want my mural to raise awareness of the water we live near and the creatures that live in and around them in this region. I love this land being a East Tennessee native, born in Bristol and raised right here. I was a Karns Beaver! I grew up on Norris and Melton Hill lakes swimming boating and skiing all summer. I also want it to educate and be fun to look at and I am excited as much for the challenge and process as for the end result.



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Julia Widby

2nd place

Artist Bio

My name is Julia Widby, and I was raised in, and around Knoxville, Tennessee. I graduated from Fulton High School, Pellissippi State Community College, and the University of Tennessee with my Bachelor in Fine Arts concentrated in painting. As of right now, I'm taking a small break from school in order to gain professional experience as an artist, but in the future, I plan to go back to graduate school for my masters so I can teach art, and still be an artist. Currently, I work part-time at Wright's Cafeteria, and part-time as a cartoonist/illustrator through a 3 year contract with a published book writer. On the weekends, I work as a docent (tour guide) at the Knoxville Museum of Art in which I take great happiness, and pride teaching our community about our local art history. The weekends is also when I get work on my own artwork which include my own comic script, and paintings, that have been locally featured in the past at The Juice Box, the Biscuit Festival, Broadway Studio Space, A1 Art Labs, the Big Love Bus gallery space, UT's Ewing gallery's annual student show, and Gallery 1010. I also have had wonderful opportunities in the past to teach painting demonstrations at Pond Gap Elementary school after school program, at Echo Ridge retirement home, and at Elmcroft Retirement Home. My aspirations for the future is, of course going to graduate school, but in the meantime I hope to continue to make art that promotes Knoxville, and make a name for myself as a Knoxville artist. One of my earliest memories is of me wanting to be an artist. From then, and most definitely now, I love that feeling of working hard to create something pure, unique, and from the soul. Another early, and important memory for me was growing up hearing my family tell folklore about our ancestry whom have been located in this area since before the 1800s. It has had a big impact on me for now days I make artwork especially my paintings, to project nonfiction fantasy with the hopes of recapturing that sense of wonder, the magical extraordinary, and the innocence of a child hearing a fantastic story that connects them to it in a spiritual type of way just as I experienced hearing wild, outrageous, and scandalous stories about my ancestors. During my initial work process, I have hunter/gatherer tendencies to collect, and I gravitate towards language, history, and drawing. I then take these very concrete beginnings, and transform my collected data into abstract expressionism art. My paintings themselves are normally done loosely in a free atmosphere, but the correlations, and the remains of the data are still there, sometimes partially hidden or very visible. The goal I try to achieve is to show the emotions, and the beginnings of a story that I created in which I invite the viewer to be a part of. It's the opportunity to continue my story, and create your own end based solely on what is seen, but more importantly what is felt by the artwork itself.



Art Statement

For the storm drain style-off my concept is showing Tennessee's animal ecosystem, and the potential threat of garbage going down into the drains that damages our animals, and nature that we hold so dear. I'm the youngest out of two brothers, and three boy cousins in which we were raised closely together as one family. As children, we spent almost every single weekend, and summer up in the Smoky Mountains as a family, enjoying the nature, darting through the trees like ninjas, swimming in the cold mountain river, camping, grilling out, and seeing the animals that make Tennessee...well Tennessee. They are some of my favorite memories, and I used a lot of those experiences to help make my design. The foreground of my design features a main circle of animals that Tennessee is known for such as common Tennessean birds, the raccoon, fireflies, lady bugs, cicadas, and many more. The middle background features a river or stream waterway in which people are fishing, and kids are swimming, having the time of their lives. The left side background, features a closer look into a clearing which is backed by a dense layer of trees. The clearing displays animals at play either in the water, drinking the water, or next to the water. The right side background shows a farther distance of perspective revealing the complexity our beautiful landscape. Closest to the main foreground, the landscape starts out as fields which turn into hills, and then eventually turns into the mountains. The top of the storm drain is garbage such as used cigarettes, used Band-Aids, antifreeze, and other chemicals, painted going into our storm drains right where the animals are drinking, the kids are playing, and our iconic nature is growing. I chose such a detailed design to show that it's not just one thing affected by littering into our storm drains, but many things that are sometimes closer to home than we realize. Sometimes, I think it's easy to forget to be careful with trash especially around parks, waterways, and social events. I don't think the majority of people litter on purpose. I hope that seeing such an exquisite artistic reminder, that people will take the time, and think of their actions regarding their trash.