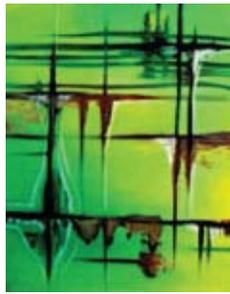


Eric Ralston & Desiree Link

Eric Ralston, Teacher

My work captures the moments in life that people tend to miss on their own. Through painting and photography, I attempt to freeze time for just one instant and display real-life imagery of people, places, and experiences through vibrant color and soft edges. Many describe my work as dreamlike and serene. That is exactly where I would like to take the viewer—to a place where a busy life can stop for just a few moments and a person can dream.



It is my hope to pass my dream on to my students, and I hope I can help them learn to escape the fears and high

expectations of life. I hope that I can help them see my dreams as well as their own.

Eric Ralston is a teacher at Hillside Children's Center in Auburn, New York.



Desiree Link, Student

Art is all I have with me. Being in foster care gives me a reason to paint and draw. My artwork is the only thing that is close to me at this point. My paintings are inspired by nature and painting my photography connects me to nature and other people. When I see a tree, I see roots that are so strong that nothing can knock it down. The gifts of nature inspire me to know that my roots are strong enough to withstand life's winds of change. My abstract paintings express what I find is hard to say.



If you could say it in words there would be no reason to paint.

—Edward Hopper



Desiree Link is a sophomore art student at Hillside Children's Center in Auburn, New York.



Call for Entries: *SchoolArts* is recognizing the work of high-school students and teachers from around the country, and we are looking for more art to be featured. Please send images of your work and the work of one of your students, along with 100-word artist's statements, on a CD to Nancy Walkup, Editor, *SchoolArts*, 2223 Parkside Drive, Denton, TX 76201.