

# Debi West & Allison Eddy

## Debi West, Teacher

I knew I was an artist early on, and walking into my very first art class in 1975 sealed the deal! Thirty-four years later, I am still making art daily. I think it's so important for my visual art students to know that I practice what I preach. I exhibit a few times a year and am represented at several local galleries. My media of choice would have to be "all of the above!" I love to take the art of collage to the next level—working with mixed-media makes my art stress-free. I paint, watercolor, and oil pastel on top of my photographs, creating depth through color and texture. I hope that I motivate my students to see that art can be more than a hobby. It is my passion, and I have turned that passion into a



career. For seventeen years, I have had the honor of calling myself an art teacher, as well as an artist.

*Debi West in an art educator at North Gwinnett High School in Suawnee, Georgia.*



## Allison Eddy, Student

Art has been a part of my life as far back as I can remember. I have always been fascinated with the world around me—exploring, experimenting, and looking—and that fascination comes into play enormously in my art. Mixed-media experimentation is my main form of expression. I try to learn about art historical styles and techniques and about different cultures throughout time, making sure to incorporate them into my own patchwork style. I enjoy mixing two dimensions with three dimensions; making clay look like lace; mixing organic with urban, and so on. I also experiment with

*synesthesia painting, or painting the colors I see when I listen to music. Art is my way of communicating with the world.*

*Allison Eddy is a junior AP art student at North Gwinnett High School in Suawnee, Georgia.*



**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.