

# Joe Schwartz & Mary Lynn

## Joe Schwartz, Teacher

Many of the problems that face society today have been caused by old-school thinking and failed old-school solutions. Those rules no longer work. If we are to solve the problems we've gotten ourselves into, we need to train a new breed of creative minds, ones who are not being trained to simply answer questions on a standardized test, but who can use design thinking as a tool.

My attempts to develop unique critical-thinking and problem-solving skills in my students are done with the hope that one day, some of them will be our guides into a brighter, more innovative future.



*Joe Schwartz has been an art director and graphic designer for more than twenty years. He currently teaches computer graphics and design courses at Spotswood High School in New Jersey. A sampling of his portfolio can be found at [www.coroflot.com/designr66](http://www.coroflot.com/designr66).*

## Mary Lynn, Student

I believe that the task of any designer should be to find the extraordinary in the mundane, and to take that state of mind and convey it to the public. A designer should be able to show an object's or person's true beauty, bring out their quirks, and make those quirks magnificent. I want to create something that makes people stop and see it with a new state of mind. In this field, you have the opportunity to show people a glimpse of your life through your eyes—and for that brief moment you connect with your audience. That's art.



*Mary Lynn is a senior at Spotswood High School in Spotswood, New Jersey.*



**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.