

Betsy DiJulio & Erin Edwards

Betsy DiJulio, Teacher

I found my way to serious art-making while employed as the education director of the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia. I later pursued a teaching career, and during those first few years as a part-time practicing artist, I created several series of oil pastel paintings dealing with universal themes in a magical realist vein, using my sketchbook primarily for planning purposes. In more recent years, my sketchbook has become a place for the exploration of new imagery, ideas, and media.

Nowadays, I seek to preserve something of the immediacy, dynamism, and experimentation found in my sketchbook, while also striving to penetrate so deeply into the personal that I intersect the universal at points of shared humanity.

Betsy DiJulio is a national board certified art teacher at Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and is the 2010 Virginia Beach City Public Schools Citywide Teacher of the Year.



Erin Edwards, Student

My job as an artist is to take something as vast as art and place my identity within it. Hallmarks of my artistic identity are a mixed-media approach, thick layered backgrounds, and hidden meanings. I communicate my ideas metaphorically, using different strategies to create relationships within my pieces that suggest connections and associations without being too blunt or obvious. Each mark, tone, word, and detail has a meaning.

Currently, I am exploring American history, letting both my knowledge and my emotions guide me as I draw and paint from observation, photographs, and my imagination. I strive to create pieces that, as Vincent van Gogh wrote, "have a life of their own that derives from the painter's soul."

Erin Edwards is a twelfth-grade AP studio art student at Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia.



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.