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Arlington Museum of Art exhibiting students' work

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Two thousand pieces of student art will fill the Arlington Museum of Art this month for the Youth Art Encounters Exhibition, a partnership between Arlington schools and the museum.

Eleventh-grader Anne-Marie St. John's self-portrait was one of the first to be displayed. She made the oil pastel painting in her art class at Seguin High School using cool blues for the background and warm colors for herself. Her face is a combination of orange, red and yellow. Her brown hair is bright green in the piece.

"To me it looks like an Oompa-Loompa," she said, referring to the characters in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

The district has been holding the art show since 1972, said Linh Nguyen, art coordinator for Arlington schools. Last year, officials decided to divide the exhibition into three smaller shows — each featuring campuses from two high-school feeder networks — to allow more space for the work.

The museum's three stories are divided into high school, junior high and elementary school exhibit space. Teachers choose the art for the event, and it represents "the best of the best," Nguyen said.

The show features a variety of media, including paint and ceramics.

Three receptions will be held for students to bring their families and celebrate the art with teachers and school administrators. Nguyen said recognizing the students' talent bolsters their confidence.

"Their eyes light up when they see it," he said.

Youth Art Encounters Exhibition

What: About 2,000 pieces by Arlington school district students grades kindergarten through 12th.

Where: Arlington Museum of Art.

When: The exhibit is divided into three portions, each featuring the work of students from two of the district's high school feeder networks.

Seguin and Bowie networks: through Friday, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday.

Arlington and Lamar networks: March 11-22, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. March 13.

Martin and Sam Houston networks: March 25-April 5, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. March 27.

All receptions are open to the public.

Arlington Museum of Art

The museum, 201 W. Main St., is open during the youth show from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.



A self-portrait by Anne-Marie St. John, a Seguin High School 11th-grader, is part of Youth Art Encounters. STAR-TELEGRAM/STEWART F. HOUSE



The Arlington Museum of Art and Arlington school district collaborated on Youth Art Encounters. S-T/STEWART F. HOUSE

A drawing by Cheyenne Henderson, a fifth-grader at Ferrell Elementary School, is in the exhibit, which the Arlington school district has been holding since 1972. STAR-TELEGRAM/STEWART F. HOUSE