

Holocaust and Tolerance Education Visual Arts Contest

Deadline for submission:

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 4:30 p.m.
at the Virginia Holocaust Museum

TOPIC FOR 2012:

“No loss by flood and lightening, no destruction of cities and temples by the hostile forces of nature, has deprived man of so many noble lives and impulses as those which his intolerance has destroyed”

-Helen Keller



The guidelines for the competition are on the Virginia Holocaust Museum's website: www.va-holocaust.com

One of the primary goals of the Joint Holocaust Education Committee of the Virginia Holocaust Museum and the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond is to encourage young people to apply the lessons of history to the moral decisions they make today. Through studying the Holocaust and modern genocide, students explore the issues of moral courage as well as the dangers of prejudice, peer pressure and indifference. This competition provides students an opportunity to express themselves creatively about what they have learned.

This competition is limited to middle school and high school students.

Artwork will be evaluated in two divisions: Junior (middle school entries) and Senior (high school entries)

Prizes will be awarded to winners in both divisions as follows:

First Place: \$150

Second Place: \$100

Third Place: \$ 50

The concept of **loss** will be the focus of the Virginia Holocaust Museum's 2012 Visual Arts Competition. Loss of life, loss of hope, loss of family, friends and community are issues that all Holocaust and genocide survivors struggle with even today. **This year we are asking students to create art around the idea of loss. Students may consider loss as a concept, as a subject of Holocaust and genocide and/or loss in their own lives and in the lives of those around them.**

The topic of loss is extremely relevant to the community of Holocaust survivors; many of them are now in their 80's or 90's. The world is approaching a time when none of us will be able to hear testimony directly from the people who saw the horror of places such as Auschwitz concentration camp. Countries impacted by genocides have undergone dire loss; the murder of men, the use of women as tools of war, and in some instances the kidnapping of young boys as soldiers. The topic of loss is relevant also to many of our students own lives and situations, whether through the death of a loved one or through the loss of self esteem as they are targets of bullying.

Some issues to consider might be:

- How might people who experienced loss use this experience to change the world around them through their art?
- How might we use those that have been lost as role models for our own lives and how can we show this through our art?
- How can art show that the courage to act justly, even in the face of great loss is possible and essential?
- How can our art demonstrate to the world that all lives are precious?
- Helen Keller's words paint a picture of loss. Use them to create your own feelings about loss.
- How can we use color, shape and form to show the world that we can help others withstand loss?
- How can an individual find the courage to pursue what is right when others stand idly by?
- How can you depict the loss of man because of intolerance?
- How do we feel when our self-esteem is lost as a result of being bullied?

Guidelines:

1. 2-D entries should be 2-dimensional and roughly 24" x 24" in size, though reasonable exceptions shall be accepted,
2. Entries must be matted and mounted on a firm support such as foam core, wood, or frame, making sure that the piece is rigid. A hanging method must be a consideration for all 2-D entries, as pieces will hang from the left and right sides near the top. Charcoal, pencil or pastels that are submitted need to be sprayed with a fixative to prevent transfer and smudges. For framed works eye hook should be securely anchored at the top, left and right corners.
3. The entry must be **original** and created solely for this competition.
4. Attach one copy of the information form provided to the back of the piece, e-mail the second copy of the information form to rberlin@va-holocaust.com
Include all of the following:
 - a. Your name, e-mail address, home phone number, and address
 - b. Your grade, your teacher's name, and your school
 - c. Teacher's contact e-mail and phone number.
 - d. The materials used (i.e. pastels, oils, pencils, etc.).
 - e. A title for your work.
 - f. A brief artist's statement about the piece, describing how you have incorporated the theme and the topic(s) you chose to address in your work.
5. To ensure impartial judging, do not put your name or any other identifying information on the front of your artwork.
6. Judging will be based on interpretation of the topic, how well your image communicates the idea you selected, creativity, craftsmanship, presentation, composition, originality.

All entries will be displayed at the Virginia Holocaust Museum, award presentations will be made the evening of April 18, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

VHIM

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Contact Rena Berlin, Director of Education for questions or further information, rberlin@va-holocaust.com
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