

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE



ART ALL-STATE IS COMING TO A MALL NEAR YOU!
HOLYOKE MALL AT INGLESIDE: SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007
FRAMINGHAM WALMART: SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2007

(WORCESTER, MASS., April 13, 2007)— In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Massachusetts Art All-State, the Worcester Art Museum is taking elements of this popular art institute for high school juniors on the road across Massachusetts. Our **first stop** is the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside in Holyoke on Saturday, April 21. Our **second stop** is the Framingham WALMART on Saturday, May 12. At both locations, the acclaimed tape-artist Michael Townsend will create massive tape-art installations at various at both sites. Folks of all ages are invited to participate or to just come on down and witness the spectacle! Students from this years' upcoming Art All-State program as well as alumni of the program will be joining in on the fun as well.

FIRST STOP

Who: 2007 Participants of Art All-State/Tape artist Michael Townsend/general public

What: Tape Art Installations

Where: **Holyoke Mall at Ingleside** (meet at the Sears Court on the Lower Level by Customer Service, you will then be directed to a location within the mall)

When: Saturday, April 21, 2007/10am to 4pm

Why: To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Art All-State!

Cost: **FREE!**

SECOND STOP

Who: 2007 Participants of Art All-State/Tape artist Michael Townsend/general public

What: Tape Art Installations

Where: **Framingham WALMART/** 121 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01701

When: Saturday, May 12, 2007/10am to 4pm

Why: To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Art All-State!

Cost: **FREE**

What is Art All-State?

Every year since 1987, approximately 140 juniors in High School have gathered at the Worcester Art Museum for an intensive two-day experience with practicing artists at Art All-State Massachusetts. This year, one hundred forty juniors from nearly 140 communities across Massachusetts have passed a rigorous application process to participate in the 20th Anniversary of Art All-State, on May 26 and 27. Over 230 students statewide were nominated to this year's program, and participants come from all reaches of the Commonwealth. During Art All-State, students are teamed with professional artists to explore art beyond what is offered in the traditional high school setting to create colossal mixed-media projects. After finishing the program, Corey Ulrich of Seekonk said that the program was "One of the most memorable experiences of my high school career, makes me excited for the future."

Massachusetts's high schools may nominate up to two 11th-grade students in good academic standing who demonstrate a keen interest in visual art and are deserving of recognition and encouragement. The final selection of Art All-State participants is based upon written work, three pieces of artwork, recommendations and personal interviews conducted by a panel of art educators at regional sites throughout the state.

Why does the Worcester Art Museum hold Art All-State?

In the wake of many Massachusetts School Districts having to either severely cut or eliminate art education programs all together, opportunities such as Art-All State are of ever increasing importance to the youth of Massachusetts. Not only do the students have fun with other kids their own age who are deeply interested in art, but they learn team-building skills by working together towards a common goal—huge installation pieces that are on view in the Higgins Education Wing during the run of the program. After her great experience at Art-All State, Kaileen Powers of Bridgewater said that "Being here has really motivated me to go for a life in art. I can't wait to get home and really kick it up for my portfolio."

In the late 1980s, when the economic climate forced many schools to cut their art budgets, the Worcester Art Museum aligned with art education advocacy groups to develop Massachusetts Art All-State. It was the first program of its kind in the nation and served as a model for the New Hampshire Allstate Art Festival, founded in 1999.

Community Impact

Contact with alumni has shown the long-term impact and value of Art All-State. "Time and time again, when people ask me why or how I became involved in set design and art direction, I come back to a singular pivotal

event—Art All-State,” stated Kirsty Thomley, a 1997 Art All-State participant now working as a production designer in Los Angeles.

Many past participants of Art All-State return as chaperones, artists and mentors, including Tom Grady an artist from Auburn, Mass. who will again participate as an artist/mentor this year. Grady, who teaches youth art classes at Worcester Art Museum, earned a BFA in illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design and has exhibited his work in galleries throughout New England.

Andy Bell, another 1997 alumnus, has volunteered to chaperone Art All-State. A Middlefield native, he earned a BFA degree in sculpture from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth and currently teaches art at Quincy High School. He also has designed the t-shirt for this year’s Art All-State.

Art All-State is a collaboration of the Massachusetts Art Education Association and the Worcester Art Museum, as well as teachers around the state. A gift from the David J. Frelander Memorial Education Fund helps sustain the program. Art All-State is also made possible by donations from many area businesses, and with the support of art educators from throughout the state.

Who is Michael Townsend?

Check out our Tape Artist at www.tapeart.com. You have to see it to believe it!

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from ancient Roman mosaics to Colonial silver, Impressionist paintings and contemporary art. Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (evening hours sponsored by Commerce Bank), and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc. and National Grid). The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

Electronic images available.

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