

The Top 12 national finalists in The Art Institutes and Americans for the Arts Poster Design Competition 2009

12. Natalie Louis, The Art Institute of Atlanta



Designer's Statement

There is nothing better for artists than to see their imagination come alive from something that was once blank. To an artist, life is of course better with art in it, but there is more to it than that. To them, art is life; to be able to pour their soul into what they have created and make the world a more appealing place. It is this concept which my poster is based on. The butterfly brings life to the dull world, but it is the artist that brings life to the butterfly.

I would like to go into the study of graphic design because graphic design is a very broad field. It ranges from newspaper ads and billboards to Web site layouts, t-shirt designs and more. Since graphic artists are capable of doing many things, people expect more from them. It is this flexibility that keeps them challenged, and I enjoy a good challenge.

11. Paul Rovneyko, The Art Institute of Philadelphia



Designer's Statement

Growing up as a child, I would always find myself doodling on any paper in front of me. Whether it turned out to be just some scribble or a work of art, something had to be drawn on that paper. On school papers, scrap papers or sometimes even in the school books themselves. I had to leave a piece of my mind on everything.

Art has always been my way of expression. Whether it be emotions, feelings, ideas or even dreams, you can never go wrong with drawing it out. Art is a safe zone. It has been my way of escaping from things and letting my mind open up with no consequences.

Art can really expose a lot about a person's personality and point of view toward things. The concept of my design was to show just that. It depicts the false image many people perceive when they judge a person from the outside and not the inside. In the design is a colorless man. He expresses himself by screaming out what he truly is on the inside. What appears to be an angry individual is in fact the complete opposite. By his screaming expression he reveals his inner image - a man with love for the beauty, color and unexplainable mysteries of nature.

Ever since I first discovered Photoshop I haven't been able to pull myself away from it. There is always something new you can do with it. From being able to alter real-life photos to creating hand drawn material from the ground up, it has really made a huge impact on my life. Since then, I have been able to turn my thoughts into images in a way I never thought would be possible. I have been able to design Web sites, banners, flyers, posters, Myspaces, wallpapers and so much more. Ever since this discovery of art expansion, my career path has been that of a graphic designer. With the handful of years I have spent learning and developing skills with Photoshop, it is my goal to expand even more and be of use to a professional organization or company in the near future.

10. Jeanette Harrell, The Art Institute of Jacksonville

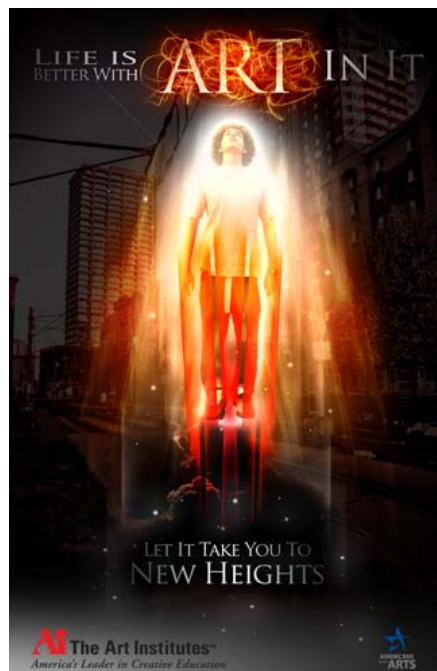


Designer's Statement

The design concept of this picture is to emphasize the meaning of color in one's art. The gray scaling in certain parts of the picture shows how without art, life and creativity wouldn't really be explored. The hand painting the girl shows how a person can open the imagination with a painting.

I want to be a graphic designer because I want others to see art through my eyes. I want to bring the words or topic to an understanding or interest with art.

9. Joshua Rocamora, The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale



Designer's Statement

"Life is better with Art" is a true statement. Art is expression, creativity, originality and innovation all in one and my life has been better because of it. I want to enter a career that allows me to express my artistic personality in any way possible. I believe whether I'm involved in graphic design, digital media or even musical endeavors, I will be happiest in an artistic career field. The Art Institute appears to be the place where I will get my jump start into that artistically driven career I want and I'm excited to know that it's possible. This poster displays the lifted feeling I feel when I'm involved in artistic activities and when I am being creative. All artists can relate to this feeling of a higher being when they are fully immersed in their artistic trade.

8. Joel Chan, The Art Institutes International — Kansas City



Designer's Statement

"jumpaintolife"

In this concept, I wanted to portray a very creative poster — something that attracts the eye, high energy and colorful. The idea I came up with is a guy jumping and holding a paint brush with paint and crazy stuff coming out of it and the slogan too. I wanted the viewer to see the fun and excitement art can be.

Reason to be a Graphic Artist

I've always been drawing ever since I was young and always loved it. Ever since I started going to art class I've been fascinated by the idea that I had the freedom to create something unique and out of this world. And through those classes I just wanted to learn to do everything, but it was when I attended Tulsa Technology Center that I was introduced to the Adobe software. It was just a breakthrough on my part. I've been constantly wanting to learn more and how to do more creative stuff and I still do. So it was then that I wanted to be a graphic artist. I know I've been blessed with the talent for art and with that I want to pursue it as a career someday. And maybe someday I could be a creative director of my own firm.

7. Madelaine Aviles, The Art Institutes International Minnesota



Designer's Statement

As I thought about the theme "Life is better with Art in it," I couldn't help think that art can be anything. You can look anywhere and see art in the form of architecture, fashion, patterns, designs, nature and even in music. That is why on my poster I drew various aspects of life around the word "art." I intended to have all the people, animals, nature and buildings around the word 'art' to be black for a reason. I wanted viewers to imagine their own colors to fill in the darkened silhouettes since every person has different opinions on what art is. This way, the word 'art' is dependent on the person looking at my design and not just from one single point of view. I decided to make the scenery from the Earth's point of view, looking further out into space to show that art really has no limits.

In elementary school, I would often sit on the computer and design art. As time passed by, I found out that this hobby I was interested in was called "graphic design." The more I learned about it, the more I improved upon it. Through time and dedication, I find myself understanding graphic design in a more professional way, especially after finding out that it can be my career! Even as a child, my heart has always belonged in the art of graphic design. I would help create designs from invitations to fliers for both my friends and my family. I would edit photos for people and help create Web sites for others and myself. Now I feel fully prepared and excited to enter the professional world of graphic design.

6. Yasmin Watson, The Art Institute of California — Hollywood



Designer's Statement

The design I created symbolizes "life is better with art." The black lifeless tree centered in the middle of the design represents how dull life would be without art.

Art is all around us, from different mixtures of spattered paint to a complex cheetah print. The cheetah is designed as a multi-color image because it stands for the mixture of different ethnicity types that take pleasure in art; the splattered paint represents the wonderful beauty within art.

I wish to enter the graphic design field because I enjoy working with the different types of applications such as Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. Illustrator is the main application I work with when it comes to designing a piece of art. I have an aptitude in graphic design that comes to life as I express it in my creations. I also enjoy creating images and giving them a different look and meaning. In the past couple of years in the Graphic Communication Academy I have created plenty of artwork such as cover letters, business cards, posters, logos, fashion magazines and also school completion t-shirt design. Each design was always better than the last.

I feel The Art Institute of California - Hollywood will give me the skills and ability to mature my talent in Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign as well as photography. I am a fast learner when it comes to graphic design. I have a unique taste in graphics, from making magazine covers to posters. Everyone has a purpose in life. I feel my purpose is to get a message across and give the world what they want in graphic design.

I have been in the Graphic Communication Academy since September of 2006, and will complete the course in June of 2009. What the academy has given me will help me share my vision of art to the world.

5. Christina Butler, The Art Institute of Washington



Designer's Statement

I love to create all kinds of art, from designing small logos to forming animated characters. It is something in which I know I can excel, and a skill that I only hope to improve. It is also my way of expressing myself

in ways only I can do, and with a media that I know and love. Computer art is perfect for me because it is clean and crisp and challenges me to put deep thought into how I do things.

For this poster, I chose to play off of the idea that our life is in the palm of our hand. In other words, we have the power to change our world through our art, for better or worse. Each image on the hand represents something. The bird is freedom; it can soar to new heights and fly to the farthest corners of Earth. The plants are growth, meaning that our lives can change and develop into something beautiful. The light surrounding the next finger represents our ability to show the truth through the darkest of times. A good piece of art has the ability to shed "light" on what normally would not be said. The water and the fish swimming up it symbolize moving forward in our lives. Like water, we must continue on our path in life, no matter what may try to stop us. Finally, the last finger is a paint brush, which signifies that we can take these ideas and make them real.

4. Javier Santiago Delgado, The Art Institute of Raleigh-Durham



Designer's Statement

The idea of the poster was to have two main colors used and manipulated to create emphasis on the female. Though two colors would make one assume that the poster would be viewed as dull and insipid, the two colors were blue and olive green so it was better to use them in many different motions. The most important part I wanted the viewers to see is the surrealism of my design. The aspect of making the picture a dream or illusion was tough to put out, but it was a success. I wanted the female to paint her future by her art and talent to pertain to the motto "Life is better with art in it."

I see myself in this picture because it is basically what I am doing at this moment: using my talents and gifts to see art in such an unimaginable way, that it makes art look beautiful. I have always wanted to be in the design career. This is more like my dream career because it is something I would love to become the best at and more. I chose The Art Institutes to help me become the person of my dreams, and the

best possible artist I can be. I want to touch people's lives and perspectives by my art. I know that The Art Institutes will teach me the things I need to know to be an inspiring artist and graphic designer.

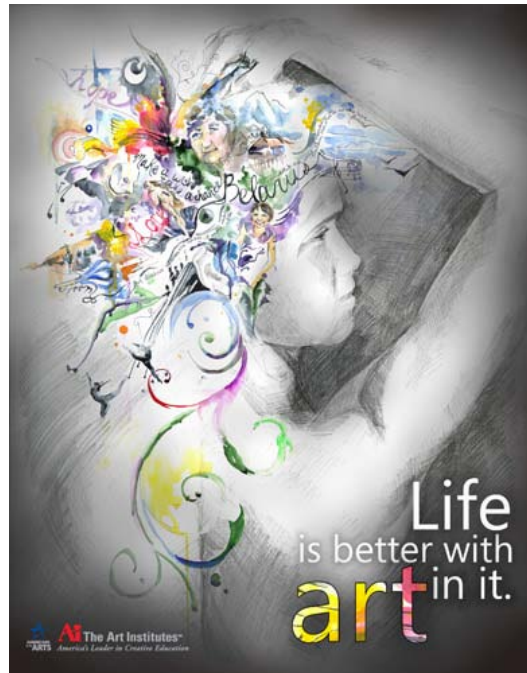
3. Branwyn Flinders, The Art Institute of Pittsburgh



Designer's Statement

Coming from an artistic family I have always been around and influenced by art from an early age. Whether it be famous paintings, advertisements in magazines, design on packaging, or billboards along the street, I have been intrigued by art and the cultures, materials and personal style that influence the design of different work created around the world. While I enjoy the fine arts I also like to use various media and technical programs to design and enhance pieces I create. In my future career I would like to design magazine advertisements, packaging and logos that people will see and recognize around the world. I designed my poster to portray the idea of using art to make your mark or "coloring your world" through originality and creativity using you own skill and talent. Personally, most of my talents are expressed through my hands, which is why I chose to use my hand modeling the message "Color your world."

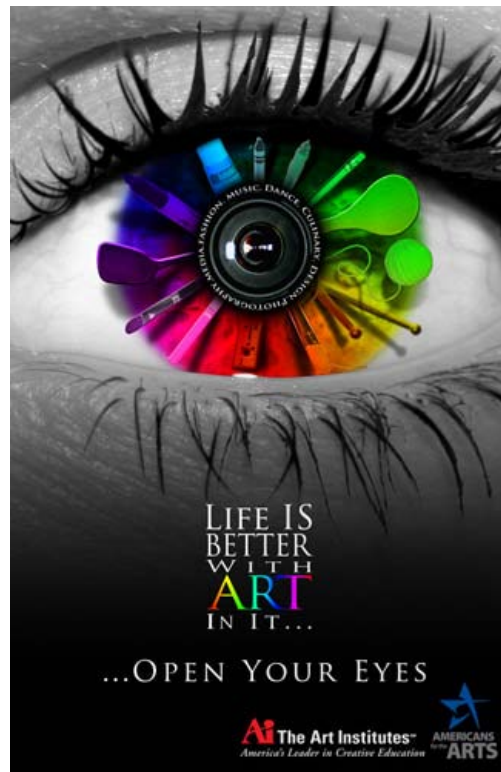
2. Tatsiana Alexandrovna Shynkevich, The Illinois Institute of Art — Chicago



Designer's Statement

It is our imagination, ideas, and creative thinking that color our black and white world. I chose to focus on art as a medium for expressing and developing one's personal voice and identity. My design presents a world where one wears their experiences, memories, ideas, and allows their imagination to run free. The explosion of colors, designs, lyrics, places and people, demonstrates the power of art to preserve culture and enrich life. The graphic design field will allow me to communicate ideas creatively, as well as colour and elevate our everyday lives.

1. Ciara Borchard, The Art Institute of California — San Diego



Designer's Statement

Art has been my passion and main focus all my life. In school and outside, I have continuously studied and learned different forms of art. When I found this competition, I started bouncing different ideas around. To make life seem more colorful, I wanted to incorporate a black and white background with something to make the entire picture "pop" and come alive. I wanted to make an everyday object be seen in a different light. I wrote down a few objects and decided on the human eye. I came up with the concept of making the iris into a color wheel from the study of color theory in my art classes. I also wanted to include the tools of different forms of art, so I inserted those around the iris. The rest just fell into place. I must say it took quite a bit of trial and error, but it was worth it when I saw my finished product!

I started considering the field of graphic design and advertising after doing a project in my history class. The assignment was to create a slide show with music and pictures representing the song. After that, I started researching fields that entailed all of the things I am looking for in my future career. I want a job that will allow me to use my talents and challenge my creative muscles. Graphic design is the perfect solution to keep me happy in a working environment and allow me to leave my mark on the world an amazing way.