

William Adkins & Desiree Rios

William Adkins, Teacher

I don't usually show my work to my students. I do, however, demonstrate various processes in the classroom which will produce a product like this life-size ceramic bust of a student (right). The work I create in my own studio is usually more conceptual, like the two pieces below, which are part of my *Dallas Morning News* series.



I want my students to explore; take chances and treat each creation as an opportunity to discover something new. I try not to get in the way of that by doing a lot of "teaching." I encourage my students to find their own voice. I simply present them with a concept or theme

and let them run with it. They dictate both the content and materials. I'm just one of many resources they may reference.

William Adkins is an art teacher at Molina High School in Dallas, Texas.



Desiree Rios, Student

I pursue more than the visual impact of my work; I aim for the realm of emotions. Embracing spontaneity, I have little regard for tradition and allow the process to lead me in new directions. If a piece doesn't intrigue me, I have no interest in completing it.

I like the fluidity of the water in my paint. It offers a reflection of the creativity flowing through my mind and I take advantage of this in my work. I try not to force any feeling or facets onto my art. A respect for my own vision and the ability to recognize the boundaries of my ability are things I believe are crucial to the creative process. I don't push for perfection, but manipulate what I can do to create works that speak for themselves. I don't dwell on the talent I don't have, but ride the creative swell to an isle of creation that I, myself, have built.



Desiree Rios is a Senior at Molina High School in Dallas, Texas.



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.