

Lori Stevens, Teacher

Much of what I create begins with class projects. Recently I've been influenced by Eberhard Huckstadt, an artist who maximizes the use of contour line to create sensuous forms. Following his lead, I add lots of color to cloth and, combined with lyrical line, find the simplicity and free flow to be satisfying. I've taken this approach into watercolors and acrylic paintings and feel that I have flourished with both. Using Huckstadt in class has shown students how



expressive a simple contour line can be. His work provides so many teachable moments. Students' drawings have become equally expressive, and they have become so much more willing to experiment. Our motto has become: "Play, experiment, make mistakes, and then fix them!"

Lori Stevens teaches art at Orland High School in Chico, California. lorindamae@msn.com



Samantha Francis, Student

I use color as a form of language. My pieces not only speak through the actions and positions of my subjects, but also through tone, value, and color. Before I paint, I ask, "What is this picture going to say to people?" While I want my audience to discover their own interpretations, I also want to give them a clear picture of what I am hearing and seeing, so I use loose brushstrokes and irregular contours. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so instead of



trying to create a piece that is considered perfection by a certain audience, I create messy, yet deliberate forms of my ideas, giving them movement and noise as well as room for the viewer to find their own idea of beauty inside of it.

Samantha Francis is a student at Orland High School in Chico, California.



Call for Entries:

This year, *SchoolArts* is recognizing the work of 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.