



Promoting creative power in people with disabilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **In spite of Michigan's economic trials VSA arts of Michigan is dedicated Highlighting Michigan's emerging artists.**

Detroit, MI – **VSA arts of Michigan exhibits some of Michigan's most talented emerging artists in its Visionary Art 2009 emerging arts tour.** The emerging artist exhibit is currently traveling throughout the state.

The **40 showcased art pieces** were created by artists of all ages and at various levels of experience. All 40 pieces were picked by a jury of art professionals after reviewing 166 pieces of artwork.

The jurors this year were: Heidi Kumoa, interdisciplinary artist; Lois Teicher, sculptor; and Jack Olds, watercolorist.

We couldn't fit everything into the first exhibit so we have a second show featuring **19 art works** was chosen to tour to alternative sites. The alternative exhibit has a different flare, definitely worth looking at.

This year's artists are from 17 Michigan communities including Highland Park, Detroit, Flint, Southfield, Beverly Hills, Three Rivers, Constantine, Otisville, Waterford, Alpena, Davison, Taylor, Pontiac, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Southgate, and Redford.

**Visionary Art 2009** the main exhibit will premiere at the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Convention at the Amway Hotel in Grand Rapids from March 4 to 6. The Alternative exhibit will premiere at the Glenn Oaks Community College in Centreville from March 7 to 28.

The exhibits will travel throughout the year to a variety of sites such as Livonia City Hall, Copper Country Community Arts Center, Washtenaw Intermediate School District, MSU Museum, Genesee Intermediate School District, Bonifas Arts Center, and several conferences.

**VSA arts of Michigan** (VSAMI) is a member of the international network of VSA arts, an affiliate of The **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**. VSA arts was founded in 1974 by Jean Kennedy Smith, and has as been designated

by the U.S. congress as the nation's coordinating agency for arts programs for people with disabilities. Over five million people participate in VSA arts programs every year through a network of affiliates throughout the United States, and in over 60 countries worldwide.

VSA arts of Michigan supports its programs and services across the state through grants from national VSA arts under an award from the United States Department of Education, the **Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs**, and through contributions from corporations, foundations and individuals.

For information a detailed schedule please visit our web site at [www.vsami.org](http://www.vsami.org) or call the VSA arts of Michigan office at 313-832-3303.