



High School Student Art Contest & Exhibition

ALL CHESTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED
TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR 8TH ANNUAL STUDENT ART CONTEST



Event sponsored by our friends & partners at the National Arts Program

THEME & INSPIRATION

Your mission is to inspire hope, unity, and positive change through your art. Use your creativity to convey the strength and resilience of survivors of domestic violence and their communities. Emphasize the power of unity in the face of adversity. Your artwork should serve as a message of support and a call to action for those affected by domestic violence.

You may channel your creativity to express the stories of survivors and their healing process. You may consider the work our community can and has done – and the work the Domestic Violence Center does to support survivors and prevent abuse. Your art should reflect the resilience, strength, and the indomitable spirit of survivors. Explore the emotions, experiences, and the path to recovery through your art.

You have the freedom to choose your medium, whether it's painting, drawing, sculpture, digital art, or another form. Let your creativity rebel against the silence surrounding domestic violence and speak loudly for those who need a voice. The color purple is our canvas, representing domestic violence awareness. You're encouraged to incorporate shades of purple into your artwork.

Your art can be a force for change, a catalyst for unity, and a symbol of strength. Join us in using art to advocate for domestic violence awareness and inspire hope within our communities. We eagerly await your artistic expressions.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION AND ELIGIBILITY

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) provides free and confidential services to victims/survivors of domestic violence and their dependent children. For the 8th year, DVCCC is hoping to highlight the talent of young artists through holding a contest and gallery exhibition open to all high school students in Chester County. This year's contest will be hosted by, and entries will be displayed publicly at **Raymour & Flanigan in Exton, PA.**

- Students should **preregister for the competition** using [the link here](#) or found at www.dvcccpcpa.org/student-art-contest **by Friday, March 15th, 2024.**
- Artwork will be due for drop-off to or pick-up by DVCCC on or before **Friday, March 22nd, 2024.**
- Artwork will be featured online and displayed publicly throughout the week of **March 30 – April 6th** with a **Reception on Saturday, April 6th** from 2 - 4 PM to announce and celebrate the winners and all participants!

The exhibit will feature only work submitted to the contest from high school students (GRADES 9-12) from throughout Chester County.

JUDGING AND AWARDS

A panel of VIP judges will determine the winners. Our special guest judges panel include our lead judges, **Jackie Szafara**, Executive Director of the National Arts Program, and **Victoria Browning Wyeth**.

Categories considered include and are not limited to: understanding of contest themes, emotion, technique, creativity, and more. All decisions made by the panel are final. Prizes will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners as well as the People's Choice winner (voted on by the public).

3rd Place – \$50 gift card for artist from the National Arts Program

2nd Place – \$100 cash prize for artist and \$100 for the artist's teacher/art department from the National Arts Program

1st Place – \$200 cash prize for artist and \$200 cash prize for artist's teacher/art department from the National Arts Program

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The entrant must create the original piece of visual art, unassisted.
- **Entries may be made on a flat or semi-flat surface so that they may be hung for display.** *Non-sculpture artwork ***must*** have wire securely attached to the back/top for hanging or in a frame that can be securely displayed on the wall properly.*
- Submissions are limited to TWO per person.
- Mediums may include, but are not limited to: ink, charcoal, pencil, paint, mixed media, photography, sculpture, etc.
- Entries will be judged creative interpretation of the theme as well as composition, execution, use of color, and originality of design.
- DVCCC retains the rights to reproduce the winning image in social media, website, and other printed materials.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winning pieces will be on display at DVCCC's All That's Purple Gala on May 2, 2024 at Penn Oaks Country Club and will be returned to student artists following that event.

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION DROP-OFF

- Students should preregister [HERE](#) or at www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest by Friday, March 15th, 2024. *Preregistration is for event space planning purposes only.*
- Artwork submissions accompanied with a registration form must be provided to or picked up by a DVCCC staff member/volunteer by Friday, March 22nd, 2024.

- *Each submission must have a registration form (see below) securely attached to the back of the art, regardless of preregistration. Form must include entrant's name, address, cell phone number, email address (for contest communication purposes only).*

EXHIBIT OPENING AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Exhibit will be open and available for public viewing during the Raymour & Flanigan operating hours from **March 30 – April 6th, 2024**.

There will be a **reception event** for the exhibit and a presentation of awards in person (an email invitation will be sent to all registrants) on **Saturday, April 6th, 2024 from 2 – 4 PM**. All students are strongly encouraged to attend to accept their prizes and other recognition. Students should take their artwork home following the reception *(with the exception of 1st – 3rd place winners)*.

ARTWORK PICKUP

If student artwork is not picked up following the reception, submitted artwork must be arranged for pick up from DVCCC staff/volunteers. *Please note: Employees and volunteers of DVCCC and Raymour & Flanigan are NOT responsible for lost, stolen, damaged or unclaimed artwork.*

QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES

You can follow updates at www.dvcccpa.org/student-art-contest and on DVCCC's social media pages (Facebook and Instagram).

Contact Amelia Rayburn-Pizzica directly at arayburn@dvcccpa.org for questions regarding contest & exhibit.

For more information about the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County visit www.dvcccpa.org

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to providing intervention, education, outreach, advocacy, and programs to prevent, reduce, and remedy domestic violence in Chester County. DVCCC provides trauma-informed and evidence-based services at a main, confidentially located site and satellite sites in Coatesville, Kennett Square, Oxford, and Phoenixville. The mission of the Domestic Violence Center is to reduce, remedy, and prevent Domestic Violence in Chester County.

(Detach and complete the form – below – and attach to the back of the artwork prior to drop off)

REGISTRATION FORM

Students need to obtain parent/guardian permission to enter the art contest. Please review the rules prior to submitting your entry. Firmly attach this completed form to the back of the artwork.

Student's Name (First) (Last):
Address: City: State: Zip:
Phone: Email:
School: Art Teacher's Name:
Name of piece (indicate if untitled):
Indicate grade: __ Freshman __ Sophomore __ Junior __ Senior
Medium (indicate which): __ ink __ charcoal __ pencil __ oil paint __ acrylic paint __ watercolor paint __ mixed media __ other (_____)
Parent's signature/permission: cell # _____

MORE ON DVCCC AND THE MOVEMENT

In the early 1900s, purple, along with white and gold, became the colors of the National Women's Party, symbolizing 'purity, hope, and loyalty.' This powerful trio of colors embodied the spirit of the Women's Suffrage Movement, a testament to the strength of hope and the pursuit of justice. Fast forward to the March for the Equal Rights Amendment in 1978, where purple remained a prominent hue, adorning the marchers' lavender attire and banners of purple, white, and gold. This marked the continued journey towards gender equality.

Following this pivotal march, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence initiated a 'Day of Unity' in October 1981, uniting advocates against violence towards women and sparking the creation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In 1983, Congress officially designated October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, with the color purple standing as a beacon of hope in the fight to end domestic violence. Purple, known for its association with the women's rights movement, also carries the symbolism of peace, courage, and survival.

The connection between the domestic violence awareness movement and the color purple serves as a poignant way to remember and honor the victims and survivors of domestic violence. It's a reminder of the resilience and strength displayed by survivors as they journey towards healing.

At the heart of this movement is the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County (DVCCC), a 47-year-old nonprofit organization that serves over 1,500 victims and survivors of abuse from our communities each year. DVCCC provides free, accessible, and completely confidential services that include a 24-hour hotline, counseling, support groups, case management, therapy, legal representation, legal advocacy, immigration support, housing, emergency safe house shelter, education, training, and prevention programming.

In May 2021, DVCCC responded to a community tragedy related to domestic violence by planting the Tree of Hope & Healing in Schuylkill Township. This project aimed to create a sanctuary where our community could mourn the loss of those affected by domestic violence while fostering healing and hope for those still living in abusive situations. The Tree of Hope & Healing, along with its surrounding garden, became a place of solace and peace for our community members. Expanding our project in the summer of 2022 to Kennett Square and Hibernia County Park, we spread the message of hope and healing to more communities in Chester County. In October, we illuminate these trees and other local monuments with radiant purple lights, launching our first annual countywide event: 'Light the Night for Hope & Healing.' This event serves as a shining beacon of hope for our community, reassuring everyone that they are not alone in their journey towards healing.

To the aspiring artists participating in this contest, we urge you to channel your creativity towards the boundless inspiration and hope that extends beyond domestic violence victimization. Through your artwork, we aim to create something beautiful that inspires our community to stand together against domestic violence, as a beacon of hope and a symbol of strength.