

VISUAL ARTS | PHOTOGRAPHY | ANTIQUES | MUSIC | THEATRE

Nashville Arts

June 2011

MAGAZINE

Nancy Lee Andrews

Duy Huynh

"Big Al" Carter

The Hope Diamond

The Annual Photo Contest Winners

Battle Ground Academy

by Beth English | photography by Anthony Scarlati

Shannon Kelly

Shannon Kelly is a mixed media artist studying in her final year at BGA. She creates art because:

“I like showing how I feel through pictures and art. I like expressing myself. With mixed media you can create something different and true to your emotions through showing variety with the ink and the paint in the pictures.”

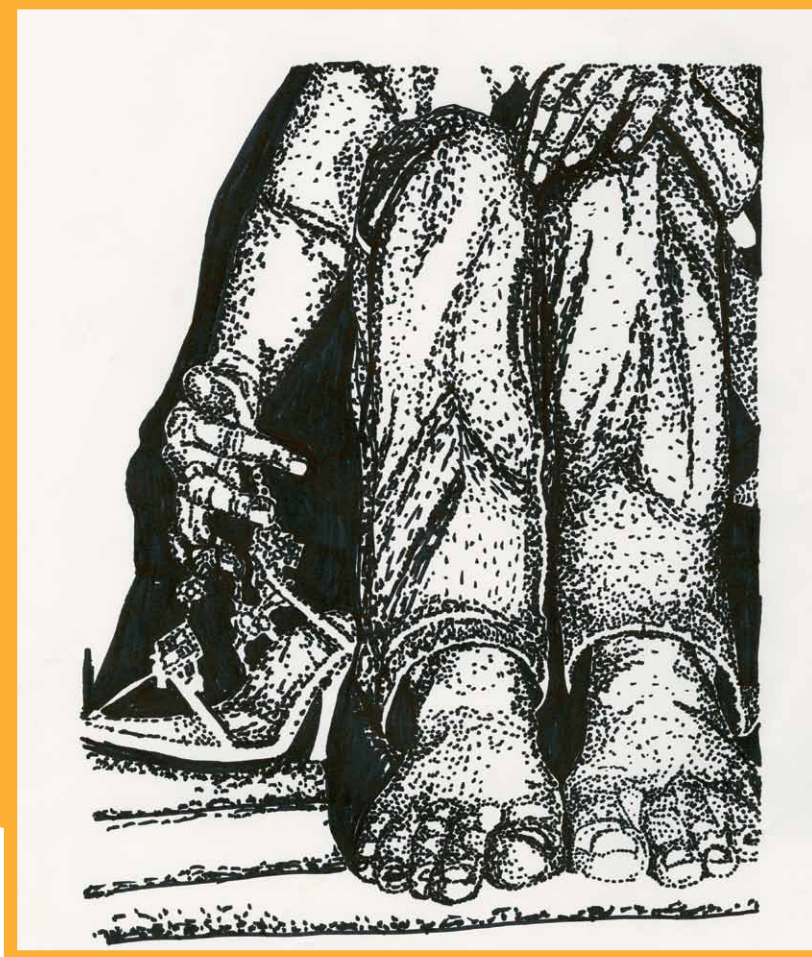
Kelly learned to love art at a very young age. When her older sister went to art class, Kelly followed. She was too young to be enrolled but old enough for the material to spark an interest. Then in middle school Kelly realized she had a real passion for art when she completed a mask for an arts competition. She says,

“That sense of accomplishment propelled me into taking art all the way into high school.”

When Kelly begins her process she gravitates towards pen, ink, and graphic design as her tools to express her ideas.

“I don’t like to sketch before. I just like starting, and if I mess up it becomes part of it. Then afterwards I can scan it into the computer and work with it there. When it comes to the art at BGA, technology plays an important role. It’s great to work on computers, because with mixed media you can use graphic design to put it all together.”

Now when Kelly thinks about college she ponders how art will play a role. She says, “I definitely want to study art in college, but I’m not sure how far I will continue. I want it to always be a part of what I do later on in life.”



Grant Saunders

Grant Saunders is a multi-talented senior who loves to paint, act, sing, and play piano. With a wide variety of creative talents, Grant strives to create realistic oil paintings that have deeper meaning.

“When I made my first oil painting, it really hit me. It was awesome and the most fun I had doing art. Oil painting is my favorite. Once I finish a piece I feel like it’s the most rewarding thing to see something completed that you’ve put so much work into.”

Grant became interested in art while taking classes in elementary and middle school. His parents are huge art collectors, so naturally they were very supportive of his interests.

“Art was always my favorite class. Eventually, when I got into seventh and eighth grade, I got the feeling that I had a talent in it, and that led me into taking art in high school.”

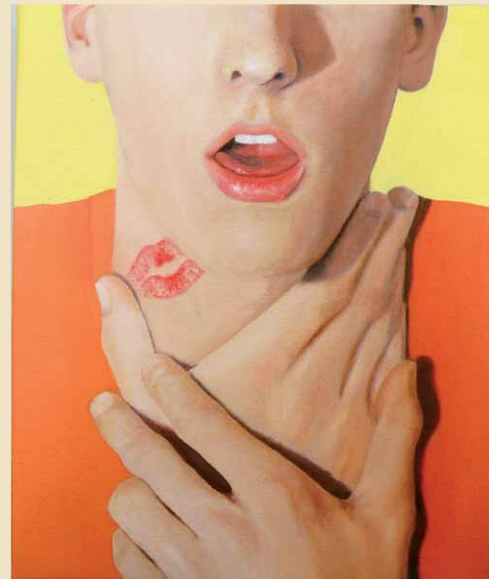
During his education at BGA, Saunders has won many prestigious art awards, including a Scholastic Gold Key Award his sophomore year, and this past year he won Best Painting for *Waiting #1* and First Place for *Choke* in the Middle Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibit.

He describes his process:

“For the most part my ideas just hit me; they come out of nowhere. I get pretty anxious and excited when I get ideas and want to immediately get them out of my head so I don’t lose it. From there I use photography to create the image for my painting. I love to use figures in my paintings, and I feel like with oil it’s just so easy and fun to blend skin tones.”

As for the future, Saunders isn’t quite sure where his art talents will take him, but he comments,

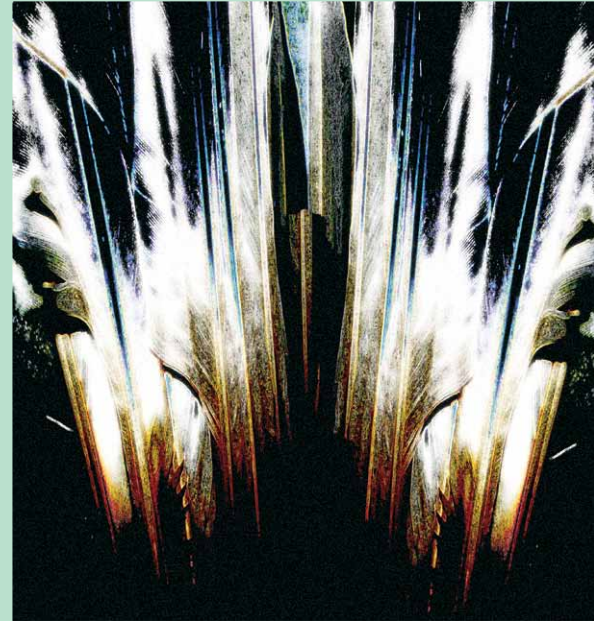
“There is a risk when you major in just art. You are either going to make it or you’re not. It makes sense to double it with advertising to create more opportunity for myself. Plus I’ve always loved graphic design. But in my dreams, I would be able to make a good living off of art and doing what I love to do, just painting. I’m just going to see what happens and see where college takes me. I think it would be really cool to one day have my own studio and some place I can go to paint, and then I want my own gallery.”



Katherine Pope

Katherine Pope is a mixed media artist that creates from her mind, brings it to paper and then to the computer screen.

"I like to make normal things what they aren't. I like changing things around to make something how it naturally wouldn't be seen. When I think of interpreting one thing with another, like nature and other living things, it's what makes me feel good."



Pope's art interests started during Christmas when her artist/fashion designer aunt gave Pope and her sister art kits as gifts. When Pope's parents noticed a talent in her, they immediately signed her up for classes. Art classes continued for many years, but it wasn't until last year at BGA that she discovered her love for mixed media.

"I tried to do the projects with paint, but I always felt more comfortable with graphic design. Technology has helped my views and perspective come to life. I think Photoshop has given so many people the ability to create art."

During her education at BGA, Pope exhibited her work at the Renaissance Center and at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. She is a very promising young artist with a strong point of view whose ideas will continue to unfold as her art career develops.

"I make whatever makes me feel happy. I just want to be able to create something big where I can own my ideas completely."

