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Mark Arts Adds Student Competition to Versus: A Live Art Battle

WICHITA, Kan. – Mark Arts will host its second interactive painting competition and fundraiser on September 23. Versus: A Live Art Battle will be presented by Bank of America and Koch Industries.

The live painting competition will feature 12 professional and emerging artists in an artistic smackdown, creating art in 20 minutes. Guests will vote for their favorite artist and the final round will feature the top two artists vying to become the champion. The winner will receive a solo exhibition at Mark Arts, and all artists will receive commissions on sales of their earlier work that is on display. The paintings created live will be auctioned off for the benefit of Mark Arts.

“The creation of art from start to finish is exhilarating to watch as the shapes and design take hold,” says Polly Gentry, special events chair and board trustee. “Watching them mix the perfect color to swipe across the canvas, seeing the intent on their faces as they step back from their canvas and contemplate their next stroke, and putting the finishing touches on as they complete their masterpiece — every minute of it is inspiring!”

New this year will be a battle of high school students, to take place 9 - 11 a.m. on September 23. Each participating student from 10 area schools will receive a \$100 cash scholarship, with the winner taking home \$500 and the runner-up \$300.

Who: Those who champion the arts and find inspiration in the creative process

What: Versus: A Live Art Battle special event and fundraiser

Where: Mark Arts, 9112 E. Central, Wichita, KS 67206

When: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Friday, September 23

Why: Be inspired as artists demonstrate their talents in an interactive environment

Limited space is available. Tickets in advance are \$60 each or \$100 at the door. Reserve today by calling 316.634.2787, or visit MarkArtsKS.com/Versus.

Competing Artists:

Torin Andersen, Alex Browne, Mariah Branine, Jean Cook, Wesley Moore, Barbara Niewald, Charlotte Patterson, Brady Scott, Holley Schmidlapp, Steven Small, Donna Yeager and Denise Ziegler.

Student Battle Competitors:

Andover Central High School's Kate Hale, Augusta High School's Libby Richey, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School's Emily Cass, Hutchinson High School's Julia Hardenburger, The Independent School's Rose Palmer, Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School's Emily Le, Trinity Academy's Grace Shivley, Wichita Collegiate High School's Jane Chen, Wichita Northwest High School's Mitchel Dameron and Wichita Southeast High School's Susan Lam.

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About Mark Arts

The mission of Mark Arts is to be a vibrant arts hub in Wichita and the region by providing opportunities to appreciate and create art in an atmosphere of lifelong learning. It was originally founded in 1920 as the Wichita Art Association, later became The Wichita Center for the Arts and is the area's oldest visual arts organization. The galleries are open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Visit MarkArtsKS.com or call 316.634.2787.

MARY R KOCH ARTS CENTER