Press Release

March 27th, 2003

For Immediate Release: Belmont Sponsors the Sixth State High School Art Open Competition

For the sixth time on April 27th Belmont University will sponsor the state open art competition for High School students grades 9 through 12. The show of approximately 150 selected works represents the best work of Tennessee’s up an coming talent from the last two years. Past shows have showcased artwork from 50 different High Schools. Unlike sporting events there are no divisions only categories. The best faces the best and students are allowed to enter up to 3 works. Awards are given in various categories as well as Best of Show and Best School.

Show organizer Dan Johnson of Belmont’s Department of Art stated that past shows have been dominated by local high schools. “Hendersonville High always has outstanding sculptural work.”

“I’m also always impressed by MBA, Harpeth Hall and Brentwood High School. Their work is always characterized by both quantity and quality. Not only is their craft excellent for high school work it is always also conceptually strong.” Said Johnson.

“We’re hoping to reach more students from outside of the mid-state this year by making all of the materials available on the internet. I also hope that out of town teachers, while here, will take advantage of the many visual arts venues in and around Nashville like the Frist Center, The State Museum, the Parthenon and Cheekwood. Nashville’s emergence as an art center should attract those teachers trying to expose their students to the value of the visual arts.”

The show is already highly selective and a work has only a one in five chance of making it into the show. The work selected for awards is always of exceptional quality. As more schools enter, Belmont expects it to become more and more difficult to select a small show. The Leu Gallery in the Library at Belmont makes an outstanding venue for display of the top work. Local teachers feel it is one of, if not the best, showcase offered to their students each year.

The show has been an annual event at Belmont since 1996 with only two years off. One of those years was the year their growing art program moved into new facilities at the Leu Center for the Visual Arts.
Awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention are presented the day of the opening in four categories; Painting, Sculpture and Crafts, Drawing, and finally Graphics and Photography. Teachers or students can drop off work Wednesday April 16th in the Leu gallery from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Thursday morning April 17th from 10 a.m. to noon. Work will also be accepted by mail if received by Monday April 21st. Students or teachers interested in entering can find all of the necessary information at http://campus.belmont.edu/art/home/stateart.html.