

THE 2011 EUGENIE COLADARCI ARTS SCHOLARSHIP
CATALINA OUYANG

Thirteen years ago, as a part of our 25th anniversary celebration, The Arts Council of the Morris Area collaborated with the Coladarci family and initiated what has become a \$1,250 scholarship award to be given annually to a graduating Morris County high school senior who plans to pursue further study in an area related to the arts. Created as a tribute to the memory of our former Board Chair, Eugenie Coladarci, who was Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations for Chase Manhattan Bank and an active member of the Arts Council of the Morris Area for eleven years, the scholarship recognizes artistic excellence and encourages the artists of the future, in keeping with the Arts Council's mission and with Genie Coladarci's role as a statewide champion of the arts who actively encouraged the development of young artists and strongly believed the arts were essential to the quality of life.

I am pleased to announce that this year's award winner is Catalina Ouyang, a gifted visual artist who lives in Morris Plains and is soon to graduate from Parsippany Hills High School.

Catalina's artworks have won multiple first place and top awards at a wide variety of competitions from the prestigious Blackwell Street Juried Student Art Exhibit to the American Juried Art Salon: Decorative Arts International of 2011. She has also been invited to show her work in NYC's Broadway Gallery and at the Hamilton Galleries in LA and will have her work published in *Manifest Gallery's International Drawing Annual VI*.

One of her teacher's recommendations began simply, "Catalina Ouyang is a creative force" and then went on to detail her exceptional work ethic, inventive and unique vision as well as her

passion for her work. Beyond serving for two years as President of her school's chapter of the National Art Honor Society, Catalina routinely visits galleries, researches artists and "Takes every opportunity on her own time to soak up art." Her art teacher added, "...her hunger for knowledge shines through in the incredible pieces she creates... Catalina Ouyang is a rare talent with a very bright future."

Profoundly affected by a terrifying experience of temporary blindness/deafness, Catalina Ouyang briefly faced the prospect, "never to draw again - never to draw again!...never to paint again!" Her renewed appreciation for those miraculous senses is reflected in her fascinating, complex and edgy artworks. She states in an essay, "I understand now that for me, art is the purest form of human communication. It expresses what all languages cannot, in the way it transfers raw emotional and cerebral information and it holds the capacity to provoke the most feral of human reactions: those of sight and of instinct."

The Arts Scholarship scholarship panel was particularly impressed by Catalina's works which are technically masterful, darkly expressive, emotionally complex, subtle, surprisingly mature and strongly original.

In the Fall, Catalina will be attending the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis – on full tuition scholarship!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Arts Council of the Morris Area, it is my great pleasure to award the thirteenth annual Eugenie Coladarci Arts Scholarship to Catalina Ouyang.

May 12, 2011