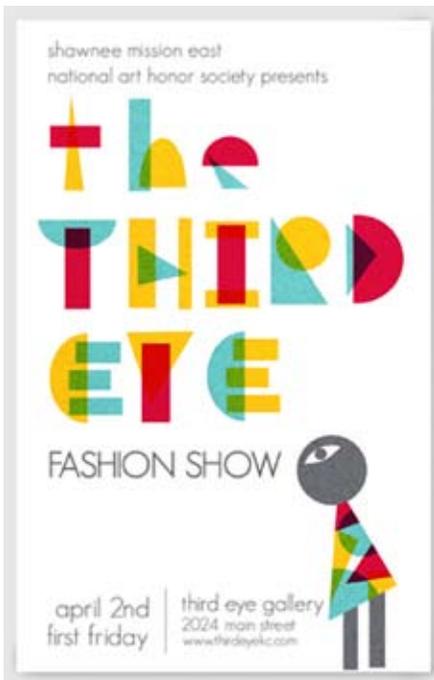


# 2010/11 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Coyne Family Foundation Award



## MARIA THOMPSON

Graphic Design  
Freshman  
Ringling College of Art and Design



Perhaps my mother knew from the minute I was born that I was going to be quite the talker. She nicknamed me Gaby, a name that has caused a good amount of teasing due to my talkative nature. I have always loved to communicate with others, connect with them, inform them, and encourage them to see things from my and others' point of view.

Perhaps it is the creative streak that runs through my family – from writers to painters to musicians – that influenced my lifelong love for art. As I watched cartoons, read picture books, and visited art museums, I learned to appreciate anything creative, and attempted to be creative myself. When I joined my school's yearbook staff as a designer almost three years ago, I found a way to combine my love for communication with my love for art: graphic design.



Worldstudio  
FOUNDATION



the professional association for design

**MARIA THOMPSON**

Graphic Design

During the past three years, I have applied my artistic abilities to a new, digital medium, with different standards and purposes than the paintings and drawings that I had, until then, thought that art was. I've worked with other creative individuals to create cohesive and informative spreads, and as Design Editor of the yearbook this year, I have learned to direct the design of a massive project and to lead a team of individuals who love design as much as I do. It's a challenging position that has allowed me to discover what I want to do for the rest of my life: be a graphic designer, and later, the art director of a design or advertising firm.

In addition to pursuing a career in the digital arts, I also plan to inspire others, specifically other young Hispanics. I volunteer in the Art Room at ReStart, a homeless shelter. Many of the children I work with are Hispanic, and looking into their eyes and hearing them speak my language, I see them as small versions of me – only with a more difficult and unpromising childhood than I had. They are fascinated by my plans to go to college, and I, in turn, am fascinated and inspired by their determination to have a better future. In my culture, a career in the arts means a career as a homeless, starving artist; it was difficult for me to convince my Panamanian family that I was taking the right career path. I want to open both young and old minds to the possibilities of applying art in this communication and technology-driven century. The digital arts are the perfect combination of technology and art: it makes traditional art contemporary through web design, interactive media, and motion design. I plan to inspire young Hispanics on a personal level through continuing to volunteer at ReStart Art, and by example through becoming a successful graphic designer, with my culture and these children's determination as my inspiration.

