

# 2008/09 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Coyne Family Foundation Honorable Mention



## SCOTT EVERETT

Illustration

Junior

The Center for Creative Studies

**My name is Scott Wesson Everett**, and I live in Chandler, Arizona. I am currently attending Mesa Community College, in Mesa, Arizona. I have been accepted as a student at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan. I intend to take the knowledge and skills I receive from the College for Creative Studies to initiate social change and increase tolerance and understanding of all cultures.

My decision to work in this field has resulted from the different experiences I have had growing up. I spent my earliest years in Detroit, Michigan, where most of my family is from and where I began my exploration of the arts. My mother noticed my talent while I was supposed to be writing an essay on insects. Most, if not all, of my effort was placed on drawing a bug as opposed to writing about it. Upon seeing my drawing, my mother began to enroll me in art classes around Detroit. I was seven years old, very eager to learn, and because of my family's support, I noticed my talent. This discovery gave me more desire to continue to learn about art.



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My family moved to Chandler, Arizona, when I was nine years old because my parents felt that Arizona would be a better place to raise my sister and me. They felt Arizona was safer and cleaner than where we were. In the beginning, it was hard for me to transition into the new environment since I was young when we moved. One thing in particular was the difficulty in keeping my African-American identity in a predominantly white community. Because of my age when we moved, I started to assimilate into the white community, losing sight of my heritage because I wanted to fit in. This internal conflict continued until I reached the middle of high school, when I figured out I just needed to be who I am and be proud of my uniqueness.

I would occasionally sell my art to family and friends, but when I entered high school I really started to grow artistically because of my art teacher, Ms. Boyle, at Chandler High. It was in Ms. Boyle's classes that I began to focus on my goal of creating dramatic pieces of artwork. I was in the Chandler High AP studio art classes for three years. During those years, I entered pieces in the school's art contests. My work centered on images of people of African descent, which differed significantly from the other works that were entered. While I rarely won awards, I continued to produce images that instilled pride in my heritage.

As I grew, so did my exposure to the world around me and my ability to bring my art alive. During summer break, I volunteered at my mother's Title 1 elementary school in South Phoenix to help students become more creative and express themselves artistically and culturally. I also worked with their after-school programs to bring knowledge of other cultures and art to their young minds. It was experiences like this and many others that stimulated my creativity and my desire to pursue art that can result in social change increased tolerance and understanding of all cultures.

