



# Jerry Tollifson ART Criticism Open

## 2023-2024

*“Because people are continuously confronted by visual images in their daily lives, they need instruction in the process of understanding what the images mean and how they can be understood. Providing the instruction has become the responsibility of the Art teacher.” -Jerry Tollifson*

Jerry Tollifson was one of the Ohio Art Education Association’s most long-standing, beloved, and influential members. His long and colorful career as an artist and educator inspired countless students and teachers across the state. The Jerry Tollifson Art Criticism Open is one way his legacy continues to encourage and shape art students and teachers today.

Jerry conceived this writing competition as an annual opportunity to recognize students for their ability to articulate and compose critical responses to artworks. He promoted the idea that exercising critical thinking and careful observation while discovering an artwork’s deeper meanings empowered students to also build self-discipline and confidence. He saw the competition as another way to engage students in observing, perceiving, analyzing, and interpreting—abilities that show up repeatedly in the Ohio Fine Arts Learning Standards and National Visual Arts Standards, and have practical relevance in other academic areas and as life skills.

Students compete in one of 4 Divisions:

Division 1 Grades 1 & 2

Division 2 Grades 3 - 5

Division 3 Grades 6 - 8

Division 4 Grades 9 -12

Teachers may submit up to 10 essays, one essay per student.

Each division can select from either artwork #1 or artwork #2 for their writing entries. Please be sure to refer to the JTACO rubric for guidance on writing.

**Theme:** Harmony

**Submissions Due:** January 12th

**Division 1:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades; Subject matter: Animals in art

Image 1:



Henri Rousseau, Tiger in a Storm or Surprised!, 1891



**Division 1:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades; Subject matter: Animals in art

Image 2:



William H. Johnson, Early Morning Work, 1940

**Division 2:** 3rd - 5th Grades; Subject matter: Landscapes

Image 1:



Berthe Morisot, Hanging the Laundry out to Dry, 1875



**Division 2:** 3rd - 5th Grades; Subject matter: Landscapes

Image 2:



(Detail)



Hannah Streefkerk, Spotted, 2021



**Division 3:** 6th - 8th Grades; Subject matter: Social Commentary

Image 1:

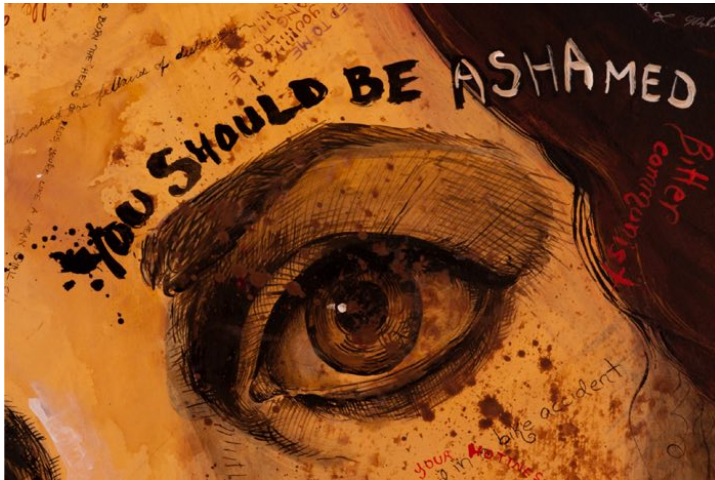


Wendy Red Star, The Last Thanks, 2006



**Division 3:** 6th - 8th Grades; Subject matter: Social Commentary

Image 2:



(Detail)



Molly Crabapple - *Portraits of myself and Lola Montes with things said about us by our contemporaries*, 2014

**Division 4:** 9th - 12th Grades; Subject matter: Social Commentary

Image 1:



Pablo Picasso, Guernica, 1937



**Division 4:** 9th - 12th Grades; Subject matter:  
Social Commentary

Image 2:



(Details)



Do Ho Su, Floor, 1997-2000