



Smithsonian
*Donald W. Reynolds Center for
American Art and Portraiture*
National Portrait Gallery

**ABOUT “PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST” –
THE OUTWIN BOOCHEVER PORTRAIT COMPETITION 2006**

As the search for the winner of the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006 began in the spring of 2005, the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery opened a window to the world of some of today’s artists with the unique “Portrait of an Artist” campaign.

Based on competition entries and personal statements, the Gallery randomly selected 10 artists from across the country to give art lovers a chance to see them at work. How? The Gallery invited the selected artists to maintain a written, audio, and/or visual log of their daily lives. These records were regularly uploaded to, and maintained on, the competition Web site.

This online diary has enabled artists from around the country to have their work featured on the Gallery’s Web site in a way that might otherwise not have been possible. It has also enabled Internet surfers and art enthusiasts to keep up with the faces, lives and times of the constantly changing art world. It is ... a portrait of an artist.

Here is what some of the featured artists—and others—had to say about “Portrait of an Artist:”

Patrick Duegaw (featured artist): “I just want to say again how much I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of all this. Not only have I felt like I am involved with something rather exciting, but it has helped me to organize and put into words, all these thoughts and stories that I have been kicking around for so many years.”

Mary Jane Cross: “I have enjoyed the Portrait of an Artist section of the competition. If I have already entered the competition, how may I hope to be included in the Portrait of an Artist section? Must I apply separately or just declare my interest?”

Demi Raven (featured artist): “Here is the next entry - thanks again for extending the journal timeline. I enjoy writing and it is a really nice venue. I have been receiving some very kind comments from strangers via email - very pleasant.”

Pam Alvarez: “I think this will be an eye opening account. After 30 years of struggle and starvation for my art I’m curious to see the lives of other artists in this country.”

“Portrait of an Artist” proved so popular during the Competition that the Gallery continues to maintain it as an integral part of the Competition Web site. In the spring of 2006, as the Gallery prepares for its grand opening in July, a variety of the seven Competition finalists will be added to the roster of artists featured on this unique Web site.

Participation in the Portrait of an Artist campaign has in no way affected or influenced the jury’s decision in selecting semifinalists, finalists and winners in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006. Selected participants will be asked to sign a release allowing their entries and work to be used for publicity and/or marketing purposes. For more information, please visit www.npg.si.edu.

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Media: for more information, please contact Cindy Karra at (202) 974-5009 or karrac@ruderfinn.com; or Bethany Morookian Bentley at (202) 275-1768.