

JANE NANA SMITH

I was born in the city of Dalian in the north of China. Before attending school my mom thought a girl would be sensitive to learning art, so she sent me to art classes from a very young age and I was pretty good in art. That is how I started my art life. At that time I was a five year old little girl with an art dream. After a year, because I had shown promise in my art classes, my art teacher sent me to a higher class to improve my art skills. By that time I had started my primary school, so I could only go to the art class every weekend but it didn't affect my interest in art. Since starting art classes and all during my primary school career I have taken extra classes every weekend and every summer holidays.

My secondary school had the best art school in Dalian city. We had art lessons every afternoon from 12 clock to 5 clock and we also had the best art teachers in my city. I only spent a year in my secondary school because I moved to the Middle East to be with my mom and stepfather which is where I am staying now in Abu Dhabi - UAE.

I joined the Cambridge High School, Abu Dhabi, two years ago and began taking my lessons in the English medium for the first time in my life- which was a big challenge! I then started to learn western art, western art is quite different from the art I had learned in China. Western art is more free, more relaxed than Chinese art. I really enjoy western art and at the same time I am also proud of the Chinese type of art.

I like doing still life study, either printing work or pencil work, but I have a lot to learn about small detail art work. I like to take photos then transfer them into art works. Lately I have been learning how to do abstract art with my art teacher which I also enjoy a lot.

In 2006 I was recognized as one of the 36 most talented art students in the UAE and was chosen to go to Andrew Vicari's Art Master Class where I learned art with Andrew Vicari for 5 days. I was very proud that I was one of 6 students who won the top prize.

Last month I was asked to make a poster for the “Beautiful People Foundation” and I was very glad to hear that there is going to be a Beautiful People Center in Dubai for all the disabled people who are interested in art.

The idea of my poster was very simple – “Different is also beautiful”! On the left bottom corner of the my poster is part of a huge flower with all the same shape of petals in beautiful pink colour – except the middle one, which is also in a really beautiful pink colour but with a different shape to the others. I didn't paint any details in the picture, and the colours I use are very pure, without a lot of colours mixed together, because I wanted it to be simple and nice.

I was surprised when I heard the news that I have won the first place in this poster competition - however I was really happy and glad that I have helped the people who are in love with art just like me, even though the help I have given is very small.

