



Ann Marie Williams is an award-winning fine artist and illustrator residing in Reston, Va. She is the winner of the 2006 National Cherry Blossom Festival® Art Contest, with her entry prevailing over those of more than 70 other entries created by artists from all over the country, and around the globe - including Japan and the Netherlands.

A graduate of Howard University's fine arts program, Ms. Williams has worked as a graphic designer, publications manager and art director, received numerous graphic design awards, and judged several national design competitions. She is an Associate Art Director with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington, DC, and has taught graphic design courses at The American University School of Communications.

Ms. Williams recently illustrated a children's book entitled "NAPPY" by noted author, Charisse Carney-Nunes. This humorous and delightfully illustrated book is a history lesson and educational tool for parents, teachers, and older children framed within the story of a young girl's "nappy" hair. The book is scheduled for release in January 2006.

Ms. Williams supports art education in local communities and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for MTC Art Studios in Prince George's County, Md. The organization provides art instruction for talented and gifted art students in grades 1-12, and teaches the youth about entrepreneurship, college preparation and involvement in their communities.

Recent group art shows include the Howard University Alumni Show, Embassy of Ghana Ancient Traditions/Contemporary Art Show, the Fairfax County Arts Council, Reston Art League, AAAS Spring Show, Tri-Nubian Art Expo, and the Prince George's County Arts Council.

Ms. Williams is active in her church at First Baptist in Vienna, Va., and the Fairfax County Branch NAACP. Her award-winning Cherry Blossom Festival® painting will be on display in the Gallery at the Art Institute of Washington DC (1820 North Fort Myer Dr., Ground Floor; Arlington, VA) from March 18 - April 1, 2006.