

ASD student's work joins national art tour



April 23, 2009

Contact: Heidi Embley
ASD Communications
Phone: 907-742-4158
E-mail: embley_heidi@asdk12.org
Web: www.asdk12.org

A pencil drawing created by Mears Middle School eighth-grade student Justin Atonio has been selected to represent the state of Alaska in the 2009 All Kids Can... CREATE! The exhibition is sponsored by VSA Arts and CVS Caremark and is part of an effort to expand inclusive art education programs toward improving the lives and learning of young people with disabilities in the United States.

Justin's drawing, *Love*, was one of 51 art pieces chosen out of more than 4,500 submissions. The exhibition will debut at Washington, D.C.'s Union Station from June 1-21, and will then be part of a two-year tour of children's museums across the country.

Justin also recently had another piece of work on display at the Anchorage Museum for the annual ASD student art exhibit. "I have been honored to be Justin's art teacher, and to watch his artistic skills develop at Mears," said art teacher Kathleen Yackel. "He is skilled in many mediums, but his pencil drawings are his specialty. In fact, he can be found drawing in his notebook in most of his classes."

For more on VSA Arts and All Kids Can, log on to www.vsaarts.org.

Photo caption (next page): Justin Atonio brought art teacher Kathleen Yackel a folded-up piece of notebook paper and asked her to submit it to the art contest. Yackel said, "When I unfolded the drawing, I was amazed by his attention to shading and detail. In the picture, he had drawn a fist with the word "LOVE" tattooed on it, and an ornate flower."



BY JUSTIN
1/27/07 ANTONIO K.