



Buist Academy for Advanced Studies
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Media Release

Buist Academy Students' Work Selected for National Art Exhibition

Charleston, SC (March 11, 2026) – The artwork of four students from Buist Academy was featured in the *Art Like Bisa* exhibition at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) National Convention in Chicago, IL, March 5-7, 2026. Specifically, renowned fiber artist Bisa Butler showcased photos of their work in a slideshow during her keynote address on March 5.

Earlier this winter, Buist Academy art teacher Wendie Kilgore challenged her students to create portraiture inspired by Butler's vibrant quilted textile style. Kilgore submitted the students' (seventh graders Adeline Couture, Turkish Zapata, William Clarke, and Amelia Wilkinson) artwork through the [Artsonia platform](#), where their work was selected by Butler herself for inclusion in the national exhibition.

Students participating in the challenge were encouraged to create self-portraits that reflected Butler's artistic approach, which incorporates bold colors, layered patterns, and thoughtful details.

"I'm really happy about winning this contest, and it is an honor for Bisa Butler to see my artwork," said Adeline Couture, a seventh-grade student. "My piece took a lot to make, and I put a huge amount of effort into it."

Artsonia partnered with Butler, Scholastic Art, and the National Art Education Association to host the special educational art challenge. The initiative introduces students to Butler's techniques and encourages them to explore color, pattern, and storytelling through portraiture. Selected student artworks are showcased during the 2026 NAEA National Convention in Chicago, where Artsonia is also hosting a booth and workshops.

"Thank you again for participating in such a meaningful project," said the communications officer at Artsonia. "We're honored to share your students' artwork with the art education community."

Kilgore explained that the assignment focused on both artistic elements and design principles.

"Seventh-grade students used the elements of line and color along with the principle of unity to create a Bisa Butler-inspired self-portrait," Kilgore said. "Each student was challenged with first drawing contour lines of their face and then choosing color schemes for the portrait and the background that ultimately work together to create unity in their artwork."

Student William Clarke said Butler's work inspired his creative process.

“I created a self-portrait inspired by the artist Bisa Butler,” Clarke said. “When I watched the video about her work, I was especially inspired by the fabric and colors in the outfit she was wearing. I tried to imitate those bold colors and patterns but interpret them in my own style. I used bright layered colors and patterns to give the portrait energy and movement. I really enjoyed experimenting with this style and was honored that my piece was chosen.”

The recognition highlights the creativity and artistic achievement of Buist Academy students while showcasing their work to educators and artists from across the country at one of the nation’s largest gatherings of art educators.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 51,000 students in 90 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.