

2012 Ohio Watercolor Society Hodnett-Hacker Memorial High School Student Scholarship



KODIO SOMANA
Centennial High School
Columbus, Ohio
Beauty of a Parasol
12" x 16"

My name is Kodjo Somana. I'm 17 years old. I'm from Togo in West Africa. I've been living in the United States for 10 years. I live with both my parents, Kossi and Florence and I have one little brother Serge and my favorite hobby is art. I love art—everything I do in life is shown in all my artwork. A lot of my feelings are shown through all my artworks.

I've always wanted to be a professional artist. Back in 2008 I took my first art class at Mifflin Middle School and that is when I started my journey as an artist. A lot of people have told me art is my talent, but one thing they didn't know is that art did not come to me naturally. I had to work hard for it, and with much support and motivation, I am where I am today.

The style of different cultures is what inspired me to paint this picture. I'm from Togo, West Africa and all the cultures around Africa are almost the same. I like researching different cultures to learn more about them. This picture I painted, is a good friend of mine, she's half Japanese. While I was painting this picture, I could see the beauty of this culture. The clothing she wears and the parasol mean something, I'm not sure what exactly but as I was painting it, this was the question I kept asking myself. It sort of has a mystery behind it and that is why I painted the picture.