

**Allison Phillips is from Sierra Vista, Arizona.** Her work, Andreco, is a delicate graphic design showing a youth breathing life into the palm of her hand. Rainbow breath unfolds in a dust of leaves clouding beautiful buildings. This piece reminds viewers of the power we have to foster and create beauty. Local contact: Donna Avina, (520) 515-2717, laurie.giangregorio@svps.k12.az.us.

**Shou Yi lives in Leshan, China, sister city to Gilbert, Arizona.** His vibrant painting, Cherish Our Tomorrow, displays a globe with the silhouette of a baby forming inside while trees surround the earth's perimeter. Multi-colored hands support this womb of nature and man, symbolizing that we must work together as global citizens to nurture and care for our earth today. Local contact: Gayle Disch, (480) 892-3168, gayledisch@cox.net.

**Alex Chychkova from Rice Lake, Wisconsin,** dreams a brighter future in her ink drawing entitled, Dreaming World. This charred edged drawing is a swirl of nations, people, places, animals and symbols that fuse into one. This collage reminds us that no matter what nationality or culture we come from, a universal understanding connects us. Local contact: Jean Schmitzer, (715) 234-6510, schmitzer@charter.net.

**Brigitte Lapiner of Miami Beach, Florida,** put a technology spin into her pastel drawing. Her work, Electric Connection, shows planet earth plugged into the outlet of a continent that plugs in to the other side of the planet. Her work communicates that we must stay "plugged in" to one another and use technology to connect and build bridges. Local contact: Stephanie Lapiner, 3553 Magellan Circle, Apt 313 Aventura, FL, 33180.

**From Stillwater, Oklahoma, Afton Geyer's** All of One World, is a graphic art and photo print. This powerful picture shows a crystalline earth. Just above the globe hovers a neon blue butterfly. The backdrop displays taupe images of the Egyptian falcon god, Horus, god of light and life, as well as Japanese characters for hope, love and protection. Local contact: Mary Rupp, (405) 742-8202, asstcitymgr@stillwater.org.

**Michalska Marika, hailing from Plock, Poland, sister city of Fort Wayne, Indiana,** submitted a painting called Connecting Global Villages. It represents the hemispheres as people with eyes, hands, nose and mouth. Each hemisphere reaches out to the other and their eyes meet in compassion and understanding. Local contact: Stan Podzielinsky, (260) 432-2414, pod32@aol.com.

Organizers say the competition helps youth explore creative outlets. "Art serves as a valuable venue for youth to explore new frontiers beyond their own communities and perspectives," said Swathi Veeravalli, special projects coordinator for Sister Cities International. "Visualizing a world of open dialogue, mutual respect and understanding helps young people realize that they have a stake in the future and their participation as a global citizen makes a difference."

Twelve winners were selected based on their artwork's originality, composition and theme interpretation. Award winning pieces will be displayed at the Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington July 27-31, 2005. All participants receive a certificate and award winners receive a \$300 cash prize. Winning artwork can also be viewed on [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org) click on "programs." The competition has been held since 1988.

Representing more than 2,300 communities in 130 countries Sister Cities International ([www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)) is a citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between the U.S. and communities abroad. Begun in 1956 after a White House summit where U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower called for people-to-people exchanges, sister city partnerships are tailored to local interests and increase global cooperation at the grassroots level. Sister Cities International promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation by focusing on sustainable development, youth and education, arts and culture, humanitarian assistance and economic growth programs.