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OJAI STUDIO ARTISTS ANNOUNCE 15TH ANNUAL ART SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

(Ojai, CA - March 12, 2008) In 1993, the Ojai Studio Artists awarded their first Art Scholarship to Walt Dohrn, a promising and talented Nordhoff High School senior. At the presentation, Ojai's beloved Beatrice Wood personally presented the award to Dohrn and took him aside afterwards for a private conversation about becoming an artist. Today, Walt Dohrn is a highly successful animator whose career includes such movies as "Shrek the Third," on which he was also credited as a writer and the "SpongeBob SquarePants" television series on which he animated and directed.

"His original application was based on animation," remembers OSA member Ruth Farnham who was on the judging committee the first year. "I remember how excited we jurors were upon seeing this extraordinary work from a high school senior. Vivika Heino was on the committee too, as well as a couple of other OSA members. It was unanimous!"

Who from the Ojai Valley will be the next winner of a coveted OSA scholarship? Applications are now being accepted for the annual Art Scholarship program. Since 1993, OSA has provided more than \$126,000 in support of local art outreach programs. Of this amount more than \$76,000 was in the form of art scholarships to talented Ojai Valley students.

"We are very pleased by the quality of work submitted each year," states Farnham, this year's Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, along with Kristina Grey. "Every competition, we receive a wide variety of work from multiple disciplines of the visual arts." Deadline for scholarship applications is 5 p.m. Friday, April 4. For further information and application forms contact Ruth Farnham at 646-7300 or rufusrg@ojaimail.net.

High school and college students who are permanent residents of the Ojai Valley and are pursuing a career in the visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, or other related fields) are eligible to apply. Applicants are eligible to receive a maximum of three scholarship awards.

Awards will be presented on Saturday, May 24, during the opening reception of the Ojai Studio Artists' Spring Exhibit, "Made in Ojai VI." The reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ojai Valley Museum and winners' artwork will be exhibited.

Ojai Studio Artists is a 501(c)3 California nonprofit organization focused on bringing the visual arts to the community through tours, outreach educational programs and scholarships to worthy students. For more information on OSA activities, please visit www.ojaistudioartists.com.

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