



3301 4th Street • Lubbock, TX 79409-3191 • (806) 742-2442 • FAX 742-1136 • EMAIL: museum.texastech@ttu.edu • www.museum.ttu.edu

For Immediate Release: September 13, 2006

Contact Person: David Dean, 742-2442

**THE POWER OF ARTISTS' WITH DISABILITIES "DRIVING FORCE"
MAKES ITSELF FELT AT THE MUSEUM OF TTU**

The Museum of Texas Tech University is pleased to present the exhibition *Driving Force*, opening **October 1** and running **through January 7, 2007**, in the **Main Gallery** of the Museum, located at 3301 4th Street (SE corner of 4th and Indiana Avenue), where ample free parking is available in the north and west lots.

For the third year, VSA arts and Volkswagen of America, Inc., have partnered to recognize and showcase young artists with disabilities, ages 16-25, who are living in the United States. The award supports and validates these artists' decision to pursue the arts as a career.

The 15 finalists' primary motivation is an intense desire and dedication to practice fine art—to use the arts as a way to understand the past, the unique contributions of all artists, and the boundaries that define us individually, and to express the personal philosophies that influence their work.

Several of the *Driving Force* artists are serving as apprentices or studio assistants under successful, working artists, where their "driving force" comes from established artists who provide encouragement for their passion, professional guidance, and individualized instruction.

Self-directed by an inherent need to create, many of these artists with disabilities employ the fine arts as personal exploration. Their work becomes a profound search for identity and a way to share their unique perspectives as individuals who have made a conscious decision to pursue and perfect their art at all costs.

Art becomes a bridge, a sanctuary, a language, a revelation, a respite, a best friend, and a life force as the rigorous joy of creating captivates the mind of the creator and propels these artists to share their experiences, affecting our shared world in a positive way.

For more information about the Museum or to request special assistance, call 806.742.2432 or email museum.education@ttu.edu. Stay current with MoTTU exhibitions and events at www.museum.ttu.edu.

Visit *Driving Force* online at www.vsarts.org/prebuilt/showcase/gallery/exhibits/vw/2004/.

—30—

"There's something for everyone at the Museum."

MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY: Open 10 AM -5 PM Tue-Sat, open until 8:30 PM on Thu, 1-5 PM Sun. Closed Monday. **ADMISSION FREE**
MOODY PLANETARIUM - STAR SHOWS: \$1 adults, \$.50 students, 5 or younger and 60+ Free; LASER SHOWS: \$1 students, \$1.50 adults.
LUBBOCK LAKE LANDMARK: Open 9 AM -5 PM Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 PM Sunday. Closed Monday • At N. Loop 289 & Clovis Hwy. **ADMISSION FREE.**

MEDIA INFORMATION

Exhibition Organizer: VSA arts (An affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts)
Address: 1300 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 1.202.628.2800
FAX: 1.202.737.0725
Web: www.vsarts.org
Media Contacts: Maryam Ovissi, VSA arts, 202-607-0754
Marcia Rhodes, VSA arts, 202-628-2800

Info on **Driving Force**: <http://www.vsarts.org/x951.xml>

Visit **Driving Force** online: <http://www.vsarts.org/prebuilt/showcase/gallery/exhibits/vw/2004/>