

Gallery Night "An Evening at the Louvre"

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**Westlake Academy's Gallery Night "An Evening at the Louvre"
to feature talents of local artist Trish Biddle and Westlake Academy
students**



Westlake, Texas -" Feb. 6, 2009- Westlake Academy Foundation invites the community to the 2009 Gallery Night "An Evening at the Louvre," Friday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Marriot Solana Hotel, 5 Village Circle, Westlake. The event was created to raise funds and awareness to benefit the students at Westlake Academy. It features artwork created by the students and includes live and silent auctions, a big board auction, and a seated dinner.

"The students have worked so hard to prepare their art for this night, and we couldn't be more pleased with the results," said Leah Rennhack, president of the board, Westlake Academy Foundation.

Westlake Academy students from kindergarten through 11th grade create artwork based on the event's theme. Examples of this year's artwork include a rendition of the Mona Lisa using glass beads, a canvas painting of Kandinsky's Circles, and Parisian nesting trays.

"We are also excited to have local artist Trish Biddle with us this year," added Ms. Rennhack. "She has already donated one painting to the auction and will donate a second, which she will paint live that evening!"

Trish Biddle, an internationally known artist from Westlake and mother of a kindergartner at Westlake Academy, is known for her vintage-inspired paintings of fashion and sophistication. Biddle is currently in New York as the designated official artist of the 2009 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. She also served as the official artist of the 2008 Kentucky Derby.

Auction items for the evening include a signed guitar from The Jonas Brothers, Westlake residents; a private tour of the new Dallas Cowboys stadium; dinner for 12 on a BNSF train; a golf package in Cornerstone, Colorado; a painting titled "Long Ranger" donated by the Town of Westlake Public Art Society; a Swarovski Gorilla, and additional donations from area retailers, restaurants, service providers, and area art galleries.

Sponsors to date are: Gallery Sponsors \$7,500: Deloitte, The Marriott Solana, The Town of Westlake; Artist Sponsors \$2,500: Barbara Pantuso and Leslie Akers with Keller Williams Realty; Fidelity Investments; TappeWhite and Carrie Smith; Doug and Laura Wheat; Westlake First News; Dancer Sponsors \$1,250: Baylor Regional Medical Center of Grapevine; Cliff and Kelly Cox; April and John Gallagher; David and Sharon Gibbs; FastFrames of Keller; Humphrey & Associates; Maquire Partners; Prosperity Bank; Rick and Leah Rennhack; Jack and Inger Risenhoover; Roxann Taylor & Associates, Realtors; Kenny and Becky Rogers; Jeff and Charlotte Ryan; State of the Heart Cardiology; Ziegler Law Firm. Additional sponsorship levels are available.

Tickets are \$65 and available by contacting Angie Gofredo at agofredo@westlakefoundation.com or 817-490-5722. All proceeds enhance a broad and balanced student education at Westlake Academy that includes science, the humanities, Spanish, mathematics, technology, strings, and the arts.

Westlake Academy is a nurturing, community owned International Baccalaureate Charter School whose mission is to achieve academic excellence and to develop life-long learners who become well-balanced, responsible global citizens. Founded in 2003, it is the first and only municipality in the state to receive a charter designation. Westlake Academy became an IB World School in 2006 after it was authorized for the Primary Years Programme and further accreditation followed in 2007 with the Middle Years Programme and 2008 for the Diploma Programme, making it one of only six schools in the United States to offer all three programs and the only one in Texas. Westlake Academy is the only one of those six that does not charge tuition or require an entrance exam. The school will graduate its first class in 2010 when it will be fully functional from kindergarten - 12th grade. For 2008, the Academy received an 'Exemplary' rating from TEA for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests, the second time it has achieved this. It is located at 2600 Ottinger Rd., Westlake, TX 76262. Mark Rosevear serves as Head of School. Call 817-490-5757, visit www.westlakeacademy.org or email info@westlakeacademy.org for more information.

Trish Biddle's work is published internationally, and collectors around the world appreciate her expertise in capturing nature and light to create richly-colored, vintage-inspired art. The Art Deco Period is a favorite source of inspiration for her, as she incorporates the fashion, sophistication and simplicity of that era into her paintings. Born in Minneapolis and now living in Westlake, Texas, she studied at the Dallas Institute of Art before beginning her career as an illustrator and textile designer. Her process of drawing, painting and designing eventually melded onto canvases, creating romantic, elegant images. Ms. Biddle was designated the official artist of the 2009 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and was commissioned to create the coveted "Art of the Kentucky Derby" posters series for 2008 (www.derbyartgifts.com). Her stylized version of America's greatest horse race was highly-regarded, and surpassed all previous retail sales marks for a Derby poster. Visit www.trishbiddle.com. Biddle is licensed by Creative Properties, a full service licensing company based in New York.