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Crealde's student exhibit showcases appeal, ability

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Although public education too often treats art as an expendable frill, every year small centers like Winter Park's Crealde School of Art carry on with the task of training young artist. At Crealde, younger artists have the advantage of working beside older novices, who approach art as amateurs in the best sense of the word — lovers of art's challenges and rewards.

This mix of young novice and older amateur is in evidence at Crealde's current exhibition, which offers a

good test of the visitor's eye for technical ability and aesthetic appeal.

Lorraine Lax's painting, "Ocean Floor," chosen by jurors as the exhibition's outstanding work, catches the eye with its broad strokes of yellow and orange against a blue background. The work's abstraction lends it a bold ambiguity. Its energetic colors might just as well be flaming comets tearing across an evening sky. If the works of the 42 students in this exhibition are an indication, abstraction clearly has fallen out of artistic fashion. Lax's paintings, including her "Whirlin' in Space," are the show's only examples of pure abstraction.



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