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## **iaedp Announces Top Five Finalists for Imagine Me Art Competition**

*Winner To Be Revealed at 2014 Symposium*

**Pekin, ILL (Feb. 19, 2014)** – The International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals (iaedp) announces its five finalists for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Imagine Me Beyond What You See” Body Image Mannequin Art Competition, sponsored by Veritas Collaborative. Selected from a record 20 submissions from the United States and Canada, the top five finalists will be showcased and the winner revealed at the 28<sup>th</sup> annual iaedp Symposium, February 27-March 2, in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The mixed-medium works were judged on clarity of theme, creativity and originality, quality of composition and design and the overall impression and presentation of the artwork. The top five finalists are:

1. *Blossoming Growth of a Beautiful Life* by Bella Vita A Beautiful Life Psychology Group/CA  
Chronicles the dynamic journey of how an individual can once again be rooted, grow and blossom into one’s true self, although they live in a world where they are soiled to achieve an unrealistic standard of beauty.
2. *Frustrate* by Rebecca Tishman/MD  
This mannequin was created by cutting puzzle pieces out of a large piece of sheet metal then forging, hammering and welding each piece to fit over the mannequin form and creating a new body.

3. *Hope* by Center for Sierras Residential Treatment Center/NV  
Although the inspiration for this mannequin was freedom from eating disorders, it can easily be seen as one journey with many voices. From bottom to top, *Hope* represents a journey to recovery.
4. *Lion's Journey* by Bella Vita Eating Disorder Treatment Center/CA  
Inspired by Joseph Campbell's monomyth, *The Hero's Journey*, this mannequin uses a lion to represent the mightiest of warriors battling against an eating disorder. Nature wraps around the lion's left leg, representing the importance of being more grounded, aware, and mindful along the journey.
5. *When I Remain Rooted I Can Fly Free (Fiona)* by Art therapy group of Dr. Laura Riss, PsyD of Kaiser Permanente/GA  
This sculpture symbolizes the need to respect one's roots as the armature of their growth, recognizing personal gifts and emotions as the basis of their true selves, grounding their struggle towards health.

2014 Judges included La Ventana Clinical Director Carol Dietrich, RN, LMFT, RDT; Board Certified Art Psychotherapist and Professional Member of American Art Therapy Association Michelle Dean, MA, ATR-BC, LPC, CG; and Artist, Certified Eating Disorders Specialist and Publisher of Gurze Books, Leigh Cohn, M.A.T.