

Cover Artist: Asuka Saito '06

Asuka Saito '06,
performing *Hibari no Sadojouwa*, a traditional Japanese dance, at the 2005 Family Weekend Spring Concert.



Look carefully and you will discover that the students have taken over much of this issue. It's not a passively hostile '60s sit-in sort of thing. They've been invited. You'll see their contributions in the Farm Page story and both feature stories, thanks to Project Week and Carol Dickson's tenth grade writing class. So the obvious choice for cover art was a student contribution. But how does one choose from all of the fabulous art produced by Putney students? It's easy. You make it someone else's job. Art faculty member Brian Cohen pointed us toward the charcoal on paper rendering by junior class member Asuka Saito you see on the cover. We thought it was perfect, not only because it is well crafted, but because it was one part of our art program capturing the beauty and nuance of another part of our art program. We just love that interdisciplinary stuff around here. Like the farm machinery currently depicted in the Altoon Sultan paintings hanging in the Currier Center gallery, Asuka's drawing reminds us that art doesn't occur in a vacuum. Here's what Asuka, an international student who resides in Tokyo, Japan, has to say about art, dance and life at Putney:

I love figure drawing. I like the softness and roundness of people's figures. My drawing was one of 25 I did for my advanced drawing class. I love the way dancers move. They just don't move that way normally—a lot of big movements. It shows their feelings—what they have inside them. It's cool.

Watching African dance makes me happy. Watching ballet makes me calm. There are so many kinds of dance. Each dance tells a different story. When I watch them, I can feel what they feel.

In Japan you just see fine art as made by the masters, such as Van Gogh. I never did art when I was home. I thought art was stupid because I never had a chance to really do any.

This is my second year drawing. I really didn't know how to draw before Putney—how to use charcoal, eraser, smudging. Brian Cohen taught me everything. I was overwhelmed by the student art when I got here. I took drawing because I thought it was easiest, but it was a lot of work and I love it! I've also tried painting and printmaking, which I also love.

I feel so good in the art building. I love to see people working in there. I want to go to art school for college. We didn't know Putney was so much an art school when I applied. My parents are really surprised that I've gotten into art.

The dance I did for the spring concert is a traditional Japanese dance that I learned when I was younger. I never really thought of it as art or dance because it is so traditional. But now that I'm so far from home, I can see it differently.

I think I've discovered myself here. ✨