



Oscar Orlando Ibarra Lopez

Professional Artist and Architecture Student at UTEG Centro Universitario
Graduate of the LCS Children's Art Program

Oscar Orlando Ibarra Lopez is the newest rising star in the Lakeside art scene. As a graduate of the LCS Children's Art Program, this Chapala native joins a long legacy of many renowned artists and graduates of the program, such as Javier Zaragoza and Jesus Lopez Vega, whose paintings and murals hang in public buildings and villages throughout the region.

Accomplished beyond his 20 years, Orlando's watercolor and oil paintings have been featured in art exhibits throughout the area and he has won numerous awards. His paintings placed first at the LCS Arts Fair for two years and graced the covers of the Annual Directory in 2014 and 2016.

Just last year, Orlando won first place in all of Mexico in the Pentel Mexico art contest. He was awarded a prize worth thousands of dollars in art supplies.

This precocious artist and businessman got his start at age 8 by selling pencil drawings to his classmates for one peso. Art classes at the Chapala Train Station fueled his interest but Orlando credits enrolling in the LCS Children's Art Program for giving him the art training and discipline he needed to pursue his passion to become an artist.

“The Lake Chapala Society helped me discover my talent and taught me how to paint,” said Orlando. “They changed my mind and my heart. I want to thank Danielle Page, Javier Zaragoza, Efren Gonzales, Robina, Erin and so many more of the teachers and volunteers who worked with me.”

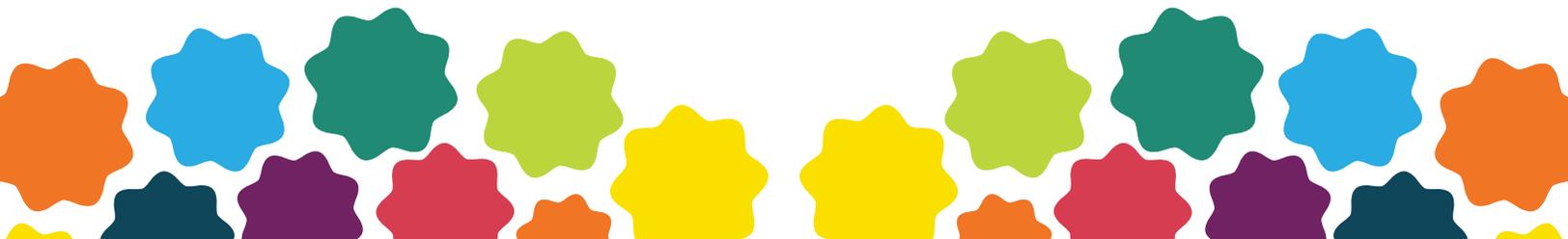
Started in 1954 by Neill James, the LCS Children’s Art Program has provided free classes and resources to thousands of Mexican children. LCS recognizes the young artists by awarding prizes at the annual Arts Fair, with one contest featuring the winner’s artwork on the cover of the annual LCS Membership Directory. Today, the program continues to flourish through the support of LCS, many dedicated volunteers and the Ajjic Society of the Arts (ASA), which donates a portion of the proceeds from its annual Open Studio event. The Children’s Art Program is free of charge and all children under 18 are welcome.

Orlando said that he is drawn to and is inspired by surrealism, the art of Salvador Dali and the Mexican muralist Jose Clemente Orozco. Orlando likes to express the richness and colors of Mexican culture while juxtaposing disparate images for surprising effects to make people think.

“The art that I express is to capture the colors that exist in Mexico and its culture. I also like to project two or more things that exist to create something unreal and make the viewer believe for a moment that this exists,” he explained.

Not only did the Children’s Art Program guide him and focus his talents, Orlando said it also taught him business and how to sell his art.

LCS helps to educate the children in the business of art by providing opportunities at events for them to sell their art. Greeting cards for all occasions are made from their art and sold throughout the year. The most popular are the Holiday Season cards which go on sale in November.



Orlando is currently commissioned for three murals, one for the government institution DIF and two for private clients. He is also a full-time student in the five-year Architecture and Design program at UTEG Centro Universitario in Guadalajara as well as a budding photographer.

Despite his busy schedule, Orlando is committed to making time to give back to LCS and the Children's Art Program. He enjoys helping at the classes as well as the Summer Art Camp to teach the young aspiring artists.

"When I teach the children there, I still learn very much. I remember what I learned at their age and I can help the young artists learn as I did," Orlando said.

Orlando is one of the thousands of community members who have benefited from the many LCS programs from Student Aid, the ESL classes and Spanish language instruction to our highly regarded children's art program and more than 100 continuing education programs and services.

Your donation to the Annual Giving drive goes directly to benefit these programs. Membership and activity fees alone cannot cover all of these wonderful programs and services. We could not accomplish our goals without your support and commitment.

The Annual Giving drive runs through December 31, 2018. Donations can be made online by [clicking here](#) or make your donation in person at the LCS Service Office.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to support our mission and vision of a future where all Lakeside residents have a role in enriching our community's quality of life.

