

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Apr 18 – 22, 2011
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Thanks to everyone who completed the DCQW survey over the last few months.
The results are viewable at [DCQW Survey Results](#).

Which of these talented artists was the first deaf person to graduate with a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree from the School of American Crafts at the Rochester Institute of Technology? This artist is a graduate of the Oregon School for the Deaf and currently a professor of Art at Gallaudet University.

- a. Paul Johnston
- b. Susan Dupor
- c. Ann Silver
- d. Chuck Baird

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: “a” - Johnston was the first deaf person to earn a BFA in furniture design and woodworking from RIT, and later performed with the Connecticut-based National Theatre of the Deaf, became an instructor and director of experimental theater, and earned a master's degree and a doctorate in art education, with a minor in sculpture and philosophy from Penn State University. He currently teaches at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and is part of the De'VIA group, an organization of deaf artists "with the intention of expressing innate cultural or physical deaf experience," per its website (deafart.org).

Read about Dr. Johnston's vision of his art at the De'VIA website

http://www.deafart.org/Biographies/Paul_Johnston/paul_johnston.html

and see some of Dr. Johnston's sculpture and artwork here:

<http://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/entertainment/art/2010/03/ART-REVIEW-Paul-Johnston-Handscapes-Cityscapes-Mythology/>

DCQW Survey is closed.

Thanks to everyone who took time to answer the survey questions. Your responses were very helpful and interesting. If you are interested in viewing the survey results go [here](#).

Erratum: In the April 11 - 15, 2011 DCQW there was an error in referencing the first name of Dr. Buckley. His first name is Gerard not Gerald. My apologies for this error.

Note: All previous issues of DCQW are archived at the Washington School for the Deaf website: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>