

# Willowbrook patient

## wins state contest

By SASKIA JORDAN

Phyllis Arzberger, a resident of Willowbrook State School, has taken first place in the annual Christmas card design contest sponsored by the New York State Association for Retarded Children for her painting of a pink angel in flight against a blue starry background.

Phyllis' entry will appear on the association's 1974 Christmas cards and her original picture will be displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art along with the entries of four of her classmates who ranked among the top 30 in the statewide competition.

Willowbrook submitted more prize-winning entries than any other school in the statewide competition.

Miss Arzberger, who is 22 years old and has been at Willowbrook for 16 years, was presented with a \$100 savings bond by Mrs. Hannah Glasser, director of education at Willowbrook, during a ceremony in the school yesterday.

Phyllis, described by her teacher, Mrs. Patricia Lewis, as "moderately retarded" is a victim of cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair.

She says she enjoys reading, which she does at the second grade level, writing and penmanship. She would also like to learn how to sew, but the subject is not offered at Willowbrook.

Her favorite pastime is listening to the radio and she knows most of the current hit songs by heart. Asked what she would like to do with her prize money she said, "buy a stereo and go to a rock concert."

Phyllis is scheduled to be transferred in a month to Hylan Manor, a half-way house in Great Kills, where she will enter some type of occupational training program.

Hopefully she will learn a vocational skill and eventually be placed in a foster home. However, it is extremely difficult to find homes for wheelchair cases, according to



Phyllis Arzberger of Willowbrook State School demonstrates her prize winning painting technique while her teacher, Mrs. Patricia Lewis, looks on. Phyllis' first prize picture is now on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

S.I. Advance Photo by Robert Parsons

Frank Tellefsen, Phyllis' education supervisor, special program which is being instituted at Willowbrook.

Phyllis has mixed feelings about leaving Willowbrook. "I'll have to get used to other people," she said. After she moves, Phyllis' education will be restricted to job training and she will not be able to continue with her school work.

Phyllis and the four other winners, Loretta Worsely, Doris Bond, Judy Marko, and Sheila Ramirez, are taking part in a special program which is being instituted at Willowbrook. Eight women students are "setting up house" in their living quarters which consist of one fairly large room. The students are actively participating in the program which involves shopping for a washing machine, stove, pots, curtains, etc. The total cost of the program, which is still in its initial stages, is about \$1,000.