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Top Student Artwork to Be Featured at Mark Arts

WICHITA, Kan. – Mark Arts, Elizabeth B. Koch and the K.T. Wiedemann Foundation present the Eastern Kansas Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition, on display Jan. 27 through March 5. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 27, featuring live youth entertainment and complimentary light hors d'oeuvres.

The Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition showcases select artwork created by middle school and high school students from 70 Kansas counties. The Scholastic Art Awards are the largest and longest-running recognition program for young artists in the United States, identifying and rewarding students who demonstrate superior talent and achievement.

Participants, supported by their visual arts teachers and other community mentors, create and submit their best works of art. Each work is reviewed by a panel of art professionals for originality, technical skill and the emergence of personal voice or vision.

This year, nearly 2,200 entries were submitted and 570 were selected for exhibition, either as Gold Key, Silver Key or honorable mention. Gold Key works are entered into the national judging process, and five Gold Key recipients were nominated for the Eastern Kansas American Visions medal, which will be selected later this year.

The 2016 American Visions nominees are:

Clare Fallon, *I'm Trying*, Washburn Rural High School

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Kate Gondwe, *The Puppet Lady*, Wichita Collegiate Upper School

Julia Hardenburger, *The Heart of Alexander*, Hutchinson High School

Victoria Harington, *Reclusion*, Shawnee Heights High School

A full listing of accepted artworks is available here: <http://www.markartsks.com/scholastic-art-award-recipient-information/>.

Mark Arts will honor Gold Key, scholarship and cash award recipients at a ceremony at 3 p.m. on March 5.

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About Mark Arts

the mission of Mark Arts is to be a vibrant arts hub in Wichita and the region by providing opportunities to appreciate and create art in an atmosphere of lifelong learning. It was originally founded in 1920 as the Wichita Art Association, later became The Wichita Center for the Arts and is the area's oldest visual arts organization. The galleries are open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Visit MarkArtsKS.com or call 316.634.2787.