



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2017
Contact: Katy Dorrah, Mark Arts Executive Director
316-634-2787

Student Artists to Be Honored at Scholastic Art Awards Ceremony Colleges Offering a Record \$4.2 Million in Scholarships

WICHITA, Kan. — Mark Arts, along with Elizabeth B. Koch and the K. T. Wiedemann Foundation, will honor promising student artists on Sunday, March 5 at the Eastern Kansas Scholastic Art Awards ceremony.

Pilar Pedraza, a reporter with KWCH-TV Channel 12, will be the master of ceremonies for the 3 p.m. ceremony at Mark Arts, 9112 E. Central Ave. This year, nearly 2,200 entries were submitted, and 120 were selected for Gold Key recognition. In addition, nearly \$3,000 in cash will be awarded to students during the ceremony.

From 1 to 3 p.m., Kansas colleges will participate in an open house at Mark Arts to visit with students to discuss their programs and scholarship offers. A record \$4.2 million in scholarships to exhibiting students is being offered by these colleges: Bethany College, Butler Community College, Cowley Community College, Fort Hays State, Friends University, McPherson College, Sterling College and Wichita State University.

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.

Five Gold Key recipients were nominated for the American Visions Medal, which will be selected later this year. The 2017 American Visions nominees are:

Clare Fallon, *I'm Trying*, Washburn Rural High School
Clare Fallon, *The Impoverished Collector*, Washburn Rural High School
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.markartskansas.com/scholastic-art-award-recipient-information/>.
The exhibition opened Jan. 27 and closes March 5.

###

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.