



THE WICHITA CENTER FOR THE ARTS
NEWS RELEASE

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THE WICHITA CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS:
2015 SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS EXHIBITION
FEBRUARY 6 – MARCH 8

WICHITA, KS— February 4, 2015 —The Wichita Center for the Arts, along with the Elizabeth Koch and The K.T. Wiedemann Foundation, Inc., will once again host the regional Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition, which showcases select artwork created by high school and middle school students from 70 Kansas counties. The exhibition will be on display at The Wichita Center for the Arts February 6 – March 8.

Scholastic Art Awards are the largest and longest running recognition program for young people in the United States. Maurice R. Robinson, the founder of Scholastic, Inc., the children's publishing and entertainment company, established the awards in 1923. Alumni of the Scholastic Art Awards include Truman Capote, Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath and Robert Redford.

Supported by their visual arts teachers and other community mentors, participants 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. A total of 2,700 entries were submitted to this year's Scholastic Art Awards from 70 Kansas counties, and 662



student works were selected for this year's exhibition. From those 662 selected student works, 140 pieces were awarded the "Gold Key Award" and 188 pieces received the "Silver Key Award." Gold Key works are automatically entered into the national judging process. From the Gold Key awards, five are nominated for the American Vision Award. One national American Visions Award recipient is then recognized from each region. This year's National American Vision Award nominees are: Anastasia Bell, student of Pamela Delay, from Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School; Rachel Anderson, student of Ward Hilgers, from Rose Hill High School; Gregory Tinkler, student of Ward Hilgers, from Rose Hill High School; Talah Bakdash, student of Gary Buettenbach, from Wichita Collegiate School; and Azim Kamalulrahim, student of Marilen Morales, from Wichita Collegiate School.

Other awards and scholarships for The Scholastic Art Awards 2015 are generously provided by individuals, businesses and educational institutions in Kansas who recognize the importance of art in our schools. Last year, Scholastic Art Award sponsors gave more than \$2,000,000 in scholarships and cash prizes.

The Wichita Center for the Arts will recognize the award-winning students of the 2015 Scholastic Art Awards in two events March 7 and 8. Both events will be hosted by Elizabeth B. Koch and the K.T. Wiedemann Foundation, Inc.

Silver Key and Honorable Mention award winners will be recognized at an open house from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 7. The event will be held at The Wichita Center for the Arts, Rounds Gallery.



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The 2015 Scholastic Art Award Gold Key ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8, and will be held at The Wichita Center for the Arts, Irene Vickers Baker Theatre.

About The Wichita Center for the Arts

Originally founded as the Wichita Art Association in 1920, The Wichita Center for the Arts is the area's oldest and most comprehensive visual and performing arts organization. For 95 years The Wichita Center for the Arts has made art and art education available to the citizens of Wichita and the surrounding communities as a privately funded organization. For more information about The Wichita Center for the Arts, visit www.wcfta.com or call (316) 634-2787. The gallery at The Wichita Center for the Arts is open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.

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