Next generation artists spotlighted at awards ceremony

The First Coast’s next generation of artists were honored Feb. 2 at the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Awards, a regional visual art awards and scholarship program. Prior to the awards ceremony, which was held at the Florida Theatre, Adjudication Day took place at Jacksonville University on Jan. 5, when 18 judges worked in six teams to adjudicate panels of student work totaling 2,578 works of art representing 843 students, 76 educators and seven counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia) in Northeast Florida. Students from public, private, charter and home schools participated in this annual event. Terry Woodhead, an Avondale resident and art teacher at Central Riverside Elementary School, served on the awards board.

In the regional, 19 portfolios comprising 319 Gold Keys will advance to the national level. Gold Key winners from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts included Anasha Barnes, Erin Bouchard, Emma Flaire, Kaitlyn Griffin and An Tran. Twelve silver portfolios included 341 Silver Key awards, 19 portfolios comprised 487 Honorable Mentions, and five students, including An Tran, were nominated for American Vision medals, the highest regional honor. In total, 573 students earned awards.

Following the awards ceremony, exhibitions were on display at the Jacksonville Main Library and the Heather Moore Community Gallery, located at Cathedral Arts Project, 207 N. Laura St.

Last year, regional winners were awarded college scholarship offers from Jacksonville University, the University of North Florida, Savannah College of Art & Design and the New Hampshire Institute of Art totaling over $4 million. Gold Key winners advancing to the national level will be recognized this summer at the 2019 National Ceremony of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards at Carnegie Hall.

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During Literacy Week Jan. 28-Feb. 1, the PTA and school held other literacy events such as reading lunch dates with parents or grandparents, a vocabulary parade where kids dress up like a vocabulary word and parade around the campus for all to see. During “Celebrate Literacy Week,” the John Stockton Elementary School PTA sponsored a reading from award-winning children’s author, Kentrell Martin, whose series of books feature a deaf girl named Shelly and her many adventures, and which incorporate American Sign Language in the stories.

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