

Across the United States, many art teachers and their talented students began to prepare for the biggest competitive 40th Year of the Scholastics Art & Writing Awards. The Scholastic Art Awards program is the largest and most comprehensive annual student art competition in America. Founded in 1927 by Scholastic Inc., the Scholastic Art Awards program is dedicated to recognizing the achievements of young artists. The program has recognized more than 13 million creative teenagers, including Andy Warhol and Robert Redford in its 90 year history.

The Department of Art at Youngstown State University hosted the 2017 Northeastern Ohio Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition in Bliss Hall on Saturday, January 14th. Artwork from students in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, and Ashtabula Counties in grades 7-12. Over 60 schools participated and 500 students entered 850 works of art. The Solomon Gallery will be displaying the selected works of art until January 27th, 2017 and will be open from 10am-5pm on weekdays.

The ceremony featured awards given to those in 7th through 12th grade who received Gold and Silver Key awards as well as Honorable Mention awards. Jackson-Milton High School Art Teacher Katelyn Amendolara was very proud of her students' success this year. Senior, Journey Morris's art portfolio was the Gold Key recipient, as well as the chosen recipient for the prestigious Florence Simon Beecher Scholarship which is renewable and allow her to attend YSU studying art. Following Journey's success were: Katie Matasy who earned a Gold Key Award, Julissa Tomaino who earned one Gold Key Award and three Honorable Mentions, Liz Pifer who earned one Gold Key, and Mackenzie Grope who earned a Silver Key Award.

The regional entries reflect each participating school's outstanding student work. From these entries a panel of judges selected works to receive Honorable Mention, Silver and Gold keys and five nominations for the prestigious American Visions Awards. The American Visions Award and Gold Key finalists will be sent to New York City where they will compete for awards and possible scholarships with other student entries from across the nation.

The Northeastern Ohio Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition program is designed to encourage student creativity, provide the opportunity for enrichment by interaction with their contemporaries, and bring student artwork into the public view.