

## Northeast Indiana/Northwest Ohio Students Announced as 2016 Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Award Recipients

*Nearly 1,000 Young Artists and Writers Recognized by Fort Wayne Museum of Art for their Original Creative Works*

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**Fort Wayne, IN — February 8, 2016** — Fort Wayne Museum of Art has announced the regional award recipients of the 2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Presented by the nonprofit organization, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the country's longest-running and most prestigious award and recognition program for creative students in grades 7–12. This program year, nearly 320,000 works of art and writing were submitted to 100 Affiliate Partners across the country. A total of 1,305 regional awards were given to 1,000 Northeast Indiana/Northwest Ohio teens from local Affiliate Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Nearly 2,400 students entered art and writing in the Northeast Indiana/Northwest Ohio region alone.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to work with some gifted and incredibly dedicated teachers that have served on our Scholastic Advisory Board for the past 12 years. These teachers have inspired me to match their efforts and their dedication to greatness of their students. This past fall FWMoA and I were honored at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. as a result of our efforts with this program through a special ceremony and exhibit. Those accomplishments I share wholeheartedly with these talented teachers whom I love. They have shown me the absolute pinnacle of what humanity can be,” said Max Meyer, director of children’s education at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

An awards ceremony recognizing the winning students will be held on February 14 at 1:00pm at the Grand Wayne Center in downtown Fort Wayne. Admission is free and the public is welcome to attend. The exhibit is open at FWMoA from February 14-April 10, 2016.

Since the program’s founding in 1923, all works are blindly judged based on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal vision or voice. For Gold Key works of art and writing in the Awards’ 29 categories including photography, poetry, sculpture, humor, video game design, and more, the opportunities for recognition will continue when the works are adjudicated again on a national level by a panel of leading creative professionals.

“Year after year, I am astounded by the groundswell of creativity that pours out of students from every corner of the country through the regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards,” said Virginia McEnerney, Executive Director of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. “This program develops young talent through this first act of recognition here at home—a defining moment of validation on students’ journeys to personal and professional success—then again on the national level by opening the doors of opportunity for exhibition, publication and access to millions of dollars in scholarships.”

All students who receive Scholastic Art & Writing Awards walk in the footsteps of notable Scholastic Awards Alumni who have gone on to become leaders in their fields, including Andy Warhol, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Sylvia Plath, and filmmaker Ken Burns, all of whom received Scholastic Awards when they were teens. More recently, Myla Goldberg, Richard Linklater, Zac Posen, and Lena Dunham have become celebrated Alumni of the program. National Gold Medalists will be honored during a

special awards ceremony at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York City and all National recipients are eligible for a wealth of additional opportunities such as inclusion in the Art.Write.Now.Tour traveling exhibition and The Best Teen Writing anthology. National Medalist poets are considered for the National Student Poets Program, the nation's highest honor for young poets presenting original work.

The Alliance is grateful for its generous sponsors, who provide funds to support and produce the Awards: Scholastic Inc., The Maurice R. Robinson Fund, Command Web Offset Co., The New York Times, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, The National Endowment for the Arts, Blick Art Materials & Utrecht Art Supplies, The Herb Block Foundation, RBC Capital Markets, Neiman Marcus, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Golden Artist Colors, The Gedenk Movement,, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; numerous other individual, foundation, and corporate funders; and, for the National Student Poets Program, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

A complete list of 2016 regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards recipients will available online at [artandwriting.org](http://artandwriting.org) on Monday, February 8, 2016. To learn more about the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, visit the online Scholastic News Room at [mediaroom.scholastic.com/artandwriting](http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/artandwriting).

Fort Wayne Museum of Art is funded in part by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne. This activity made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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