



NEWS RELEASE

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Student artists and teachers honored with work on display

The artwork of several **Gwinnett County Public Schools** (GCPS) students will be on display this fall as part of a celebration of the region's most talented artists and their fine arts teachers. The work of more than 70 Gwinnett students and their teachers will be featured during the "2012 Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition." The regional exhibit is a celebration of this year's "Scholastic Art & Writing Awards," a prestigious program which honors the nation's most talented young artists and writers. The exhibit runs Monday, Nov. 28 through Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, at the Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Gallery on the Georgia State University campus in Atlanta. Visitors can see the pieces of art Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented to students in grades 7-12 by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Inc., a national non-profit organization which works to identify the next generation of artists and writers. In addition to honoring young artists, the organization acknowledges the students' teachers. Gwinnett students' winning artwork includes pieces in architecture, ceramics & glass, design, digital art, drawing, film & animation, jewelry, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture.

As part of the awards program, regional awards are presented in three different levels; Gold Key, Silver Key, and Honorable Mention. The Gold Key award is presented to the most exceptional works in each category, while the Silver Key award recognizes excellence in each category. 35 Gwinnett students earned 49 Gold Keys, 41 students earned 51 Silver Keys, and 133 students received 205 Honorable Mention awards at this regional level. The Gold Key and Silver Key art pieces will be part of the exhibit at Georgia State University. The student artists who created these works of art will be recognized at an event at 1 p.m. on Dec. 3 inside the ballroom in the university's student center.

Additionally, the 49 art pieces earning a Gold Key award will be part of an exhibit in New York and will compete for a national title. The 35 students who created these pieces of art are now eligible for several scholarship opportunities.

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The 76 students, whose art is on display in Atlanta, represent the following Gwinnett schools; **Brookwood High, Mill Creek High, Norcross High, North Gwinnett High, Parkview High, Peachtree Ridge High, Phoenix High**, as well as the **Grayson High Technical Education Program**.

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers celebrates the creative achievement of America's teens. The Awards were founded in 1923 to offer recognition and scholarships for students for their artistic talents. Students who excel in the visual arts and creative writing participate in The Awards to earn recognition, get their work exhibited or published, and to earn scholarships.

*For more information about the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards,
visit www.artandwriting.org/awards*