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The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers Invites Creative Teens to Submit Original Works and Join the Ranks of Awards Alumni Including Tschabalala Self, Stephen King, Kay WalkingStick, Charles White, Joyce Carol Oates, Andy Warhol, and More

FORT WAYNE, IN – October 14, 2020 – The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative teens, are now accepting submissions from students across the country in grades 7–12, aged 13-18. Presented by the nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the Awards have fostered the talent of millions of students since 1923 and feature a distinguished list of alumni including Tschabalala Self, Stephen King, Kay WalkingStick, Charles White, Joyce Carol Oates, and Andy Warhol, all of whom received recognition through the program as teens. In the 2020 program year, nearly 320,000 works were submitted to regional programs, with more than 2,900 works of art and writing receiving national recognition, including more than \$300,000 in direct scholarships and millions in tuition support.

To learn more about the 2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, or to apply, visit <http://artandwriting.org>.

“Artists and writers have always held important roles in our society, especially during times of crisis and change. This is a year like none we’ve known—with a global pandemic that has relegated many schools to distance learning and powerful protests for racial justice often led by a rising generation of young leaders. It feels more important than ever to showcase and encourage creative young people who dare to make art that challenges the status quo, gives us a means of escape, and reaffirms our purpose in this world,” said Christopher Wisniewski, Executive Director of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. “The Alliance believes in the enduring value of championing the artistic self-expression of teens—the society-shifting creators who will help spark and reflect the greatest issues and movements of their, and our, time.”

Students ages 13 and up residing in the United States, U.S. territories and military bases, or Canada, are invited to submit original work in any of the Awards' 28 art and writing categories, including architecture, painting, flash fiction, poetry, printmaking, fashion design, and a new category, Expanded Projects, which includes interdisciplinary and experimental visual art. All works are blindly adjudicated based on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of personal vision or voice, first on a regional level by more than 100 local affiliates of the Alliance, and then nationally by an impressive panel of industry experts. Annually, the Alliance partners with individuals, foundations, and corporations to offer scholarship opportunities for students in certain categories or addressing particular themes.

The 2021 Direct Scholarships include:

- **Best-in-Grade Award:** Underwritten by Bloomberg Philanthropies, this award provides 24 students (two artists and two writers per grades 7–12) with \$500 scholarships, and their educators with \$250 awards.
- **Civic Expression Award:** Underwritten by the Maurice R. Robinson Fund, this award provides \$1,000 scholarships to six students whose art or writing explores political or social issues, and their educators, with \$250 awards.
- **New York Life Award:** Underwritten by the New York Life Foundation, this award recognizes six students on the national level with \$1,000 scholarships for their work exploring personal grief, loss, and bereavement, and their educators with \$250 awards. Additional \$500 scholarships are also available for two students from each of the following states: Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, and New Mexico.
- **One Earth Award:** Underwritten by the One Earth Fund and the Salamander Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation, this award provides four students with \$1,000 scholarships for creative works that address the pressing issue of human-caused climate change, and their educators with \$250 awards.
- **Portfolio Awards:** The program’s highest national honor recognizes 16 high school seniors each with a \$10,000 scholarship for his or her writing or art portfolio, and their educators with \$1,000 awards; 30 Silver Medal with Distinction Portfolio recipients each receive \$1,000 scholarships, and their educators receive \$250 awards.
- **The Alliance/ACT-SO Journey Award:** In partnership with NAACP Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), this award provides full-tuition scholarships to attend summer art or writing programs for up to ten ACT-SO scholars, who also receive Gold or Silver Keys at the regional level of the Awards.
- **The Herblock Award for Editorial Cartoon:** Underwritten by The Herb Block Foundation, this award provides three young artists with \$1,000 scholarships for visual art that offers commentary or criticism on current events, social events, or political topics, and their educators with \$250 awards.
- **Ray Bradbury Award for Science Fiction & Fantasy:** Underwritten by the Ray Bradbury Foundation, this award offers \$1,000 scholarships for up to six students, whose writing uses supernatural, magical, futuristic, scientific, and technological themes as a key element of the narrative, and their educators with \$250 awards.

Students in grades 7-12, aged 13-18, in Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio will be participating through the Fort Wayne Museum of Art as a regional affiliate. Students from Northeast Indiana counties Adams, Allen, Blackford, Carroll, DeKalb, Grant, Howard, Huntington, Jay, Kosciusko, Lagrange, Miami, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, Whitley and from Northwest Ohio counties Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, Wood are welcome to submit their creative work online at the website <https://www.artandwriting.org/affiliate/IN001A/> now through January 5, 2021.

In response to challenges in classrooms around the country during the coronavirus pandemic, the Alliance and its affiliate partners have adapted the submissions process, awards adjudication, and programming for these changing circumstances. Regional awards will be announced mid-January 2021, with exhibition of these award winners at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

February 13-April 10, 2021. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Medalists will be announced in March 2021, and throughout the spring the Alliance will host a series of virtual and in-person celebrations for students, families, and educators, culminating with the summer launch of the Art.Write.Now.Tour, a traveling public exhibition featuring select 2021 National Medalists' works. Writing recipients may have their work published in The Best Teen Writing of 2021, an anthology showcasing stories, essays, and poetry of teen authors; and art recipients in The Best Teen Art of 2021, highlighting paintings, photographs, drawings, and other works by teen artists.

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is collaborating with the Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District and its affiliate Art This Way to present a special region-specific award to one art and one writing work that addresses a topic related to social justice. In response to the protests against police brutality of May 2020 in downtown Fort Wayne, artists turned the plywood protecting broken windows into creative, peaceful responses to this issue. The Social Justice Advocacy Award challenges teens to offer their own creative response to issues of social justice that are important to them. Cash prizes of \$250 will be awarded to one work each in art and writing. For more information, visit this link: rb.gy/gb6mle.

“The plywood mural project documents an extraordinary and contentious moment in Fort Wayne’s history. Coming together to analyze and discuss social justice through art helps to further the mission of Downtown Fort Wayne as the center for regional discourse,” said Michael Galbraith, Downtown Improvement District president.

About the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Founded in 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented by the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, and are made possible through the generosity of Scholastic Inc., The Maurice R. Robinson Fund, New York Life Foundation, Command Companies, The New York Times, The Herb Block Foundation, Blick Art Materials & Utrecht Art Supplies, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Ray Bradbury Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and numerous other individual, foundation, and corporate funders; and, for the National Student Poets Program, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Wunderkinder Foundation, Poetry Foundation, and Academy of American Poets.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into the primary resource for the visual arts in the Northeast Indiana region. Regularly exhibiting nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American Art. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage and educate broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a 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. Additional support is provided by the English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation, the Foellinger Foundation, the Edward and Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation, the Community

Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, the Lincoln Financial Foundation, the Steel Dynamics Foundation, the Flora Dale Krouse Foundation, and the Edward D. and Ione Auer Foundation.

For more information about the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, visit www.artandwriting.org. Additional details about the Awards can be found in the Scholastic media room: <http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/artandwriting>.

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