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**National Medals Awarded to 28 Regional Teens at  
Carnegie Hall, New York City on June 8**

*FWMoA travels to NYC to celebrate regional students awarded in the  
100<sup>th</sup> annual class of Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Medal Ceremony*

**June 5, 2023 (Fort Wayne, IN)** – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is pleased to announce the students who have won national recognition for their art and writing in the 2023 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. After competing at the regional level, 28 students from Northeast Indiana/Northwest Ohio were awarded Gold or Silver Medals by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, a national organization.

**Bayan Yunis of Fort Wayne** earned the program’s highest honor. She is one of eight National Gold Medal winners for her art portfolio, “My Own Muse.” Among the more than 7,000 portfolios entered for adjudication at the national level, only sixteen portfolios (eight in art, and eight in writing) earned the prestigious Gold Medal Portfolio Award, which includes a \$12,500 scholarship.

These Gold Medal and Silver Medal Award recipients, alongside this year’s 28 national medalists from our region, will be honored at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 8. FWMoA will be there to commemorate the occasion. FWMoA’s Education Department provides specialized programming for PreK-12 groups, bilingual content, and opportunities for older adults among the diverse, world-class exhibitions that reflect the values of our region. In 2022, 43,714 participants were served through various education activities including:

- Pk-12 School Tours
- Gallery on Wheels - outreach program brings a selection of carefully curated art into classrooms
- Meet Me at FWMoA tours with the Alzheimer’s Association of Greater Indiana Chapter
- Family-friendly tours with interpretation in American Sign Language provided by DeafLink
- Virtual content through the Articulate Blog
- John S. and James L. Knight Learning Center - a fun, interactive and hands-on environment

Presented by the nonprofit organization the **Alliance for Young Artists & Writers**, the 100th Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the country's longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7–12. This year, more than 100,000 teens from U.S. territories, Canada, and every state in the nation participating in this year’s Awards, submitting over 300,000 works of art and writing. Works by more than 40,000 teens received regional recognition, and nearly 2,000 works earned national awards.

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is grateful for the generous support of Toni Murray and The James Foundation for this program. Additional support is provided by the Indiana Arts Commission, the Foellinger Foundation, English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation, and the Edward M. and Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation.

For more information about the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers and the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, visit the Scholastic News Room: <http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/artandwriting>

**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 is now the third largest art museum in Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts a collection of 7,700 objects of American and international art from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to today. The Museum is*

*committed to the collection, preservation, presentation, and interpretation of American and related art to engage 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. This activity made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. For more information, visit [www.fwmoa.org](http://www.fwmoa.org).*

Image Credits:

1. Bayan Yunis, "People Watch" from "My Own Muse" portfolio, 2023, photography
2. Bayan Yunis, "Predictable" from "My Own Muse" portfolio, 2023, photography
3. Bayan Yunis, "Your Move." from "My Own Muse" portfolio, 2023, photography

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