

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio Students Announced
as 2026 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Regional Winners**

635 Young Artists and Writers Recognized by the Fort Wayne Museum of Art for their Original Works

February 11, 2026 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art has announced the regional award winners of the 2026 [Scholastic Art & Writing Awards](#). Presented by the nonprofit organization the **Alliance for Young Artists & Writers**, the 103rd 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, nearly 100,000 teens from across the United States and Canada submitted their best art and writing. 635 creative teens from Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio received regional honors, including Gold Keys, Silver Keys, Honorable Mentions, and American Visions & Voices nominations, from local Scholastic Awards Affiliate the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

The following ten students—five artists and five writers—received the top regional honor, the American Visions & Voices nomination, signifying their work as best-in-show.

Receiving a Gold Key and American Visions Nomination for their artwork:

- Cooper Baird, Grade 10, Carroll High School. *Just Chilling*. Painting.
- Brooklynn Deane, Grade 11, Canterbury High School. *Together in Solitude*. Drawing.
- Cadence Reagan, Grade 11, Homestead High School, *Salathiel*. Painting.
- Kora Rockwell, Grade 12, Warsaw Community High School. *Murky*. Ceramics & Glass
- Jocelyn Roth, Grade 10, Canterbury High School. *The Gaze of Resilience*. Photography.

Receiving a Gold Key and American Voices Nomination for their writing:

- Sreeja Bhattacharjee, Grade 12, Penn High School. *Over Easy*. Short Story.
- Lailah Byrd, Grade 12, Toledo School for the Arts. *The Moth*. Poetry.
- Jai Gaba, Grade 8, Stanley Clark School. *An Analysis of Dickensian Dialect and Narrative Structure*. Critical Essay.
- Caliel Mosley, Grade 11, Crown Point, Indiana. *Talk White to Them*. Poetry.
- Tulsi Patel, Grade 12, St. Joseph's High School. *Preliminary Report on Anomalous Observational Phenomena Associated with Artifact B-12 ("The Effigy")*. Speculative Fiction.

In celebration of this year's regional award winners, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art will host an **Open House Celebration** on **Sunday, February 15th from 12pm-5pm** with free admission. **The exhibition of awarded works will be on display at FWMoA from February 14 – April 12** in the Museum's galleries at 311 E. Main Street. General admission to the museum is free for FWMoA members, \$10 adults, \$8 for children 2-17, college students with valid ID, and seniors 65+. Children under 2 are free. Veterans, active military personnel, their spouse and children 17 and in the same household receive free admission. General admission is free the second Thursday of the month. FWMoA gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10-6pm, Thursdays 10-8pm, and Sundays 12-5pm.

Note: This exhibition will be closed to the public March 3-7 for the ARTrageous Gala and Auction fundraiser and will reopen 4pm on Saturday, March 7. The museum's Glass Wing will remain open during that time.

Since the program's founding in 1923, the Awards have fostered the creativity and talent of millions of students and include a distinguished list of alumni such as **Tschabalala Self, Stephen King, Kay WalkingStick, Charles White, Joyce Carol Oates, and Andy Warhol**, all of whom received recognition in the Awards when they were teens.

For **Gold Key** works of art and writing in the Awards' 28 categories—including architecture, painting, flash fiction, poetry, printmaking, science fiction & fantasy, and more—the opportunities for recognition will continue when the works are considered for national honors, including a wealth of additional opportunities, such as scholarships, inclusion in the Scholastic Awards Traveling Exhibition, and in anthologies Best Teen Art and Best Teen Writing. Poets who win national awards are considered for the National Student Poets Program, the nation's highest honor for young poets presenting original work. National awards will be announced on March 26, 2026.

QUOTES:

"Over their long history, the Scholastic Awards have not only provided important opportunities but proved an essential source of validation for so many creative teens. Whether or not the award recipients decide to pursue careers in the arts, their proven ability to innovate and express their unique perspectives in universal ways will carry them into their chosen fields. Each year, the museum staff, the jurors who select the awarded works, and our wider community are blown away by the creativity of our region's teens and the educators who help nurture it," said Alyssa Dumire, director of education at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

NATIONAL SPONSORS:

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., New York Life Foundation, The Maurice R. Robinson Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Command Companies, The Herb Block Foundation, Quad, BLICK Art Materials, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Jay Pritzker Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, ChangeCX, Lindenmeyr Book Publishing Papers, Grafica Veneta/Lake Book Manufacturing, Garcia Family Foundation, The New York Times, and numerous other individual, foundation, and corporate funders; and, for the National Student Poets Program, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Hearthland Foundation, and Academy of American Poets.

LOCAL SPONSORS:

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is grateful for the generous support of Toni Murray for this program. Additional exhibition support is provided by ProFed Credit Union, Fort Wayne Art League, Harold P. Arnold Foundation, and the Edward D. and Ione Auer Foundation, and a special thanks to WBOI NPR News and Diverse Music for support of American Voices.

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 has evolved into the primary resource for the visual arts in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American Art, including the Steven Sorman Archives and more than 350 pieces of glass sculpture. 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 is 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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Images:

1. Cooper Baird, Grade 10, Carroll High School. *Just Chilling*. Painting.
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