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Focus on Youth: The 2018 Ralph Sloan Art Awards



Judges for Ralph Sloan Student Art Awards 2018. L-R: Danielle Calloway Robinson, Danielle Vinci, Melissa Slattery, Margaret Alcock Prezzano and Georgette Wirth.

(Norwalk, Conn.) - Norwalk Mayor Rilling and the Norwalk Arts Commission invites members of the public to view the current student art exhibition in the Mayor's Gallery at Norwalk City Hall. A special event to celebrate the creations is planned for Thursday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

"The artwork displayed in the Mayor's Gallery is truly exceptional. I enjoy seeing these works of art when I come to the office," said Mayor Rilling. "Students of all ages have created some magnificent pieces I know the public will truly enjoy. I hope the community will join us for this special event on October 4."

The Norwalk Mayor's Gallery exhibition, titled "Focus on Youth: The 2018 Ralph Sloan Award Winners" features artwork created during the 2017-18 school year by Norwalk Public School students. Each spring members of the Norwalk community are invited to view the Norwalk Public School's City-wide Art Show. During the annual

show, a jury of arts professionals, who attended Norwalk public schools, selects the best works, which are then framed and become part of the Norwalk Board of Education's Ralph Sloan Student Art Gallery, a permanent collection of award-winning student work, located on the third floor of Norwalk City Hall. Student award winners, and their art teachers include:

- Jordan Santana, "Inspired Mondrian," Silvermine Elementary, Kindergarten, teacher Heather Wood
- Sarah Gray, "Save the Bees," Brien McMahon, Grade 12, teacher W. S. Pierce
- Jake Tinchak, "The Peruvian Girl," Norwalk High, Grade 11, teacher Lauren Delong
- Annika Amann, "Impressionist Trees," West Rocks Middle School, Grade 7, teacher Melissa Fusarelli
- Taylor Morton, "Two Trees," Brien McMahon, Grade 12, teacher W.S. Pierce
- Ysabel Cleofe & Lexie Spergle, "241," Naramake Elementary, Grade 2, teacher Lisa Martinelli

"The judges were impressed not only with the caliber of student work but also with the teachers who inspire such creativity. I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution and commitment of Diane Albano, without whom the show would not happen," said Susan Wallerstein, Chair of the Norwalk Arts Commission. "We encourage everyone to take a few minutes from their day to visit the Mayor's Gallery on the second floor of Norwalk City Hall and view the wonderful student artworks on display. It will surely make you "Norwalk Proud!"

Judges for the 2018 Student Art Awards were Danielle Vinci, artist and Norwalk Housing Authority After School Arts Program Coordinator, Norwalk High '09; Danielle Calloway Robinson, professional photographer, Brien McMahon High '04; Margaret Alcock Prezzano, artist, Norwalk High '75; Melissa Slattery, Mayor's Gallery curator, Magrath School & Norwalk Community College; and Georgette Wirth, Brien McMahon High '70.

Ralph Sloan served as Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools from 1983-1998. After he retired, the student art collection was named in his honor. Twenty-five years later, the Ralph Sloan Student Art Collection continues to grow, offering outstanding examples of Norwalk public school student art for all who visit the Norwalk Board of Education at Norwalk City Hall. Today the collection includes more than 200 examples of award-winning student artwork.