



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

On Sat., May 3, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art hosted an awards and recognition ceremony to honor students who participated in the 41st annual Hartford Youth Art Renaissance, an exhibition of student artwork created by Hartford Public School students in kindergarten to grade 12. Two Hartford high school students who demonstrated excellence in the portfolio division received a full scholarship and stipend to attend the Hartford Art School's "Summer High School Visual Arts Program," a month-long experience of diverse studio course offerings and associated visits to the museum designed to further develop student portfolios for college admissions. A team of art education leaders selected Mary Accurso, (University High School of Science and Engineering, grade 12), and Hae Reh, (Journalism and Media Academy/CPBN Satellite Campus, grade 12) as this year's summer scholarship recipients. These scholarships were funded by a grant from the Anonymous No. 46 Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

The museum also awarded its first "Art Start Award" to former Hartford Public School student and two-time scholarship winner (2011 and 2012) Andres Reyes. Looking to recruit, the Hartford Art School stayed in touch with Reyes after his participation in the summer program, and eventually offered him a scholarship beginning in the 2014-15 school year to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts. The "Art Start Award" recognizes Reyes' exceptional artistic achievements and honors his acceptance into the Hartford Art School by providing art supplies and catalogues to jumpstart his academic success.

"As a mentor and friend, I have had the distinct privilege of witnessing the immense progress Andres has made both artistically and personally since I first met him in 2011," said Emily Pacini Ide, School and Teacher Programs Specialist. "He is a testament to the idea that dreams can become reality with a healthy measure of hard work, perseverance and passion. His story is inspirational, and there's no doubt that his future is bright."

"Since I won the scholarship from the museum, my dream has been to get accepted into the Hartford Art School," said Reyes. "The museum scholarship opened the door for people to look at me

and see my artistic skills and talents.”

Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra also attended the awards ceremony to congratulate student-artists. “The arts are crucial to the development of Hartford’s youth,” said Segarra. “These scholarships are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the City’s public schools and cultural institutions to fostering the community’s future artistic leaders.”

In addition to the aforementioned scholarships, the Hartford Art School Artist of Promise Award was presented to France Parnter (Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School, grade 1). Awards of Excellence were presented to: Samuel Carmichael (R.J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, grade 3), Shineyla Romero (Asian Studies Academy at Bellizzi School, grade 6), Krystal Portela (Environmental Studies Magnet School at Mary Hooker, grade 8), Laymu Htaw (Journalism and Media Academy, grade 12) and Thomas Ingram (University High School of Science and Engineering, grade 12). The Audience Favorite Award was presented to Taylor Wilson (Global Communications Academy, grade 3).

About the Hartford Youth Art Renaissance

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art continues its longtime partnership with Hartford Public Schools to present the 41st annual Hartford Youth Art Renaissance. From Sat., April 12, to Sun., May 18, 2014, over one hundred works of art created by students in kindergarten through twelfth grade are on display at the Hartford Public Library downtown branch – open Mon. to Thurs., 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sun. (Nov. - April), 1 - 5 p.m. – while the grand prizewinning works from each participating school will be on view at the museum. An audio guide provides reflections made by student artists about their prizewinning work. Artwork from past Hartford Youth Art Renaissance exhibitions can be viewed online at flickr.com/photos/hyar/sets.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is America's first public art museum, founded in 1842. The museum is located at 600 Main St., Hartford, Connecticut and is open Wed. to Fri., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. and Sun., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and the first Thursday of every month 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Visit thewadsworth.org for more information.

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