
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts Culver City High School

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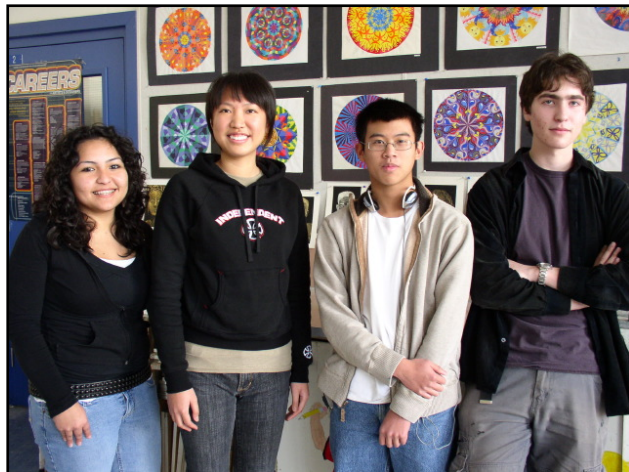
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AVPA Students Win Scholastic Art Awards

Culver City, CA, February 2, 2006

The results are in for the 2006 Regional Scholastic Art Awards competition and several of Kristine Hatanaka's students from Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) received awards. The award winning artwork will be exhibited February 6-12 in the Bolsky Gallery, Galef Center for Fine Arts at the OTIS College of Art and Design. An awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 12th from 1:30-4:30 at the gallery. This event is free and open to the public.



Seeing the talent of the students she teaches, Hatanaka encourages them to take every opportunity to showcase their skills – opportunities like these highly competitive Scholastic Arts Awards. According to Hatanaka, "I'm always proud of the talent and creativity of my Academy students at CCHS. It's very gratifying for me to see them receive the recognition of a national competition like this."

This year's highest recognition goes to Benjamin Hersh (senior) who won a Gold Key award for the drawing portfolio he submitted. Sue Li won two Silver awards – both for paintings she entered in the individual works category. Hersh also won a Silver award for a drawing, as did Arthur Wong (junior). Jolynn Hiram (junior) received an honorable mention for a piece she submitted.

Portfolio entries consist of eight works that show a consistent body of work. Both individual works and portfolios are judged on the artists' technical proficiency and originality as well as the emergence of a personal vision.

The Gold Key is awarded to students whose portfolios earn the highest level of achievement on the regional level. As a Gold Key recipient, Hersh's portfolio will now compete at the national level. If his work wins at that level, he'll receive a \$10,000 scholarship, representing the highest level of achievement in the Awards.

Laura McGaughy, CCUSD's superintendent recognizes how the encouragement of a teacher like Hatanaka can make all the difference. "We know how fortunate we are to have such a talented and recognized teacher in Kristine Hatanaka, CCUSD's teacher of the year. Without her inspiration and assistance, our students wouldn't have art achievements such as these."

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have celebrated 80 years as a unique presence in our nation's classrooms by identifying and documenting outstanding achievement of young artists and writers in the visual and literary arts. Since 1923, 12 million students have participated, 2 million young artists and writers have been recognized, and \$20 million in awards and scholarships have been made available. Each year, 250,000 students in grades 7 through 12 participate through regional programs.

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous support from the community as well as from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information about the Academy, go to www.avpa.org or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 6094 or x6009.

Photo caption:

L-R: Award winners Jolynn Hiram, Sue Li, Arthur Wong, Benjamin Hersh