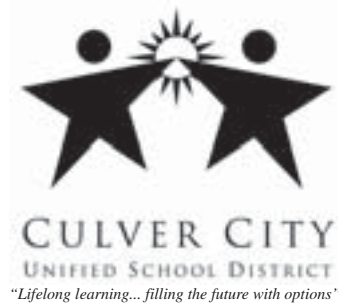


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High School Art Teacher Earns Mentor Award, Students Earn Recognition From Ryman Program

CULVER CITY, Calif. -- Culver City High School art teacher Kristine Hatanaka will be honored on Thursday, May 29, along with two of her student participants in the 2003 Ryman Program for Young Artists when the organization holds its Annual Graduation and Student Art Exhibition at the University of Southern California's School of Fine Arts.

Hatanaka will receive the prestigious Herbert D. Ryman Mentor award for her exemplary guidance and teaching of her students, many of whom have been selected to exhibit their work in such notable locations as the Museum of Contemporary Art and a special exhibition at the former World Trade Center site in New York City.

President of the Ryman-Carroll Foundation, Martin Sklar, will make the presentation to Hatanaka in front of her peers and students.

In addition, Culver City High School students Melissa Little and Resa Deverich will be honored at the same event. The Ryman Program for Young Artists selects top students in visual art to win full scholarships for advanced instruction in the foundation areas of drawing and painting. Ryman classes are held at USC's School of Fine Arts and are taught by professional teaching artists.

"Completion of this rigorous program by these committed young artists represents at least three semesters of art classes every Saturday, in addition to the student's regular high school coursework," said Diane Brigham, executive director of the Ryman Foundation. "All the students have shown a real dedication to developing their artistic talents. And the artwork they have produced for this exhibition is stunning."

The graduation ceremony will be followed by an artists' reception. More than 150 works by Ryman students will be on view at USC's Helen Lindhurst School of Fine Arts and School of Architecture Galleries. The event is free and all are welcome.

The Ryman Foundation, which sponsors the program, is now accepting applications for the summer and fall terms. The deadline is June 10, 2003. The Ryman Program is open to all high school students, grades 9-12, by application.

The Program consists of 12-week spring and fall semesters and a 6-week summer landscape course. Ryman has granted over 1,700 individual scholarships since its inception in 1990. Applications and further information are available by calling 213-629-2878 or see www.ryman.org.

The Ryman Student Art Exhibition will be on view from May 27 through June 4. Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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