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WINNERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE’S ART EXHIBIT SELECTED FOR 2018 WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

WEST ALLIS, Wis. – May 21, 2018 – Wisconsin State Fair officials are excited to announce the winners of the 2018 Young People’s Art Exhibit. The creative and colorful artwork will be on display in the lobby of the Wisconsin Exposition Center during the **2018 Wisconsin State Fair, presented by U.S. Cellular.**

This year’s Young People’s Art Exhibit showcased **nearly 400 pieces of artwork** from Wisconsin’s talented youth. As in the past, entries were received from public, private and homeschooled students from across the state. A total of **98 awards** and **\$4,750 in prize money** will be awarded to the students.

Awards were given in several categories, including **Wisconsin State Fair Best of Show** and the new **Superstar Scratchboard** category. Within each category are Junior Division (for students in grades 6-8), and Senior Division (for students in grades 9-12). This year’s judges were Tom Buchs, Artist; Beth Stoddard, Painter; and Jim Toth, Retired Art Educator.

The **Wisconsin State Fair Best of Show – Junior Division** award went to Katie Muelemans, 13, of Wisconsin Hills Middle School in Brookfield, who sculpted with plastic, paintbrush, wood and wire to create “The Waterfall of Art.” The winner of the **Wisconsin State Fair Best of Show – Senior Division** was Olivia Casper, 15, of Wauwatosa West High School in Wauwatosa, who drew “Charcoal Shoe Observation” with charcoal. Both winners received \$110.

“The plethora of good artwork made this competition both a challenge and a joy to judge,” said Beth Stoddard. “It is heartening to see these young artists’ diverse media, original concepts and high level of skill. Kudos to the parents and guardians for their support, the educators for fostering these artistic explorations, and most of all to the youth for their excellent creative output. The arts benefit not only the life of the artist, but also that of his or her surrounding culture. May these young artists continue to create and so enrich the life of our state.”

Each year, one piece of artwork is selected for the following year’s **Young People’s Art Exhibit Poster**. The 2019 poster will feature art created by Junior Division artist Erika Dretzka, 15, of Longfellow Middle School in Richfield, who created a painting using acrylic and colored pencil entitled “Blue.”

This year a new contest was added to the Young People’s Art Exhibit called Superstar Scratchboard. Winners are selected on their ability to exemplify the title “Superstar Scratchboard.” The **Superstar Scratchboard – Junior Division** award went to Gabrielle Willbrandt, 13, of St. Francis Borgia in Cedarburg, who created a scratchboard entitled “A Mother’s Love.” The **Superstar Scratchboard – Senior Division** award went to Noah Enriquez, 15, of Milwaukee High School of the Arts in Milwaukee, who created a scratchboard entitled “Howl.”

The 2018 Wisconsin State Fair, presented by U.S. Cellular, will take place Thursday, Aug. 2 – Sunday, Aug. 12 at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, Wis. The fair offers a unique experience to all who attend and is an exceptional value with 30 FREE entertainment stages, exciting rides and games in SpinCity, thousands of animals, endless family activities, events, contests, vendors and culinary delights. For the most up-to-date information, visit WiStateFair.com or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#), [YouTube](#) and [Snapchat](#).