Press Release
32nd Annual Rhode Island State 4-H Photo and Fine Arts Show
March 13-15, 2015

Congratulations to all of the talented artists who brought their paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures to the Warwick Mall for the 32nd Annual State 4-H Photo & Fine Arts Show. The event was held March 13-15, 2015, and featured 125 pieces of art. Artists and photographers judged each piece of art and offered advice to the artists who learn artistic techniques in their 4-H clubs, school or on their own and have the opportunity to present their artwork in our state art show.

In the Junior Painting category, Emma Horan of Coventry was recognized for two paintings, “Da na na na Shark” and “Stories of the Night”. In the senior division, Bonnie Turek’s (Hope Valley) self-portrait “Serving at Sunset”, Alyssa Grayson’s (Greene) acrylic painting, “Tara in the Snow” and Kelly Bryant’s (Coventry) “Silence in the Forest” in acrylics won Best of Show honors.

Genevieve Bradley (Coventry) and Sadie Pacheco (Bristol) both earned recognition in the Sculpture category. Genevieve’s “Tea Pot” and Sadie’s “Chinese Food” miniatures caught the judge’s eye.

Photography is always a popular category. Best of Show honors in the color photo division went to Juniors Meghan Andrews (West Greenwich) for Black Eyed Susans, Devon Cranston (West Greenwich) for “Snowman’s Lawn Chair” and Grace Tokarski (Bradford) for Cat on a Fence. In the Intermediate division, “Through the Eyes of a Child” by Jasmin Desrosiers (Bellingham, MA) and “Flower Bridge” by Molly Reeves (Manville) were selected for Best of Show honors. In the Senior division, “Crystalize” by Rebeka Sutherland (Oakland) and “Summer Dreams” by Holly Carroll (Seekonk, MA) both earned this award and were named Best of Show. Black and White photography honors went to Melanie Nelson of West Warwick for “Hot Chocolate” and Sabrina Peltier of Coventry for “Call Duck”.

In the drawing category, Best of Show recognition went to one 4-Her in each division. Junior 4-Her, Althea Vedro (Swansea, MA) earned Best of Show honors for “Looking at Koi Fish”. In the Intermediate division, Caleb Cranston of West Greenwich earned recognition for his colored pencil self-portrait “I Like Pie”. Kelly Bryant of Coventry earned Best of Show honors in the senior division for her pencil drawing, “Old Man”.

Each year, visitors to the mall and shoppers are invited to vote for their favorite from our judge’s selections. This year, after tallying 317 votes, the “Viewer’s Choice” award went to the drawing “Old Man” by Kelly Bryant.
This year, Rhode Island 4-H worked with the Warwick Museum of Art on a special gallery exhibit of selected pieces of 4-H art displayed at the state art show. Simone Spruce-Torres, Program Director at the Warwick Museum of Art, selected 28 items for a special show to be held at the museum during the month of May. Congratulations to these 4-Hers!

The RI 4-H Foundation gave special recognition to several pieces of art. The Special Foundation awards were selected for their appeal to our donors. Color Photos “Lola” by Fiona Mitchell (Wakefield), “Grandma’s Farmall” by Ryan Horan (North Kingstown), “Flower Bridge” by Molly Reeves (Manville), “Hello Sunshine” by Emily Lotter (North Scituate), “Newly Hatched” by John Horan (North Kingstown) and “Summer Dreams” by Holly Carroll (Seekonk, MA) were chosen by the Foundation. In addition, the painting, “Winter Blue Jay” by Caleb Cranston of West Greenwich was selected for this award. The youth artists have the opportunity to have the artwork reproduced as prints to be given as gifts to our generous donors. The mission of the RI 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. is to support the youth programs of the URI/College of the Environment and Life Sciences. The 4-H Foundation funds 4-H programs, provides scholarships, awards, recognition and travel opportunities.

Congratulations to all of this year’s State 4-H Photo and Fine Arts Show participants and thank you to all of our judges who volunteer their time and expertise to give advice to our artists.

Rhode Island 4-H is the Youth Development Program of the University of Rhode Island, Cooperative Extension, College of the Environment and Life Sciences. 4-H programs focus on learning opportunities for youth aged 5 to 18 years old, in school and in after-school settings, community clubs and Operation Military Kids initiatives. 4-H members reside in towns, suburbs and cities and complete educational projects, ranging from science and technology to healthy lifestyles; animal science to citizenship. Members focus on learning by doing, applying leadership skills, making a difference in RI communities, and learning to respect others. They learn life skills such as responsibility, decision-making, communication skills, problem solving, commitment, leadership, and teamwork.

To become a 4-H Volunteer or for information on the 4-H program, call the URI 4-H Office at 401-874-2959 or email kstone@uri.edu.