The 26th Annual State 4-H Photo & Fine Arts Show was held at the Warwick Mall, March 13-15, 2009. 4-Hers from throughout RI brought over 150 pieces of art to the mall to be judged. 4-H members 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. Art was entered in painting, drawing, photography and mixed media categories.

Best of Shows in painting went to Chris Jackman (Greene) for “Weekend Getaway”, Safiatu Dallas (West Greenwich) for “Golden Spring” and Jaclyn Greene’s (West Greenwich) watercolor painting, “My Special Home”.

Mixed Media awards went to Jessica Elliot (W. Kingston) for her glazed pottery “My Hand”, Amanda Chase (East Greenwich) for a glass etching titled “Are My Ears on Straight?” and Zachary Cifelli (North Scituate) for his “Spinning Top” woodworking piece.

From West Greenwich, Cara Wolosohjjan’s pastel drawing of a duck and Lauren Breene’s “Leather Skate” won in the Senior category while Lydia Clarkin’s (Coventry) drawing “Tigers” won in the Junior division.

Awards for color photography went to Charlotte Cifelli (N. Scituate) for “The Orchid”, Renee Pendleton (West Warwick) for the photo “Red and Blue Berries” and Abbey Dallas of West Greenwich with “A Colorful Silhouette”. Abigail Clarkin (Coventry) won two Best of Show awards with a color photo “Tiger Lilly” and her bookmark depicting her favorite part of 4-H as “Friends in 4-H”. This bookmark, along with Kaitlyn Wear’s (Foster) bookmark featuring the 4-H Public Speaking event as her favorite, will be copied and sent to 4-H supporters thanking them. Also receiving Best of Shows in the color photo category were Jessilyn Ring (Coventry) for “Light Through the Darkness” and Newell Roberts (West Greenwich) for “Winter is Here to Stay”. Both Jessilyn and Newell also won a second Best of Show honor from our judges. Jessilyn’s photo story “Doors to Nowhere” and Newell’s black and white photo “The Endless City” were also recognized. Another black and white photography award went to Kelsey Greene (West Greenwich) for “Stepping Stones”. Jacob St. Jean’s (Providence) photo story “Monster Attack” using legos as his subject garnered another Best of Show honor.

In the Adult category, Cynthia Clarkin (Coventry) earned two Best of Show honors for her drawing “Doors of Deerfield, MA” and her color photo “Andrew”.

The art remained on display in the mall throughout the weekend and the public was invited to vote for their favorite art from our judge’s favorites. After tallying 247 votes, this year’s “People’s Choice Award” went to both Chris Jackman for his painting “The Weekend Getaway” and to Newell Roberts for his color photo entitled “Winter is Here to Stay”. Congratulations to all of this year’s State 4-H Photo and Fine Arts Show participants and thank you to all of our judges.

Rhode Island 4-H is the Youth Development Program of the University of Rhode Island, Cooperative Extension, College of the Environment and Life Sciences. Participation in the 4-H Program is open to all interested youth between the ages of 5 and 19. 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 and get along with people. They learn life skills like 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.