The University of Rhode Island’s Memorial Union was the setting for this year’s 27th Annual State 4-H Photo & Fine Arts Show held April 23-25, 2010. 4-Hers from throughout RI brought over 100 pieces of art to the URI Memorial Union 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 Show recognition in the painting category went to Chris Jackman of Greene for “Picture Perfect Paradise” and to Lauren Breene of West Greenwich for “Buttonwood Beef Cows”, both in the senior division. Emma St. Jean of Cranston won a Best of Show award for her “Pop Art Can” in the Intermediate division. Catherine Brownell’s (Middletown) painting “Mr. Chicky” and Nathaniel Manock’s (North Kingstown) pastel painting, “Cuttle Fish” both earned Best of Show rosettes in the junior division.

Meghan Morrissey of Foster earned a Best in Show from our judges in the Mixed Media category for her painting, “The Broken Music”. Mixed Media Best of Show honors also went to Courtney Lambert (Coventry) for her ceramic piece, “Box Tree” and to Zachary Cifelli (N. Scituate) for his wooden Spinning Tops.

In the drawing category, Diane McDonough’s (Portsmouth) “Chicken in the Garden”, Alexandra Matta’s (Coventry) drawing of a German Shepherd titled “Loyal Companion” and Timothy Clarkin’s (Coventry) “Temple of Vespasian”, all took top honors in their age divisions.

Awards for color photography went to Cameron Millar (Richmond) for “The Frog” in the Senior division, Newell Roberts (West Greenwich) for his photo “Sunset at Mishnock” and Jessilyn Ring of Coventry with “Fern” in the Intermediate division and Lexi Morgantini (Hope Valley) for her color photo “Lily” in the Junior division.

This year we featured a special category for note card designs conveying the theme, “I love the USA”, using little or no words. The winning designs will be used as part of our Operation Military Kids program. Designs by West Greenwich’s Jacob DelTufo and Coventry’s Courtney Lambert were chosen for this special recognition.

In the Adult category, Cynthia Clarkin (Coventry) earned a Best of Show honor for her watercolor painting “Orchids”.

The art remained on display throughout the weekend and the public was invited to vote for their favorite art from our judge’s favorites. After tallying the votes, this year’s “People’s Choice Award” went to both Meghan Morrissey for her mixed media painting, “The Broken Music” and to Cameron Millar for his color photo “The Frog”.

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.