

Student Artists Draw Applause at Nolde Forest Art Contest Awards

Berks County, PA A crowd of 80+ people was on hand Saturday to give a hand to the participants in the third annual “Nature of Nolde Forest” Student Art Contest.

The contest, which was launched in early September, was open to all Berks County schools, grades 1 through 12. It was supported by The Friends of Nolde Forest and coordinated by Art Plus Gallery, a non-profit artist cooperative in West Reading.

The artwork of 53 finalists was selected for the exhibit at Nolde Mansion, which also houses the administrative offices for Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, Cumru Township. Most of the finalists were chosen by the 21 schools that registered for the event. Students were also allowed to enter the contest independently, and Art Plus Gallery selected several additional finalists from this group.

The show, which was open to the public for the first two weeks of December, culminated in Saturday’s awards presentation at Nolde’s McConnell Hall environmental education center.

The artwork was judged by members of Art Plus Gallery, and cash awards presented to the winners. The prizes were funded primarily by The Friends of Nolde Forest.

WINNERS, FINE ART

GRADES 1 & 2

1. Sophie Strick, Brecknock Elementary, *Waterfall at Nolde*
2. Gianna Joffred, Mifflin Park Elementary, *Forest Floor*
3. John Frantz, Mifflin Park Elementary, *Cedar Branch Pendant*

GRADES 3 & 4

1. Cassandra Resto, Brecknock Elementary, *Nolde Forest*
2. Clair Rotkiske, Mifflin Park Elementary, *Tiny Creature*
3. Cheyanne Roach, Twin Valley Elementary, *Chipmunk*

GRADES 5 & 6

1. Maggie Prock, Reiffton School, Exeter; *Waterfall in Nolde Forest*
 2. Kaden Schiel, Amity Elementary, *The Spotted Lantern Fly*
 3. Emma Harmsen, West Reading Elementary, *Leaf Prints*
- Staff Choice Award: Anna Beth Glass, Amity Elementary, *Pek Pek*

GRADES 7 & 8

1. Kylie Bishop, Kutztown Middle School, *Endless Forest*
2. Kyla Ebersole, Tulpehocken Jr/Sr High, *Beauty of the Small*
3. Taylor Mentzer, Exeter Jr High, *Autumn*

GRADES 9 & 10

1. Paige Weil, Exeter Jr/Sr High, *Time Flies By*
2. Ravyn Strahan, Tulpehocken High, *Innocence*

GRADES 11 & 12

1. Amanda Fonseca, Muhlenberg High, *The Distant Path*
2. Shawnaleh Cada, Muhlenberg High, *The Field Beyond*
3. Kailyn Williams, Governor Mifflin High, *See it? Stomp it!*

WINNERS, PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Alyssa Loscig, Exeter Jr/Sr High, Grade 10; *Serenity*
 2. Rebecca Danko, Exeter Senior High, Grade 11; *Effervescent*
 3. Marnie Derr, Kutztown Middle School, Grade 8; *Serenity*
- Staff Choice Award: Dixie Miller, Tulpehocken High, Grade 12, *Taking on the Trail*

Starting in January, the students' artwork will be featured through 2018 in an online gallery at Art Plus's website, www.artplusgallerypa.com.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Please credit all photos to Blair Seitz

Nolde17-A.jpg: First grader John Frantz, Mifflin Park Elementary, accepts his award from Karen Weber and Russell Slocum, of Art Plus Gallery.

Nolde17-B.jpg: "Forest Floor", by Mifflin Park Elementary second grader Gianna Joffred, swept up a second prize.

Nolde17-C: Gianna Joffred's colorful watercolor resist earned an award from Art Plus Gallery's Russ Slocum along with applause from the audience.

Nolde17-D.jpg: Amity Elementary fifth grader Kaden Schiel accepts his award from Russ Slocum and the applause from the crowd for his 3-D marker and pencil rendering of the spotted lanternfly.

Nolde17-E.jpg: Governor Mifflin 11th grader Kailyn Williams holds her artistically outstanding, environmentally proactive study of the spotted lanternfly.

Nolde17-F.jpg: Amanda Fonseca's colorful oil painting took first place in the highly competitive Grade 11 & 12 category. Amanda is an 11th grader at Muhlenberg High School.

Nolde17-G: Dixie Miller's photo, "Taking on the Trail," earned the Tulpehocken 12th grader a Staff Choice Award.