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Art at its Winning Best

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By JOAN M. SMITH

Walking through Sibley's Ward Gallery during the weeks of Feb. 14-March 6 was an experience in artistic awareness and also an insight into the creative talent of high school students.

Art takes many forms and the young artists who entered the Scholastic Art '76 competition, sponsored by Sibley's, used the entire art media to produce their creations: oil paints, acrylics, watercolors, pencil, pen and ink, pastels, mixed media, print, graphic design, textile, sculpture, pottery, jewelry and photography.

There were more than 1500 pieces of creative work from students in grades 7-12 from 135 high schools in a 12-county area.

The competition awards consisted of blue ribbons for finalists whose work will be sent to New York for national competition, after which the winning selections will be on display at the Chicago Memorial Library; white ribbons for second-place winners who received a Gold Key award; and third-place, red ribbons for honorable mention.

There were also special awards such as the Hallmark Nominations, the Kodak Medallions of Excellence, top Junior Award, and Scholarship Portfolios.

The Catholic high schools were well represented in the winning categories. Donna Russo, a junior at

Bishop Kearney, not only received a blue ribbon finalist award but a Hallmark Nomination for her mixed media creation, "I Was Thinking."

According to Donna, her creation came by accident over a period of two months. She just dabbled and let the images form themselves.

Another BK student, senior Frances Kester, was awarded a blue ribbon for her mixed media contribution, "Metamorphic Ascension," which she said took form from her "doodling."

Nazareth senior, Doty Robidoux's textile design of "Those were the Days," a hand sewn sculpture of four nuns outfitted in the religious garb of yesteryear, won her a blue ribbon. Doty worked on her project for weeks and claimed, "The sisters at Nazareth really liked my idea."

Another winner in the textile category was Nazareth's Annette McBride whose entry was a macrame wall sculpture made of intricate woven knots and cascading fringes.

In the area of photography, Ralph Esposito of McQuaid was a blue ribbon winner for his photo, "Watchful Eyes," in which he focused on the magnetic gaze of girl and cat.

Ralph is quite a shutter bug. On a recent trip to New York he snapped his way through 14 rolls of film. He's photographer for the McQuaid yearbook, "Accolade," and hopes to study photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

In the transparency field, Paul Vassaw of Cardinal Mooney was a blue ribbon winner with his unique slide frame showing the inside of an old typewriter. He achieved this effect with an electronic light which illuminated the inner mechanisms of the machine.

Paul is head photographer for Mooney's "Apogee" and is looking forward to attending Fordham University to study marine biology.

Honorable mention red ribbons went to: Anthony Pagano, Bishop Kearney (pencil drawing); Giovanna Presta, Nazareth Academy (print making); Kathy Stasiw, Nazareth (textiles); Mary Catholdi, Bishop Kearney (photography), and Jose Chanfrau, Cardinal Mooney (photography).

All the artists who were involved in the exhibition did an outstanding job. They put much time and work into their creations and were delighted in seeing their finished efforts presented for public view and appreciation.

Artists

1-BK's Donna Russo and her doubly awarded Mixed Media creation. 2-Paul Vassaw from Cardinal Mooney with his other photographic entry, "Contrast." 3-Nazareth's Annette McBride displays a delightful smile as well as her macrame sculpture. 4-McQuaid's Ralph Esposito never stops taking pictures and as one good turn deserved another he snapped back at Courier photographer, but his "Watchful Eyes" appeared on lens. 5-Doty Robidoux poses with her four nuns of yesteryear. Background art for collage is a water color called "Icarus Climbing Stairs" which was done by Norita Dantzer a senior at St. Agnes.



Photo by Ben Susso
Kathy Stasiw's "Uncle Sam" won honorable mention.

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