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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Art Effect Teen Artists Receive Over 70 Regional Scholastic Awards**

**POUGHKEEPSIE** – Twenty local students from The Art Effect’s Art Institute program received recognition at the 2019 Hudson Valley Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards recognize exceptional and artistic talent in students from across the United States.

By entering their work in 29 different categories of art and writing, middle school and high school students over the age of 13 from all over the country in grades 7–12 have the chance to win scholarships and receive national recognition. All of those that have received regional Gold Keys will be forwarded to the national level of the Scholastic Awards where they will be considered for National Medals. Student work will be on display at SUNY New Paltz from Friday, February 8th through March 3rd, 2019.

Students of The Art Effect’s Art Institute program received 36 Gold Keys, 39 Silver Keys, 1 Silver Portfolio and 50 Honorable Mentions. These students include:

**Arlington High School:**

Kyla Holland  
Ashley Pink  
Lauren Ricci  
Benjamin Solliday  
Eric Yen

**Buckeley Middle School:**

Jadyn Stafford

**FDR High School:**

Michael Kaake

**The Harvey School:**

Nina Ansaldi

**Homeschool:**

Amelia Audette-Diaz - Highland, NY  
Audrey Poteet - Red Hook, NY

**John Jay High School:**

Melanie Moore

**Kennedy Catholic High School:**

Emma Schmidt

**Kingston Senior High School:**

Emily Dooley

**Marlboro High School**

Wislianie Valdez

**New Paltz High School:**

Juliette Crisafi  
Pilar Duvivier  
James Hyland

**Our Lady of Lourdes:**

Alyssa Santacroce

**Poughkeepsie High School:**

Lamar Wint

**Rhinebeck High School:**

Molly Stark

**Rondout Valley High School:**

Olivia Weinstein

“It is always a valuable experience for our students to participate in such a large and significant competition like Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. These awards, as well as seeing their art hanging in a professional show with hundreds of people in attendance, validate their hard work and countless hours spent in the studio.” states Todd Poteet, Director of Visual Arts at The Art Effect, “For some, it means scholarships to college, a pathway to success, or an opportunity to express their voice, but for all, what I see is The Art Effect.”

**The Art Effect’s Art Institute** inspires and motivates students, preparing them for successful careers in the visual and media arts. The Art Institute offers local youth opportunities to build collegial and community service connections. Students participate in the Art Institute’s National Art Honor Society; attend the Hudson Valley Regional Portfolio Day to meet with college representatives; host, curate, and display their work in public exhibitions; participate in national art competitions, and work with local organizations to create commissioned projects in public spaces.

**About The Art Effect:** Formerly Mill Street Loft + Spark Media Project, The Art Effect empowers youth in the Hudson Valley through the arts and media. Our programming sequence supports the personal and professional development of youth and provides them with the tools and support necessary to explore the arts, gain meaningful experiences, and eventually excel in their chosen tracks. It is our commitment to support personal growth, self-expression, cooperation, and enhanced human services to build the creative community of the Hudson Valley.

XXX



*Time* by Gold-Key Recipient Lauren Ricci



*The Statue Garden* by Gold-Key Recipient Emma Schmidt