



MEDIA RELEASE

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National Arts Honors Local Artistic Talent at Capital Comm. College

Awards Ceremony on Jan. 26 Celebrates Works from Hartford, Middlesex Counties

HARTFORD—More than 400 people came to Capital Community College’s Centinal Hill Hall auditorium on Jan. 26 to celebrate the winning artists in several categories featured in the 22nd annual CRT National Arts Program. Approximately 300 visual works of art from paintings to sculptures and mixed media works were submitted from residents of all ages from Hartford and Middlesex Counties. There was no entrance fee for the program, and all artwork submitted is displayed throughout CCC in three separate galleries.

Two Newington residents came home with some of the biggest awards, including *Best in Show* for Deanna Troy Henry’s work on paper titled “Contemplating the City Life” and the First Place winner in the *Professional* category went to Marc Ives Regis for his portrait photograph titled “Haitian Woman.”

Guests at the awards ceremony were treated to a slideshow of the artwork submitted by all winners and honorable mention recipients. Hartford’s Jazz Ensemble 4 from the Greater Hartford Academy of the Performing Arts gave the audience live jazz performances and singer/songwriter Gale Gardiner performed the autoharp for the crowd.

For the first time at this annual event members of the Connecticut-based Free Poets Collective recited original “ekphrastic” poems inspired by some of the winning pieces of art. *Ekphrastic* poems are often inspired by visual images -- usually paintings, drawings, photographs, or sculpture -- variously to interpret, inhabit, confront, or speak with the works of art. In all, seven poems were read to the crowd throughout the afternoon ceremony as the top winners received their awards and a picture of their artwork was shown on a large projector screen overhead.

Troy Henry’s work featured a man sitting at a deli counter while looking out curiously at a city street. It’s vivid treatment of color, light and detailed composition led judges to crown the piece Best in Show. She submitted her work for the intermediate adult category.

"I'm so honored to have received this when you see all of the talented artists that submitted some truly great art," Troy Henry said as she accepted her award. "In my piece I was inspired by a man I saw one day who seemed to have 'the blues,' but I saw a comfort in this man who exhibited this sense of optimism that inspired me."

The exhibit of all works still hangs at Capital Community College on 960 Main St. in Hartford on the 1st and 11th floors through Feb. 5.

Judges for this year's artwork include: **Janice La Motta**, Art Director at Charter Oak Cultural Center; **Ed Johnetta Miller**, renowned artist and teacher; **JoAnne Bauer**, prize-winning poet and artist; **Andres Chaparro**, artist and Manager in the City of Hartford Cultural Affairs Office and **Jackie Coleman**, Interim Executive Director for Hartford Performs and Senior Executive Advisor for the Arts for Hartford Public Schools.

This is an annual event and contest which is underwritten in part by the National Arts Foundation. There is no entry fee, and individuals at all levels of experience are encouraged to enter. Community Renewal Team has been the proud, local sponsor of this program that celebrates arts and culture for 22 years.

All top winners in each category included:

Best in Show:

Deanna Troy Henry, (Newington) "Contemplating the City Life," Works on Paper

Youth Under 12:

Isabelle Wiedenmann (Durham) "Waves," Painting, First Place

Katherine Mara (Bloomfield) "Pastel Dream," Works on Paper, Second Place

Chiu Yen Wang Vergara (Rocky Hill) "Snow Girl," Painting, Third Place

Teen:

Zachary Weinberg (Wethersfield) "Metamorphosis," Works on Paper, First Place

Brycen Chen-Phang (Hartford) "Constellations," Works on Paper, Second Place

Leander Wang Vergara (Rocky Hill) "Silk Mandela," Craft, Third Place

Adult Amateur:

James Harrison (Hartford) "Culture," Painting, First Place

Stephanie Moise (Hartford) "Self Portrait," Works on Paper, Second Place

Juanita Harrison (Hartford) "Barbershop," Mixed Media, Third Place

Adult Intermediate:

Georgia Stathoulas (Wethersfield) "In Mommy's Arms," Painting, First Place

Wanda Seldon (Hartford) "A Day in Narragansett," Mixed Media, Second Place

Andres Reyes (Hartford) "My Sister," Works on Paper, Third Place

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Adult Professional:

Marc Ives Regis (Newington) "Haitian Woman," Photography, First Place

Elizabeth Moss (Farmington) "Riding Bear," Painting, Second Place

Annie Rentz (South Windsor) "Jasper Phoenix, Third Place

To see the winners' slideshow, please visit www.crtct.org. For information regarding the 2013-2014 contest, contact Nancy Shapiro at (860) 560-5471 or by email at nancys@crtct.org.

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Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families become self-sufficient while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. www.crtct.org