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For more information, contact:

Kathleen Glass
Communications Manager
Asheville Art Museum
828.253.3227, ext. 116
kglass@ashevilleart.org



Image credit: Stella Kimsey-White, *Colorado*, original digital photograph.

Asheville Art Museum Congratulates Stella Kimsey-White for National Honors in 2012 Scholastic Art Awards

ASHEVILLE, NC – The Asheville Art Museum congratulates Asheville High School 11th grader, Stella Kimsey-White, for being selected by the U.S. Department of Education to be included in **ART.WRITE.NOW.DC**, a special exhibition of national award-winning work from the 2012 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. This year, Stella’s photograph, **Colorado**, will be displayed alongside 62 works by fellow Scholastic Art Award recipients from across the nation, in The Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building located at 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, DC.

In early 2012, two students from the Asheville area received prestigious national awards for their exceptional artwork through The [Scholastic Art & Writing Awards](#), the 89-year-old national program that recognizes outstanding creative teenagers and offers scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors. The nonprofit [Alliance for Young Artists & Writers](#), which administers the annual Awards, honored national winners during a special ceremony at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York City in June 2012. The two WNC students awarded on both the regional and national level included Asheville High School 10th grader (2011/12 school year) Stella Kimsey-White for her digital photograph, **Colorado**, and Christ School 12th grader (2011-2012 school year) Stuart Mason for **Inspire**, an original sculpture and working electric guitar.

The first level of recognition for these students’ outstanding work took place through the *Western North Carolina (WNC) Regional Scholastic Art Awards*. The regional affiliates for the Western North Carolina Region are the Asheville Art Museum and the Asheville Area Section of the American Institute of Architects. This ongoing community partnership has supported and recognized the creative talents of Western North Carolina’s youth for 32 years.

The *Western North Carolina (WNC) Regional Scholastic Art Awards* are open to all 7th-12th grade students in public, private, charter and home schools from the following counties: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe and Asheville City, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson,

Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey.

The *2012 WNC Regional Scholastic Art Awards* received over 630 entries from students. From those entries, 81 works were recognized by the judges as regional award recipients. The top award, the Gold Key, was presented to 30 students.

The artworks receiving top honors locally were then submitted for national adjudication by a panel of jurors comprised of artists, authors, educators, and other industry professionals. During the 2011/2012 school year, more than 200,000 submissions were entered by students in grades 7 through 12. Of the submissions, 1,600 received national recognition. The works of art and writing were evaluated on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal vision or voice.

Founded in 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program is the longest-running and most prestigious of its kind, having fostered the creativity and talent of millions of students through recognition, exhibitions and publications. Over the past five years, students have submitted nearly 700,000 pieces of work, and over \$25 million has been made available in scholarships and awards to top winning participants. **As the program prepares for its 90th anniversary in 2013, the Alliance is calling all Award alumni to reconnect and join in the celebration.**

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is generously supported by Scholastic Inc., the Maurice R. Robinson Fund, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, AMD Foundation, Command Web Offset Co., Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, The New York Times, Blick Art Materials, Ovation, New York Life, Amazon.com, Bloomberg L.P., the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Worldcolor, and additional contributions from numerous other individual, foundation, and corporate funders.

Detailed announcements for the *2013 WNC Regional Scholastic Art Awards* will be released in early 2013 by the Asheville Art Museum and the Asheville Area Section of the American Institute of Architects.

About the Asheville Art Museum:

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its Permanent Collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages. Additional information for upcoming exhibitions and public programs at the Museum can be found online at www.ashevilleart.org.

Asheville **Art** Museum

The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.

Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.

Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors (65+), K-12 students and college students (with valid college ID). Children under age five are admitted free of charge. Admission is free for all Museum Members.

The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

The Asheville Art Museum asks when reprinting images, please keep all artwork at their original proportions; please do not crop them or alter them disproportionately. Provided image credit information is mandatory and images are not for resale.