

Reps. Michaud and Pingree Announce Maine Winners of 2009 Congressional Art Contest

Friday, May 01 2009

Student artwork will hang in U.S. Capitol

Today, Representatives Mike Michaud and Chellie Pingree announced the winners of the 2009 Congressional Arts Competition for Maine. Michele Jaffarian, a senior at Rangeley Lakes Regional School, was announced as the winner for Maine's Second Congressional District, and Suki Nesvig of Portland, a senior at Waynflete School, was announced as the First Congressional District's winner. The winners were chosen by jurors selected by the Maine Arts Commission. The two winners and their families will be flown to Washington, courtesy of complimentary airline tickets provided by sponsors of the competition, to be part of the ribbon cutting ceremony that will formally open the show in June.

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"We had many impressive entries," Pingree said. "And I congratulate Suki for winning a very competitive contest. Maine has been the home to some of our country's greatest artists. We have a tradition in our state of supporting and encouraging the arts and I know we're going to see some terrific entries in this contest."

Suki Nesvig's winning art is a woodblock print. Michele Jaffarian's winning art is a colored pencil piece entitled "Binding," which is an abstracted view of ski equipment.

"The winners and the runners-up of this art competition always remind me of the tremendous skill and promise among our young adults in Maine," said Michaud. "I appreciate all those who participated this year and the tremendous role that the Maine Arts Commission played in the competition. The arts have been proven to help our children achieve in school. The arts also help us tell our story as a people, and they play an important role in maintaining and strengthening our way of life."

Each year, thousands of students across the country enter the Congressional High School Art Competition. One winner is chosen from each Congressional District, and their artwork is hung in a corridor of the U.S. Capitol building.

"Every day I, along with hundreds of other Members of Congress, staff and visitors walk down that corridor and see that artwork," Pingree said.

"Walking by the artwork from this competition reminds Members of Congress and their staff of their state's and districts," said Michaud. "It's a warm reminder of home every time I walk to the Capitol to vote or attend meetings."

The winning artists will be honored at a reception at the Blaine House later this month. All winners are eligible for a scholarship to the Savannah College of Art.

In addition to the winners, the jury also chose the following runners-up:

First District Runners-Up:

Alex Bucaro from Portland High School, Christina Carver from Rockland District High School and Ike Voorhees from Waynflete School.

Second District Runners-Up:

Sheila Currier from Dexter Regional High School, Erin Aitken from Edward Little High School and Michael Peitersen from Edward Little High School.

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