

Art Outside the Box will feature students' work

NORTHAMPTON — The art work of 14 area high school students has been chosen for the Gazette's Art Outside the Box high school project.

A total of 99 entries were submitted by students at seven high schools, according to project coordinator Pip Stromgren.

An exhibit of all 99 entries will be at the Northampton Center for the Arts for two weeks, starting Aug. 26. An open house and reception will be held Friday, September 9 at the center in conjunction with Northampton's Arts Night Out gallery walk.

The 14 winning entries of original artwork and photography by area high school students will be digitally scanned and displayed on the Gazette's newspaper vending boxes in as many of the participating towns as possible starting late summer.

The project builds off the Gazette's first Art Outside the Box project, launched as part of Northampton's 350th celebration in 2004. That year, prominent area artists had works depicting aspects of the city, its history and people displayed on 14 specially designed Gazette newspaper vending boxes.

Circulation Director Dennis Skoglund said that the success from the 350th prompted the newspaper to start the high school project. "We were looking for a way to keep the boxes attractive, and at the same time we wanted to expand our work with the schools. The student art project was a natural."

Seven schools submitted entries; three other schools had to drop out at the last moment due to lack of time, according to Stromgren.

The winners are Carolyn Harrington and Shyla Morsbach, Belchertown High School (teacher Judith Bettencourt); Courtney Drake and Brad Haines, Frontier Regional (teacher Jack Purcell); Christine Cote and Emily Wayne, Hampshire Regional (teacher Karen Tetrault); Peter Serio, Hopkins Academy (teacher Marilyn Judah); Miles Adams, Fiona Miller, Rachel Prouty, and Zoe Sasson, Northampton High School (teachers Martha McCormick and Lisa Leary); Molly Schlang, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School (teacher Martin Bridge); and Kristin Gemme and Samuel Osle, Smith Academy (teacher Julie Muellejans).

The judges for the Art Outside the Box high school project were Blanche Derby, retired Amherst High School art teacher; Motoko Inoue, director of publishing and merchandising for the Eric Carle Studio; Rich Michelson, owner of R. Michelson Galleries; the Gazette's art editor, Phoebe Mitchell; and Linda Post, artist and co-organizer of the Paradise City Arts Festival.