

I am proud to announce the winner of the 17th Congressional District of the Congressional Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery: Noe Van Spyk of Carmel High School!

2006 marks the 25th Anniversary of this annual competition for high school students. This year high schools from all around our district participated, including: Aptos, Carmel, Cypress Grove Charter, Everett Alvarez, Georgiana Bruce Kirby, Harbor, Monterey, Pacific Valley, Palma, San Benito, Santa Catalina, and York School. I thank the administrators for their support of this contest and all of the students who participated in the competition.

The winning piece of art by Noe Van Spyk, "Hidden Hunger", will be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC starting in July. Second and Third Place awards were also handed out to Jennifer Neff of York School for her piece entitled "Chinook"; and Maia Spencer of Georgiana Bruce Kirby for her untitled piece.

Students were allowed to submit various styles and types of art, ranging from paintings and drawings to photography and mixed media pieces. The winners were determined using criteria based on originality, skill of execution, excellence in use of materials and conceptual strength of project.

I want to express my gratitude for the members of our artistic community who served as judges for the competition: Marcelle Polednik, Director of Collections and Exhibitions for the Monterey Museum of Art, Anna M. Castillo, Curator of Education for the Museum of Art and History, Don Fritz Art Lecturer at UC, Santa Cruz and Professor at Santa Clara University, Gary Smith, Hartnell College and Carla Wright Director, Monterey County Agricultural Education, Inc.

I look forward to seeing Noe's artwork around the Capitol Building throughout the coming year!



Noe Van Spyk, Congressman Sam Farr and her winning entry, "Hidden Hunger."