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Norman Middle School Students Selected for National Exhibition

NORMAN – Four Norman students’ creative writing works have been selected for inclusion in an exhibition at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. The students wrote creative responses to artwork during a creative writing program at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art.

Ashton Hare of Alcott Middle School, Moira Mosely of Longfellow Middle School, Aaron Pierce of Irving Middle School and Anabella Potts of Whittier Middle School were selected for inclusion in the national exhibition.

The exhibition, *Museums: pARTners in Learning*, contains a collection of student artwork and creative writing presented by the Association of Art Museum Directors created through a partnership between museums and local schools. The goal of the exhibition is to exhibit the instrumental role that art museums play in education through a wide variety of museum-school partnerships. The exhibition opened July 1 and is on display through Aug. 29.

“Sixteen U.S. university-based museums were selected to exhibit artworks by kindergarten through grade 12 students in a diverse range of creative and innovative programs,” said Susan Baley, FJJMA director of education. “We are excited that four Norman students who were inspired by the artwork at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art were selected to represent our community.”

The FJJMA’s creative writing program, now in its sixth year, brings sixth grade students from Norman’s four middle schools to the University of Oklahoma campus for writing workshops with Oklahoma Poet Laureate Nathan Brown. Students draw and write creative journaling in response to original works of art in the museum.
“The creative writing program uses art inside and outside the museum as inspiration for poetry and short stories by some talented young writers,” Baley said. “A quote by one of this year’s participants sums up the experience: ‘I learned that writing is actually really fun! And being at the class was one of the greatest field trips ever!’”

During the 2013-14 school year, 120 middle school students and their teachers participated in the program, which is made possible by the Harris Foundation. Each student is given the opportunity to select his or her favorite piece of writing from the workshop for inclusion in a booklet published by the museum and given to every participant at a concluding reception.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. General admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to the generosity of the OU Office of the President and the OU Athletics Department. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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IMAGE CREDIT

Annabella Potts, standing next to Barbara Hepworth’s *Two Figures*, is one of four local students whose creative writing inspired by works in the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art will be exhibited at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. through Aug. 29.