NEWS RELEASE
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FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA - NORMAN
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WITH IMAGE

Norman Student Artwork to Be Featured in Washington D.C. Exhibition

NORMAN – Norman fourth graders Allys Amuny from Cleveland Elementary, Ava Starling from McKinley Elementary and Jordan Walker from Lakeview Elementary have scored their first national art show: their original artwork has been selected for display in an exhibition opening in Washington D.C. this week.

The students’ artwork, completed during pARTner project visits to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus, were chosen from thousands of students and 15 museums across the United States for inclusion in an upcoming exhibition.

“It is a true honor for Norman children to be selected for this national exhibition,” said Ghislain d’Humières, director of the FJJMA. “Our pARTner project furthers the mission of the museum to create opportunities for visitors to experience art and culture in their own unique ways. I am excited to attend the opening celebrations on behalf of Norman, the museum and the University of Oklahoma.”

The exhibition, Museums: pARTners in Learning, at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C., examines the results of creative and innovative programs that museums offer in partnership with their local schools and is organized by the Association of Art Museum Directors.
The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art’s program, pARTner project, brings every fourth grade public school student in Norman to the museum twice each year. In 2011, the program celebrated its 20th year. The pARTner project is funded by the Oklahoma Arts Council and the Norman schools provide transportation.

“Every pARTner project student’s artwork is an amazing expression of his or her individual creativity, and we wish that more could have been included in the national exhibition,” said Susan Baley, director of education at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “However, we are thrilled that these three works will represent our program at the U.S. Department of Education.”

Baley said the pARTner project’s success is due to the contributions of many at the museum and in the community.

“Each year, our curator of school and family programs, Karen McWilliams, and our volunteer docents and student interns make this program possible,” she said. “We also appreciate our partnership with the Norman Public Schools, especially Dr. Brad Benson, the director of fine arts.”

Walker received an additional honor: her painting was selected as one the artworks for the national exhibition’s official invitations.

*Museums: pARTners in Learning* features more than 40 artworks created by K-12 students using a variety of media including video, photography, collage, watercolor, charcoal and found materials. The works in the exhibition highlight the range of artistic techniques and subject matter explored in museum education programs.

The exhibition includes descriptions of the programs in which the works were created. It also includes a cell phone guided tour that will enable visitors to hear students talking about their museum experience and the works on view. The exhibition’s website is www.aamd.org/partnersforlearning2012.

“Art is a powerful tool for education, and museums provide invaluable access to arts education for students in this country. More than just field trips, these museum-school partnerships result in more innovative programs than ever before, with a focus on sustained engagement with students and teachers alike,” said Chris Anagnos, executive director of AAMD. “AAMD is proud to partner with the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art to showcase the incredible education programs that the museum offers to engage students and impact the quality of education in Norman, Oklahoma.”

The exhibition opened May 11 with a reception this week and is on display through June 22, 2012.
Other participating institutions include the Dallas Museum of Art, Frick Art and Historical Center, Norman Rockwell Museum and Princeton University Art Museum. *Museums: pARTners in Learning* was organized in collaboration with The Phillips Collection, the Delaware Art Museum and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum.

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.

Admission to the museum is free to all OU students with a current student ID and all museum association members, $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for children 6 to 17 years of age, $2 for OU faculty/staff, and free for military veterans with proof and children 5 and under. The museum is closed on Mondays and admission is free on Tuesdays. The museum’s website is www.ou.edu/fjjma. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938.

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**IMAGE CUTLINE**

Artwork by three Norman fourth grade students was selected for display in an upcoming exhibition at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C. This painting, by Lakeview Elementary student Jordan Walker, was selected for the exhibition’s national invitations. The exhibition, *Museums: pARTners in Learning*, opened May 11 and is on display through June 22, 2012.