

NEWS RELEASE

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Young Artists' Showcase celebrates 20th anniversary with 38 winning entries

SAN JOSE, CA – A picture is worth a thousand words. For Nathan Leung, a student at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino, his digital illustration *Virtual Fish Tanks* (below) represents how “we build ideal versions of ourselves in the virtual world, seeking approval, envy from others, or some sort of validation.”



Nathan Leung, *Virtual Fish Tanks*
Digital Illustration, 19x25 inches

The entry was one of 38 selected art pieces chosen from more than 900 submissions to the Santa Clara County Office of Education’s (SCCOE) [20th annual Young Artists’ Showcase](#). It won first place in the Digital Painting category for the high school division.

“The arts are a critical component of a student’s whole education,” said Esther Tokihiro, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator with the SCCOE. “The county office is proud to showcase all the creativity and perspectives being shared in our county schools.”

The idea behind the Young Artists’ Showcase began in 1996, as an opportunity to enliven the bare walls of the newly acquired office at Ridder Park Drive with student artwork.

“The SCCOE has the largest collection of adjudicated student art in the state among other county offices,” Tokihiro said. There are more than 1,000 framed art pieces on display in the gallery’s permanent, ever-growing collection that wraps the hallways and three floors of the building.

The competition is open to public school students, grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, in Santa Clara County. This year’s theme of “Inspiration” asked students to share the power of imagination and limitless creativity. The SCCOE judged entries through eighth grade while ninth- through 12th-grade students submitted their work via the Museums of Los Gatos High School Art Contest. In making their selections, judges look for visual impact, originality, imagination, and effective use of media, visual art elements, and principles of design.

The SCCOE will honor the award winners during a celebration 4:30 p.m. on May 24 at the Ridder Park office. Afterward, the art will be framed and join the numerous hallways of the building that resembles an art gallery. [View the complete list of winners online now.](#)

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