

Hugoton Middle School is pleased to announce one of its own, eighth grader Romano Burger, has won a national award for art in what is known as the Scholastic Art Competition, or Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Romano's accomplishment is the first ever for the Hugoton USD 210, and is one of the top and most prestigious awards an artist can achieve. Romano entered the Scholastic Art Competition 90th year competition in the month of January, 2013, with his teacher Mr. Terrill. He was one of several artists from Hugoton Middle School, where the artworks were entered and displayed at the Baker Arts Center, in Liberal, Kansas. This is what is known as a juried art show, where works entered are either accepted or rejected by a panel of 3 to 4 artists and art professionals. At the local level, works compete for what is known as bronze key award, silver key award, and gold key awards. Those works receiving the gold key then move on to the national level. Romano's work competed for judging in New York city, and won a National Gold Key around the first part of March when he and Mr. Terrill were notified of his accomplishment. This was in a field of over 230,000 works that were submitted from localities all across the nation, with around 1800 being chosen as national winners, with Romano being a part of this prestigious and select group of artists.

Romano entered a sculpture, known as "The Junkyard", made from "found objects", random pieces of wood, metal items, and various objects put together on a wood base, combined with what is known as "lifecast" sculptures of two plaster hands, cast from his very own hands and they are a part of his own likeness and individuality. The work was then spray painted silver, and black, with key items left unpainted as per Romano's own artistic decisions. The final end product is his own thoughts, vision and creativity all within a three-dimensional sculptural creation all his own.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have an impressive legacy dating back to 1923 and a noteworthy roster of past winners including Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Richard Avedon, Robert Redford and Joyce Carol Oates. The Awards are an important opportunity for students to be recognized for their creative talents. Each year, the Alliance partners with more than 100 visual and literary-arts focused organizations across the country to bring The Awards to local communities.

Submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts, some of whom are past award recipients. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

In the last five years alone, students submitted nearly 900,000 original works of art and writing, and over \$40 million in scholarships and financial aid has been made available to regional and national Awards winners by over 60 partnering top arts institutes and colleges. 90 years after they began, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have grown to become the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in the U.S., and the nation's largest source of scholarships for creative young artists and writers.

National Medalists are celebrated at a prestigious Carnegie Hall May 31st ceremony in New York City, and have their work showcased in reputable galleries, publications and at public readings. Work can be held for a period of up to two years for display purposes and such publications. Romano's work will be a part of such events, and Hugoton USD 210 is extremely proud of this very important accomplishment.

Congratulations to Romano and family. A well deserved recognition of exceptional talent from an exceptional young man.