

CITY OF VENTURA  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Art Tales honors winners at EP Foster Library reception & reading May 14**

City of Ventura Mayor Cheryl Heitmann will honor all participants and artists of the sixth annual Art Tales creative writing contest with a special reception and reading with refreshments at E.P. Foster Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 651 E Main St in downtown Ventura, on Wednesday, May 14, at 5:30 pm. The public, family and friends are invited to hear winners read their entries and receive cash prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, journals for 3<sup>rd</sup> place plus certificates and bound editions for all top entries. The winners are:

Prize	1	2	3 Tie	3 Tie / Honorable Mention
Youth Poetry	Sihyun Na	Nadia Connelly	Anna Nelles	Chloe Vaughan
Youth Fiction	Hana Vrablik	Abigail Carroll	Bailey Welch	Niklas Shore
High School Poetry	Cianna Calia	Dahyun Na	Olivia Loorz	Sarah Yenney
High School Fiction	Erin Stoodley	Gabrielle Genhart	Brodie Shore	Monica Boedigheimer
Adult Poetry	T. G. Lynch	Donna Prather	Mary Kaye Rummel	HM: Joe Amaral
Adult Fiction	Toni Guy	Annabelle Warren	Lynne Vrablik	Gerald Zwiers

For the 2014 contest “open to writers everywhere,” youth, high school and adult writers submitted 70 works of short fiction and poems inspired by City of Ventura Municipal Art Collection works of art currently on loan at the library and created by artists Jane McKinney, Alberta Fins, Katherine Chang Liu, Debra McKillop, Catherine Jessie Botke and Elisse Pogofsky Harris (some artists plan to attend the reception). Contestants ranged in age from 9 to 89 with submissions from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles, a few from the Bay area and one from the Philippines. Three-quarters of the entries came from City of Ventura residents, over half were by adults, 20 by teenagers and the remaining youth entries were often by Ventura Unified School District students, classrooms and teachers. The four contest judges were Senior Librarian for E.P. Foster Library Sara Roberts, Ventura Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Kathy Asher, Public Art Commissioner Susan Cook and City of Ventura Community Partnerships Manager Denise Sindelar who said, “So many excellent entries this year made judging very hard, with five tie votes, and an honorable mention in Adult Poetry to recognize the record number of 29 mostly outstanding entries in that category.”

Public Art Project Manager Tobie Roach said. “As curator of this year’s Art Tales display at the library, I say ‘thank you’ to the 70 writers from 9 to 89 who took up ‘the dare’ in this year’s contest to explore the darkness, hidden emotion, creativity and interplay between the known and the unknown as illuminated by Municipal Art Collection artworks I selected towards an underlying theme, ‘In Praise of Shadows.’ Carl Jung once wrote ‘in the very darkness of nature a light is hidden, a little spark without which the darkness would not be darkness.’ You really made these artworks speak through your poems and short stories giving us proof that finding the ‘little spark’ among the shadows of these art pieces can be a vibrantly creative, poignant and, yes, even funny exercise.”

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This release is available at [www.cityofventura.net](http://www.cityofventura.net). ###