

CITY OF VENTURA
NEWS RELEASE

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Art Tales honors winners at EP Foster Library reception & reading May 21

City of Ventura Mayor Cheryl Heitmann will honor all participants and artists of the seventh annual Art Tales creative writing contest with a special reception and reading with refreshments at E.P. Foster Library, 2nd floor, 651 E Main St in downtown Ventura, on Thursday, May 21, at 5:30 pm. The public, family and friends are invited to hear winners read their entries and receive cash prizes for 1st and 2nd place, journals for 3rd place plus certificates and bound editions for all top entries. The 2015 winners are:

Prize Category	1	2	3
Youth (6-12) Poetry	Alina Reitz	Eleanor Pickrel	Vivian Gaggia
Youth (6-12) Fiction	Juliet Ward	Nadia Connelly	Quinn Clow
Teen (13-17) Poetry	Lindsay Emi	Tanner Klein	Autumn Detmer
Teen (13-17) Fiction	Alexandria Dresbach	Kienna Kulzer	Sam Bova
Adult (18+) Poetry	Donna Prather	Joe Amaral	Tie/Kristine Lewis/Yvonna Carnieri
Adult (18+) Fiction	Joseph Valderrama	Robert McBurney	Deborah Killgore

For the contest “open to writers everywhere” youth, high school and adult writers submitted 105 works of fiction and poems inspired by City of Ventura Municipal Art Collection works of art on loan at the library and created by artists Jacquelyn Cavish, Sally Miller, Richard Phelps and Helle Sharling-Todd (also invited to the reception). Contestants ranged in age from 6 to 79 or older with submissions from San Francisco to Los Angeles and a few from the Midwest; but most entries came from Ventura County, almost half were by adults, 26 by teenagers and 30 by youths 12 or under.

Many teachers from the Ventura Unified School District, Brooks Institute, California Poets in the Schools and The ARC of Ventura County for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities encouraged their students to enter. The five contest judges were Sara Roberts, Deputy Director for the Ventura County Library, Ventura County Poet Laureate Mary Kaye Rummel, Ventura Public Art Chair Claudia Pardo, Ventura Library Advisory Commissioner Dolly Moehrle and City of Ventura Community Partnerships Manager Denise Sindelar. “It was a pleasure to read every entry,” said Claudia Pardo. “So many good pieces,” Mary Kaye Rummel added, “I had a hard time deciding.”

Public Art Project Manager Tobie Roach said. “During this year of extreme drought I selected works that ‘call for rain’ or evoke water as the Art Tales theme. I am thrilled so many entries lived up to Serbian poet Dejan Stojanović’s remarks that ‘Nothing reminds us of an awakening more than rain.’” More info: www.cityofventura.net/arttales

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This release is available at www.cityofventura.net. ###