

CITY OF VENTURA  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Art Tales honors writers at EP Foster Library reception & reading May 25**

All participants of the 8th annual Art Tales “writing contest inspired by art” are invited to a special reception and reading with refreshments at E.P. Foster Library, 2nd floor, 651 E Main St in downtown Ventura on Wednesday, May 25 at 5:30 pm. The public, family and friends were invited to hear the winners (announced below) 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. Winners are asked to notify Art Tales Curator Tobie Roach by May 20 whether they plan to attend the reading at either troach@cityofventura.net or 805/658-4759.

For the contest "open to writers everywhere," youth, high school and adult writers submitted a record 123 works of short fiction and poems inspired by City of Ventura Municipal Art Collection works of art on loan at the library and created by artists Marguerite Hardeman, Paula Odor, Meredith Brooks Abbott and Katherine McGuire. The artworks selected celebrated “our local story” to mark the city’s sesquicentennial. Contestants ranged in age from kindergarten to over 80. Most entries came from Ventura County: 33 adults (18 & up); 30 teens (13-17); and 60 youths (12 & under).

Many teachers from the Ventura Unified School District encouraged their students to enter. The five contest judges were Ventura County Poet Laureate Phil Taggart, Ventura County Librarian Deya Terrafranca, Ventura Public Art Chair Claudia Pardo, Ventura Library Advisory Commissioner Dolly Moehrle and Community Partnerships Manager Denise Sindelar. The judges received all entries "blind" – identified only by (1) a number, (2) the artwork that inspired it, (3) prose or poetry category and (4) age group of the writer.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners of Art Tales are as follows:

Youth Poetry: 1 <sup>st</sup> Giabella Thompson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rachel Patrykus	3 <sup>rd</sup> Jack Gordon
Youth Fiction: 1 <sup>st</sup> Kaley Pera	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nadia Connelly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Emily Replogle
Teen Poetry: 1 <sup>st</sup> Katelynn McDonald	2 <sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Salinas	3 <sup>rd</sup> Cianna Calia
Teen Fiction: 1 <sup>st</sup> Olivia Loorz	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rachel Chang	3 <sup>rd</sup> Kailey Garcia
Adult Poetry: 1 <sup>st</sup> Tim Tipton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Carmen Mogg	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tara Kay Acosta
Adult Fiction: 1 <sup>st</sup> Carole Avila	2 <sup>nd</sup> Toni Guy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mona Alvarado Frazier

"We thank all participants for sending in such beautiful poems or stories," said Art Tales Curator Tobie Roach. "It is amazing to read the many ways the artworks in our Municipal Art Collection inspire more creativity than anyone could imagine."

For more information please contact 805/658-4706 or visit the Art Tales website at <http://www.cityofventura.net/arttales>.

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