



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Mary Ann Albright
St. Mary's Academy
1615 S.W. Fifth Ave.
Portland, OR 97201
www.stmaryspdx.org

Direct: 503.721.7715
Cell: 503.984.2777
Fax: 503.223.0995
maryann.albright@stmaryspdx.org
[@stmaryspdx](https://twitter.com/stmaryspdx) on Twitter

Fourteen St. Mary's Academy students receive 2012 Scholastic Art Awards

Portland, Ore. – Feb. 8, 2012 – Forty pieces of artwork across a wide range of media created by 14 St. Mary's Academy students were honored in the 2012 Portland Metro Scholastic Art Awards program.

Five St. Mary's students created eight Gold Key-winning pieces that will be judged at the national level in New York City in March. Pieces that receive national recognition will be exhibited in NYC in June, and those student artists will be eligible for a number of scholarships. Last year, Sophie Serber, then a senior at St. Mary's, won a national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Silver Key for her mixed-media artwork.

This year's five Gold Key winners at the Portland region level are freshman Maya Banitt, sophomore Lillie Meyer, junior Delaney Januzzi and seniors Anna Klos and Elyah Oster-Bainnson. Their work is on display through Feb. 24 at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, 1241 N.W. Johnson St., Portland.

An opening reception was held on Feb. 2, and it was exciting to see their work showcased, Meyer said.

"I thought it was really cool. I liked the artsy atmosphere," she said.

Meyer received three Gold Keys this year for her photography, as well as a Silver Key and four Honorable Mentions. Last year she received three Gold Keys, one Silver Key and three Honorable Mentions.

She takes the photographs with her iPhone, and her favorite subjects are her sister and scenes from her travels.

Januzzi was honored for an acrylic painting titled "Rainbow Reverie." She received a Silver Key in 2011 and was excited to be among the Gold Key winners this year.

"I feel very honored," she said, adding that she enjoyed seeing the Gold Key pieces from other Portland-area students at the exhibit opening.

Beyond the Gold Keys, five St. Mary's students won eight Silver Keys. They are Meyer, Klos, Oster-Bainnson, junior Lee Rost and senior Sonja Breda. Eleven students received 24 Honorable Mentions:

Breda, Meyer, Oster-Bainnson, Rost, sophomores Mara Bower-Leo, Emma Butterfield and Madeline Fraser, junior Stephanie Linn and seniors Bethany Dugan, Emily Garrison and Waverly Kronewitter.

Opportunities such as these to show their work to broader audiences and receive recognition and feedback are valuable for student artists, said Kathy Mitchell, a St. Mary's Academy art teacher and alumna.

"I'm really proud of the quality of the work from St. Mary's students and the level of recognition that this program offers for them and the school," Mitchell said.

In addition to the recent Portland Metro Scholastic Art Awards, St. Mary's seniors Carly Januzzi and Anna O'Connor had work accepted into the High School Art Northwest exhibit at George Fox University's Donald H. Lindgren Gallery, 414 N. Meridian St., Newberg. Their work will be on display through Feb. 22.

Carly Januzzi said that she and her sister, Delany, inspire each other to grow as artists. Her piece in the High School Art Northwest exhibit is a colored-pencil drawing titled "Sorrow Cityscape." Last year she received two Gold Keys for drawing and digital art in the Portland Metro Scholastic Art Awards.

For additional information or questions, please contact Mary Ann Albright, Director of Communications, at 503.721.7715 (direct office), 503.984.2777 (cell), or maryann.albright@stmaryspdx.org.

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About St. Mary's Academy

St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic high school for young women located in the heart of downtown Portland that provides a challenging college-preparatory education with a focus on developing the whole person. Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school and offers a supportive learning environment to a diverse student body from more than 30 urban, suburban and rural communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington. It is the only school in the state to have received three Blue Ribbon awards from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit www.stmaryspdx.org.