

The ***Fine Arts Society of Sarasota***, as part of its Outreach Program, contributed funds so that Sarasota High School student, Margaux Albiez, could travel to New York City to receive the Gold Medal in the National Scholastic Arts Competition. The awards ceremony was held on Thursday, June 11, 2015, at Carnegie Hall.

The follow are remarks by **Margaux Albiez** and her teacher, **Debra Markely**, made to the Society at their January 21, 2016, General Membership Meeting.



### **Sarasota High School Teacher, Debra Markely:**

“Good Morning,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you one of my art students, Margaux Albiez, from Sarasota High. Margaux won a Gold Medal in the 2015 National Scholastic Arts Competition. Through your generosity, she was able to travel to New York City in June to be honored among other students from throughout the U.S. as a National Scholastic Art & Writing Award winner.

A week of celebratory events began Friday, June 5, hosted by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Her illustration was featured in the 2015 National Exhibition in New York City and will be traveling the county to various venues for the next two years. The displays showcase more the 1,000 visual and literary creations. The awards ceremony was held on Thursday, June 11, at Carnegie Hall.

Margaux won a National Gold Medal after earning a regional Gold Key Award. Of the more than 300,000 submissions to the national competition, less that 1 percent are national medal winners.

Margaux Albiez was a sophomore last year when she received her Gold Medal at the national level for her illustration entitled “Impressions of Bosch”. She is the first student from Sarasota High to receive this top honor.

‘Margaux is one of the most creative illustrators I have ever had the privilege to teach.’

### **I would like to share with you a little bit about the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.**

Since 1923 the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have recognized the vision, ingenuity and talent of our nation’s youth and provided opportunities for creative teens to be celebrated. Each year increasing numbers of teens participate in the program: young artists and writers, filmmakers and photographers, poets, and sculptors, along with countless educators who support and encourage the creative process.

The awards are presented by The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Students receive opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication and scholarship.

Since its founding the awards have helped identify the early promise of the nation’s accomplished and prolific creative leaders. Alumni include:

**Artists:** Andy Warhol, Philip Pearlstein, Robert Indiana and John Baldessari;

**Writers:** Truman Capote, Bernard Malamud and Joyce Carol Oates;

**Photographers:** Richard Avedon;

**Actors:** Frances Farmer, Robert Redford, Alan Arkin and John Lithgow;

**Filmmakers:** Stan Brakhage, Ken Burns and Richard Linklater.

Margaux is in great company and is on her way to greatness.”

**Sarasota High School Student: Margaux Albiez**

“I would like to start by saying thank you to the Fine Arts Society of Sarasota and its members for making a once in a lifetime chance a possibility.

Art is so important to me. It is more than just a class or a credit; it’s a passion of mine. Art is a visual representation of my free flowing thoughts and emotions, and it is so incredible that I have a platform to express them on and share with others. And to get support for my art work is even more incredible.

This piece that won the Gold Medal, “Impressions of Bosch” was inspired by the 14<sup>th</sup> century painter, Hieronymus Bosch, particularly his painting “The Garden of Earthly Delights”. The chaos and movement created by Bosch through the use of details and his narrative style inspired me. I wanted to reflect these aspects into my work.

At first, this piece was just a doodle. I didn’t think much of it, but Mrs. Markley saw it and the potential it held. She encouraged me and gave me suggestions on how to develop it and she told me about the Scholastics Art and Writing Competition. I never liked art contests. I never really did well in them, but with the help of Mrs. Markley, I submitted a beautiful piece into the show. “Impressions of Bosch” went so much further than I ever expected. I didn’t even think it would place regionally, much less nationally!

I remember when Mrs. Markley told me that I won a national Gold Medal, she was absolutely ecstatic and so was I. I was able to go on one of the best trips of my life because of the Fine Arts Society of Sarasota.

I am so thankful to all of you for making my trip to New York possible. It was such an amazing experience. Seeing Gustave Klimt’s “Woman in Gold”; Van Gogh (inspired (my) blue piece). There was also a lot of really delicious food and about 3 stops at Starbucks a day.

But the most amazing part was receiving my award; sitting in Carnegie Hall with hundreds of other extremely talented artists. It inspired me.

This whole experience made me realize that art may be a future for me. Art always seemed like just a hobby; something that I just did for fun that wouldn’t really get me anywhere. But this recognition and the amazing support shown to me by this community, has made me consider art as a career. You’ve encouraged me to develop and strengthen my artistic skills. After winning the award I started focusing on ink drawing and illustration, something I never really paid much mind to. But now it has become one of my favorite mediums.

This piece is a prime example of how much I, as an artist, have grown. My technique has evolved so much, and you can see that in this piece. I would never have even tried to develop these skills if not for this amazing experience and the support you have shown me.

The Fine Arts Society and its members give me hope for the generations of artists to come, because now I know that there are people who want to help and encourage us. Words cannot express how thankful I am for that, because art is such a fundamental part of our community, but young artists are often ignored, which hurts the future of art. I thank you so much for seeing the potential in us young artists and supporting us because that is priceless.

Thank you so much again. I hope that you continue to show young artists the same kindness that you have shown me, because it was truly life changing.”