

## Rothman Announces Winners Of Congressional Art Competition First Place Artwork Will Be Displayed In

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First Place Artwork Will Be Displayed In U.S. Capitol Building; Second & Third Place  
Pieces to Be Showcased in Congressman's Washington, DC and Hackensack Offices

Hackensack, NJ - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today announced the winners of this year's Ninth Congressional District Art Competition, entitled, "An Artistic Discovery." Rothman announced that a panel of judges reviewed the 94 entries from local high school students and selected Nicole Cimiluca, a tenth grade Saddle Brook High School student as the first place winner. Nicole will have her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol Complex for one year. Julie Torres, a twelfth grade student from Becton Regional High School in East Rutherford, is the second place winner and will have her artwork displayed in Rothman's Washington, DC office. Andre Sevilla, a twelfth grade student at North Bergen High School, is the third place winner and will have his artwork displayed in Rothman's Hackensack office.

"There are a lot of very artistically gifted students in my congressional district and this competition was an opportunity for all of them to showcase their talents," Rothman said. "I commend all these young artists for taking the time to create these pieces and displaying them in this competition. While I truly believe that every piece of art exhibited at the competition is worthy of an award, I want to extend special congratulations to the top three artists - Nicole Cimiluca, Julie Torres, and Andre Sevilla."

Each Member of Congress can hold a Congressional Art Competition in his or her Congressional District, with the first place winner having his or her artwork exhibited in the Capitol Building along a wall with all of the other winners from across the country. The contest features paintings, drawing, collages, and prints, including those designed with computers.

"Every time I am in Washington and I walk through the underground tunnel to the Capitol Building, I see high school students' artwork from across the country displayed on the wall," Rothman said. "It is wonderful to see pieces of art from New Jersey to Hawaii and virtually every other state in between showcased in the same place. It serves as a reminder how beautiful and important artistic expression is to America's quality of life."

Rothman also announced three other students whom the judges designated as honorable mentions: Andrew Gueller, an eleventh grade student from Community High School in Teaneck; Christine Majka, an eleventh grade student from Saddle Brook High School, and Lacey Fitzgerald, a twelfth grade student also from Saddle Brook High School.

The award ceremony took place at 1 Bergen County Plaza. In order to submit an entry, the students needed to attend a high school in Rothman's Congressional District. Rothman also extended his thanks to the volunteer judges of the art competition - Howard Berelson, Gerd Stern, and Paula Valenti - all local artists.

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