

Bakersfield, CA - Today, Congressman Kevin McCarthy announced the winners of “An Artistic Discovery” Congressional Art Competition for high school students in the 22nd Congressional District at a reception held at the Bakersfield Museum of Art.

“The high quality of art entries in this contest is a testament to the creative talents and innovation of our high school students in the 22nd Congressional District,” McCarthy said. “I am proud of all the participants, and am privileged to showcase and recognize their hard work and artistic talents to our communities.”

The overall winner’s piece will be displayed in the hall leading to the U.S. Capitol for one year. Airline tickets for the winner and two guests were provided courtesy of Southwest Airlines to fly to Washington, D.C. in June to attend the exhibition opening of “An Artistic Discovery.” First through third place winners will have the option of hanging their artwork in Congressman McCarthy’s Washington office for a period of one year. Each participant in the competition was given a Congressional Certificate of Recognition.

The 2007 winners are:

Overall Winner:

Elisabeth Macy, Grace Christian Academy, Lancaster, Colored Pencil- “Friends in Denim”

All Other Medium Category

First Place: Renee Bates, Bakersfield High School, Bakersfield, Charcoal- “Knuckle Fly”

Second Place: Chelsea Fuller, Fuller Christian Academy, Lancaster, Colored Pencil- “So Happy Together”

Third Place: Rachel Smith, Tehachapi High School, Tehachapi, Chalk- “The Future”

Photography Category

First Place: Philip Davis, Bakersfield High School, Bakersfield, “Truxtun Lake’s Dusk”

Second Place: Amanda Geis, Frontier High School, Bakersfield, “Untitled”

Third Place: Amanda Geis, Frontier High School, Bakersfield, “Untitled”

Computer Generated Art

First Place: Spencer Sedlezky, Vista West High School, Bakersfield, "Progression of Mood"

Second Place: Tanya Thompson, Vista West High School, Bakersfield, "The Visit"

Third Place: Jade Kann, Vista West High School, Bakersfield, "at 17"

Congressman McCarthy also expressed his appreciation to the panel of fine judges from the community, including: Jeanette Richardson, Director of the Arts Council of Kern in Bakersfield; Gita Lloyd, local artist in Bakersfield; and Casey Christie, Photojournalist for The Bakersfield Californian.