



Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition 2026 Winners

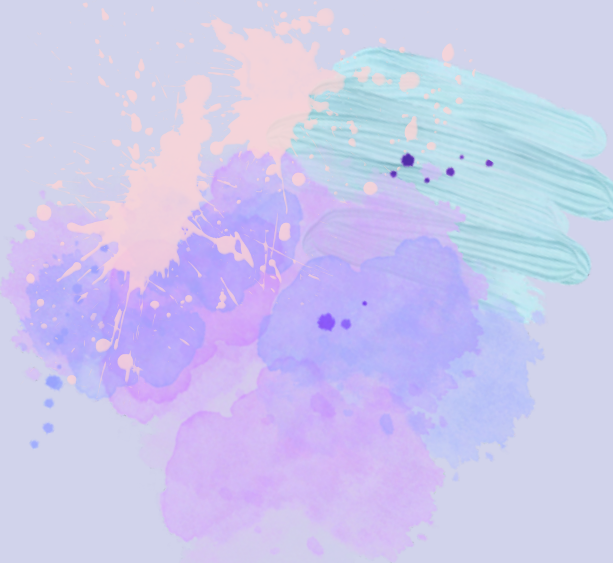


State Winners



Senior Benjamin Mehendale's creation, **Made of Mind**, was a state winner of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Competition, placing in the top 25. The print was made using a hand-carved linoleum piece in the shape of a brain. The stamp was impressed hundreds of times to create a full human figure.

Mehendale poses next to his art at the Ileen Kelner Juried Show, where he placed third.





Senior Hailey Mack's artwork, **Surge of Emotion**, was a winner of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Competition. Also, the portrait received an honorable mention from the 2026 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Her piece is a beautiful and realistic demonstration of human feelings composed with colored pencils.

Junior Alyssa Jone's masterpiece, **Reaching Out**, was a state winner of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Competition. This painting was made with acrylic paint, featuring a cold-toned palette. The piece is composed of a bold contrast between deep blue and a yellow light, showcasing Jones skill in technical layering and storytelling.

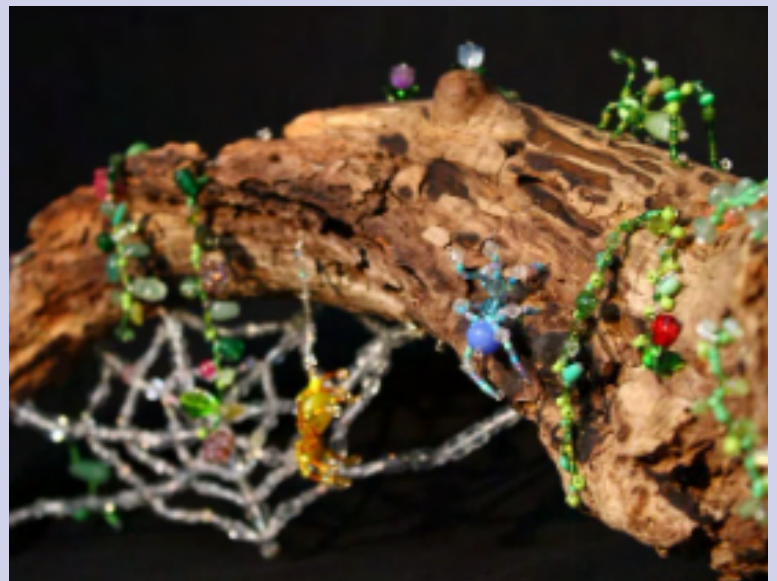
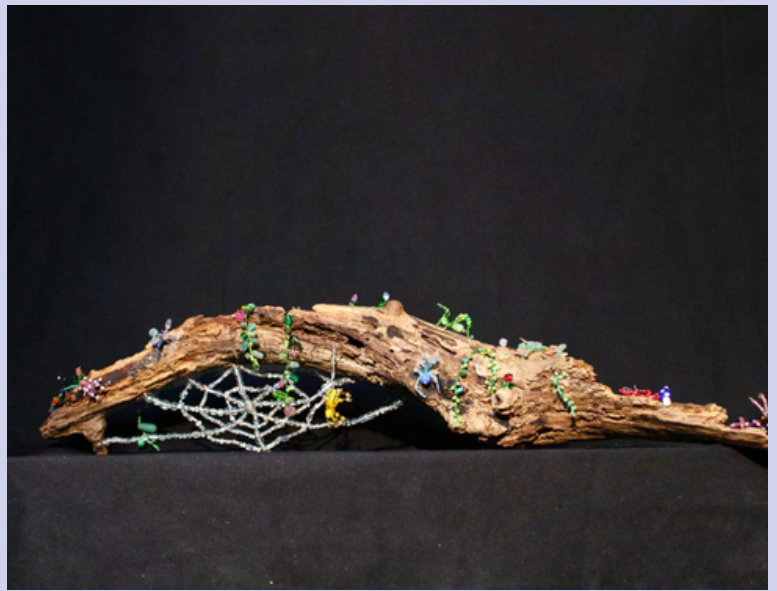


Regional Winners

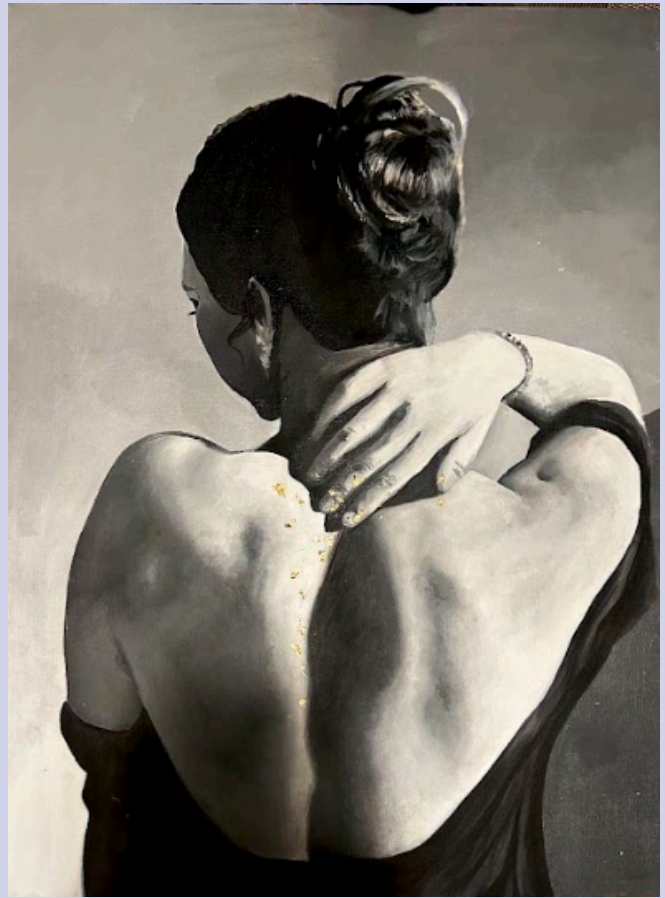
Senior Elise DiFranco's artwork, **Whimsy Willow**, was a regional winner of the 2026 Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. This sculpture features an immense color palette, evoking strong emotions while also catching the viewers eye. The tree represents a strong foundation and a positive life force. This eccentric sculpture was made in AP 3D art and design.




Senior Elise DiFranco's artwork, **Creepy Crawlies**, was a regional winner of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. This sculpture features a wooden log with a spider weaving its web. Throughout the log, there is an abundance of bright flowers, evoking positive emotions for the viewer. The delicate, soft flowers, provide a visually appealing contrast to the brown log. The spider forming its web on the log represents the complexity of nature and contrasts fear with admiration. The art piece was created in AP 3D Art and Design.



Senior Hailey Mack's art piece, **What Remains**, was a regional winner of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. This creation features a woman reaching out behind her back, implying a symbolic narrative and creating a sense of mystery in the canvas. Mack used a black and white palette creating dramatic, emotional, and a timeless mood. She created this masterpiece while in AP 2D Art and Design.



Senior Benjamin Mehendale's creation, **Who's in Control**, was a 2026 regional winner of the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. Mehendale layered puzzle pieces, string, and paper to create depth and dimension, making this a standout submission. The title asks audiences a question, suggesting deeper symbolic meaning. He is currently in AP 2D Art and Design.



Congratulations
to this year's
winners of the
Ohio Governor's
Youth Art
Exhibition!