

ZANESVILLE MUSEUM of ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zanesville Museum of Art Awards Excellence in Art Education

ZANESVILLE, Ohio—The Zanesville Museum of Art and a seven member committee have awarded Stephani Shirer of Dresden and Adamsville Elementary Schools with the Avant-Garde Award for Excellence in Art Education. This award, along with its \$1,000 prize, is given during the opening of the *Muskingum County K–12 Student Art Exhibition* to a local area art educator who has made considerable contributions to the field of art education and has shown willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in their field. This year marks the second year the museum has given out this award. The committee responsible for deciding the award winner is made up of representatives from the American Association of University Women, representatives from Delta Kappa Gamma, retired local art educators, ZMA staff, and last year's award winner, Amy Kennedy.

The \$1,000 prize for this award, along with the other Avant-Garde awards, was generously underwritten by The Community Bank. The community-oriented nature of this exhibition and The Community Bank's mission made it an ideal partnership because they both share a common vision to cultivate and develop local art initiatives.

"We take every opportunity to support art educators because of the vital role the visual arts play in a well-rounded education experience," said ZMA Education Coordinator Misty Johnson. "This award emphasizes the importance of art education in the life of every student in Muskingum County."

To be considered for this prestigious award, candidates must work in Muskingum County, act as a role model to students, and serve the community to enhance local art education. Studies show that children who receive art education are more likely to be awarded with an academic achievement than those without an art education.



The Zanesville Museum of Art ignites human imagination and understanding through the visual arts.

620 Military Road Zanesville, Ohio 43701 ■ (740) 452-0741 ■ www.zanesvilleart.org

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Stephani Shirer has been an art educator for eight years. She has spent the majority of that time at Adamsville and Dresden Elementary Schools. Stephani also volunteered at Bishop Fenwick Elementary School for two years and previously spent eleven years working in graphic design. She says she is excited to win this award.

"I work every day hoping to make a difference in someone's life," said Shirer. "I am very thankful for this award."

During the exhibition opening on April 29, Stephani and a few students from her class will present their large-scale cave painting project. Inspired by the cave paintings discovered in Lascaux, France, this project measures twenty feet wide. Elementary students will be stationed at certain areas of the creation to give guests a tour of this exciting project throughout the afternoon.

The 2018 Avant-Garde Award for Excellence in Art Education will be awarded during the opening of the *Muskingum County K-12 Student Art Exhibition*, Sunday, April 29 at 2 pm in the museum's Great Gallery.

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The museum welcomes visitors: Wed, Fri, Sat 10 am–5 pm and Thurs 10 am–7:30 pm.
Admission: \$6 for adults; \$4 for adults 60 and older and students with valid ID; Free for children 10 and under.

Free Admission Thursday Evenings 5-7:30 pm.

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