



The Heckscher Museum of Art  
2 Prime Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743  
631.351.3250  
www.Heckscher.org

CONTACT:  
Deborah Johnson  
Johnson@Heckscher.org  
631.351.3006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 14, 2018**

Jill Rowen  
[Rowen@Heckscher.org](mailto:Rowen@Heckscher.org)  
631-351-3006

**Student Awards Announced**  
***Long Island's Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher Museum of Art***  
On View through April 15, 2018

Huntington, NY – The Heckscher Museum of Art has announced the top awards for ***Long Island's Best: Young Artists at The Heckscher Museum***. The prestigious competition received 385 entries from a record-breaking 62 high schools across Suffolk and Nassau Counties. The jurors narrowed the field down to 80 impressive works currently featured in the Museum gallery. The exhibition is on view through April 15, 2018.

The Heckscher Museum will present scholarships and prizes to a number of young artists in *Long Island's Best*. The competition's four top honorees:

**Paulina Trzonkowska**, senior, West Babylon High School, received the Celebrate Achievement Best in Show Award for her colored pencil work titled *Too Close*.

**Isabelle Lin**, junior, Manhasset High School, received Second Place, the Judith Sposato Memorial Prize, for her painting, *Who I Am, Who Am I*

**Estefanie Arrue**, senior, Hicksville High School, received Third Place, the Hadley Prize, for *Female Reconstruction*, a mixed media work.

**Rico Ford**, senior, Valley Stream Central High School, received Fourth Place for the colored pencil work *Pair of Kings*.

Now in its 22nd year, ***Long Island's Best*** is a hallmark of The Heckscher Museum's education programs. This juried exhibition is the only one of its kind on Long Island that provides students

the opportunity to exhibit their artwork in a prominent museum and to be featured in a full-color catalog. Museum visitors are treated to exceptional artwork by talented emerging artists.

**Generous support for *Long Island's Best* is provided by The Darrell Fund Endowment; Strong-Cuevas Foundation; TD Charitable Foundation; The Claire Friedlander Family Foundation; RBC Wealth Management; A Friend of the Museum; and Inna Gellerman, DDS, Gellerman Orthodontics.**

Jurors for the exhibition were Lisa Chalif, Curator, The Heckscher Museum of Art, and guest juror Doug Reina, a notable Long Island artist and 2014 Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant recipient.

“For high school students, this is a rare and exciting opportunity to put their skills to the ultimate test and show the world who they are. This is where you bring your A game,” said Doug Reina. “This is their first taste of what life in the contemporary art world is really like. The 'creative pressure' gives these young people terrific experience as they become the next generation of the world's artists.”

In addition to the gallery exhibition, visitors can see all of the artwork submitted to the competition on a digital display that will run for the entirety of the exhibition. Mitchells, the venerable Huntington-based department store, will display select images from ***Long Island's Best*** in their windows on Main Street beginning mid-April.

The ***Long Island's Best*** educational experience begins with students visiting the Museum during the school year and choosing a work of art as a point of inspiration. Students submit their original work of art along with a detailed artist statement. “Every year, the caliber of artwork is more impressive and the artists’ statements increasingly more creative and thoughtful. It is a challenge to choose the best of the best from hundreds of entries,” noted Joy Weiner, Director of Education.

#### **About The Heckscher Museum of Art**

The Heckscher Museum of Art, founded in 1920 by philanthropist August Heckscher, is located in scenic Heckscher Park in Huntington, New York. Through its exhibitions and related programs, the Museum provides inspiring and transformative experiences to encourage a broader understanding of the past and present and to enrich life-long learning. The Museum’s collection comprises more than 2,500 works from the 16th to the 21st century, including European and American painting, sculpture, works on paper, and photography. For information about The Heckscher Museum of Art, visit [Heckscher.org](http://Heckscher.org).

#### **Museum Hours**

**Wednesday - Friday | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm \* Saturday and Sunday | 11:00 am - 5:00 pm \***

**Monday and Tuesday | Closed**

\*Huntington Township Residents admitted FREE Wednesdays after 2:00 pm and Saturdays before 1:00 pm. Proof of residency required. **Free Admission for Town of Huntington Employees and Family** (up to 4) and **Active Military Personnel, Veterans, and Family** (with ID, and up to 5 family members).