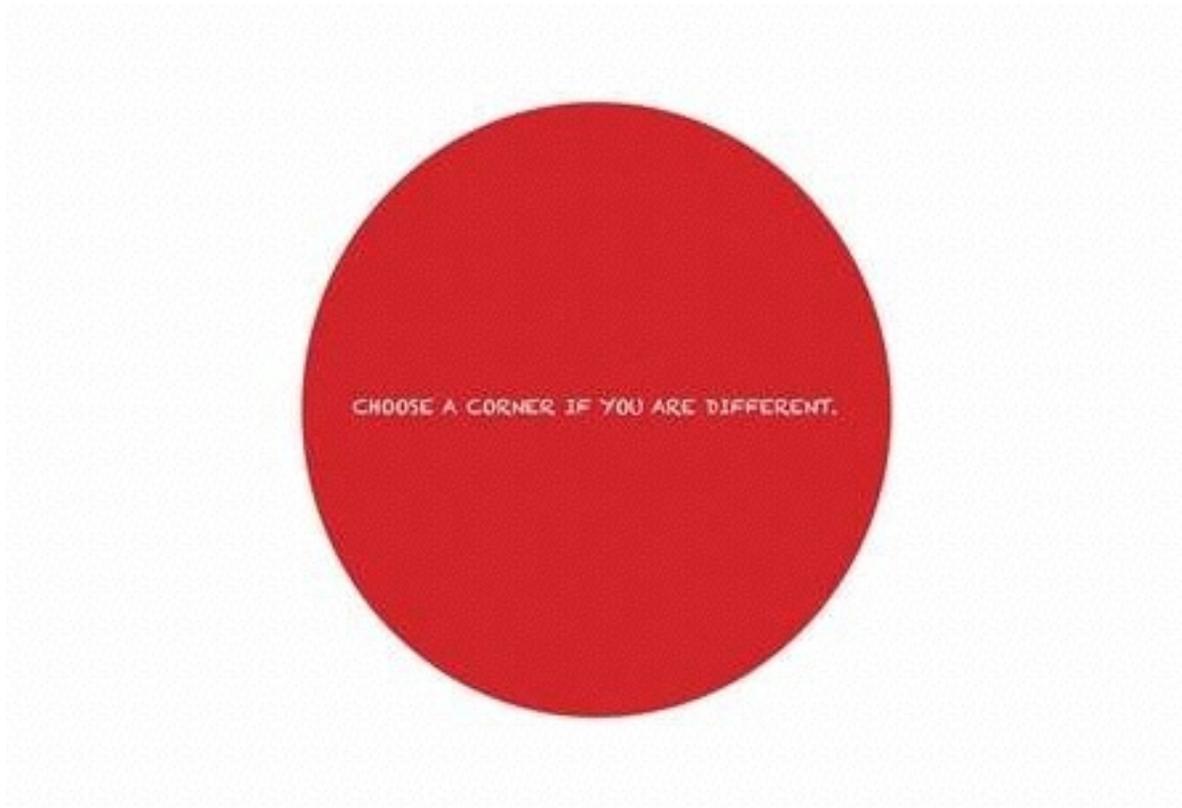


Winners named for Embracing Our Differences



NewGate School student Nina Edelsbacher was one of two student art award winners for this year's Embracing Our Differences display. COURTESY PHOTO

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Thirty-five area residents are among the 82 winners whose artwork and inspirational quotes were selected to participate in the 11th annual outdoor art exhibit celebrating diversity. More than 6,000 entries were submitted

by individuals from 52 countries and 44 states. This year's exhibits will be on display March 30 through June 1 in Sarasota's Island Park and Bradenton's Riverwalk.

Awards are given for "Best-in-Show Adult," "Best-in-Show Student," and "People's Choice" categories, with the last chosen by visitors to the exhibit. Adult winners each receive \$1,000; students receive \$1,000 to be directed to their school's art program.

The Best-in-Show Adult winner for art is Marija Doric of Westfield, Indiana, for her work entitled, "Pressure and Tension."

For the first time in EOD's history, two artists were selected to receive Best-in-Show Student awards. Nina Edelsbacher, a student at the NewGate School in Sarasota, won for her work, "Everything is Equal."

Nina's teacher is Roberta Schlesinger.

Elise Raimon, a student at Carlos E. Haile Middle School in Bradenton, won for her work, "wePhones." Her teacher is Joseph Gibson.

Winning quotes in the 2014 exhibition include, "If you judge people by how far they have to go, you'll never know how far they've come," by Aliyah Cunningham, a student at Sarasota Middle School; and "The hardest part of standing up for something is believing you can," by Alexa Capo of Sarasota.

The award for Best-in-Show inspirational quote was given to Zachary Lasebry, a student at Louise R. Johnson Middle School in Bradenton for his quote: "It shouldn't take your reading this quote to know that you should accept people for who they are." Zachary's school will receive \$1,000 for its art department.

For more information about Embracing Our Differences, call 404-5710 or visit www.embracingourdifferences.org.