

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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***For Immediate Release***

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Young Poets and Artists Connect to the Coast

(San Francisco, May 14, 2013)—The poetry and artwork of six students from Marin and Sonoma Counties will be among that of 47 California students on exhibit during May and June at the Point Reyes National Seashore Bear Valley Visitor Center. The students were honored in the 2013 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest for kindergarten through 12th grade students, presented by the California Coastal Commission.

San Geronimo 5th grader Emma Nathanson was a winner for her poem “A Star in a Deep Blue Sea,” and Petaluma 7th grader Tiffany Liang was a winner for her painting, “Listening to the Sea.” Local students were well-represented among those recognized in this annual contest, which received 2,260 entries from students throughout California.

Other local poets to be exhibited include Corinne Webster (5th grade) of San Anselmo; Esmé Kaplan-Kinsey (5th grade) of Petaluma, Sage Meadows (7th grade) of Fairfax; and Megan Amaglio (9th grade) of Larkspur, whose poem, “Point Reyes Cliffs,” is a perfect fit for the exhibit location.

Following the Point Reyes exhibit, the 2013 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest will be on display at the Ford House Museum in Mendocino, the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center in Ventura, and Birch Aquarium at Scripps in La Jolla.

Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission Education Coordinator, applauds the student artists and poets. “Much of the artwork this year depicts a real sense of joy, with the students’ love of our coast and ocean very evident. The poetry ranges from a call to friends to share in play at the beach, to careful observation of coastal processes, to introspection on the ocean as a reflection of the poet’s emotions. Each piece tells the individual story of the importance of our precious coast to these young Californians.”

The California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest is held annually to encourage youth to reflect on the beauty and spirit of California's beaches and ocean. Through this effort the California Coastal Commission endeavors to inspire a greater sense of appreciation and stewardship for these natural places. For more information about the contest and the Commission’s other education programs, visit www.coastforyou.org or call 800-Coast4U. For information about Point Reyes National Seashore, visit www.nps.gov/pore or call (415) 464-5100. Bear Valley Visitor Center is located at 1 Bear Valley Road in Point Reyes Station.

Images available upon request. Email Annie.Frankel@coastal.ca.gov or call 415-597-5888.

Point Reyes Cliffs

Boulder cloaked curtains
Between kelp and trees

Diving birds' eggs safe
In nests tucked into the vertical ground

Only stood upon by those with wings
Obsidian sleek cormorants, fog-backed gulls

A great rock parallel to a fall
For the four and two-legged above

An impossible mountain
For the scaled and finned below

From every angle they are formidable
Freckled with spindrift
From the waves who crumble them down.

Megan Amaglio
Honorable Mention
9th Grade, Larkspur

A Star in a Deep Blue Sky

A lone star,
A spark of color
In the enveloping blueness of the sea.

Trying to eye it,
Balancing on a rock,
Leaning out—so far...

Swimming with a sea star.

Emma Nathanson
Winner
5th Grade, San Geronimo

The mission of the California Coastal Commission is to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations. It works in partnership with coastal cities and counties to maximize public beach access and recreation, provide for priority coastal development, and assure that new development will protect coastal resources including wetlands, wildlife on land and in the sea, water quality, coastal tourism, and scenic vistas. The Coastal Art and Poetry contest is part of its effort to raise public awareness of marine and coastal resources and promote coastal stewardship.

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