

*For Immediate Release
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Supervisor Kaiman Hosts Reception for Participants in Recycled Artwork Contest at Great Neck Arts Center

Great Neck, NY—In its more than 15 years of existence, the Great Neck Arts Center has exhibited the works of accomplished local, national and international contemporary artists—most recently magazine cartoonist Mike Lynch Milton whose work has graced the pages of prestigious tomes such as the Harvard Business Review, the Wall Street Journal and Readers Digest.

This past week, however, the works of North Hempstead public school students from K-12 took over the exhibit gallery at this increasingly-popular, local arts institution on Middle Neck Road, thanks to a school recycling program created by Town Supervisor Jon Kaiman.

Spawned by Supervisor Kaiman's comprehensive School Recycling Partnership Program, artwork generated by participants in North Hempstead's 2009 Recycled Artwork Contest will grace the walls of the Arts Center until January 11.

"This is a great day for us," Supervisor Kaiman told scores of attendees, including the young artists, their families and friends, teachers and a handful of elected official, packed into the Doris Weinstein Playhouse at the Arts Center for a reception honoring the artists and announcing the winners. "The works here will inspire us all to think about the world around us," Supervisor Kaiman said. "We thank everyone who helped to make this happen."

To make it happen, some 200 student artists collaborated on 75 works.

Sixteen winning entries were culled from four grade groups, K-2, 3-5, middle school and high school. They were judge by the newly-formed Arts Advisory Committee in four categories: first place overall, best use of recycled materials, best environmental message and creativity.

All the student artists were presented with a Certificate of recognition and Achievement.

"I'm so excited," said Samantha Bonilla, 16, one of the six Westbury High School students who worked on "Thriller" a breast of Michael Jackson created from pieces of soft drink cans. "We really worked hard on it," she said, beaming ecstatically.

Rosemary Sloggatt, an art teacher at Saddle Rock School conveyed the consensus of pretty much everyone attending evening's gathering

“The children were so thrilled to see their work in a gallery setting,” she said. “All of the work was terrific, and some of it truly amazing.”

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