



PORTLAND MUSEUM of ART

## NEWS RELEASE

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### PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART HOSTS 21ST ANNUAL YOUTH ART MONTH EXHIBITION

(Note to editors: A list of participating students, schools, towns, and images are available upon request.)



(Portland, Maine) The Portland Museum of Art (PMA) is proud to welcome the annual *Youth Art Month* exhibition—which features student art from across the state of Maine—back to its galleries for the 21st year. *Youth Art Month* is on view February 28 through March 29, 2015 at the PMA.

Youth Art Month emphasizes Maine's educational institutions and how they help mold the next generations of the state's artists. The PMA and the Maine Art Education

Association have collaborated on this exhibition for more than 20 years now, and this year's edition once more promises more than 100 works of art by K-12 students from all over the state. While Youth Art Month provides significant encouragement to students and well-deserved recognition for educators, the exhibition is for more than just the participating students and their families and teachers. This is an exhibition for the entire community to discover the emerging voices of Maine's youth and to recognize the immense value of arts education in our schools.

(MORE)

National Youth Art Month is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art education and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. Art education provides students with important critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, in addition to fostering self-esteem, self-discipline, and an appreciation for the work of others. The *Youth Art Month* exhibition celebrates and validates student achievement in the visual arts, and the Portland Museum of Art is proud to honor the talent and dedication of these young artists and their teachers. Youth Art Month has been observed nationally since 1961, and on the state level, sponsored by the Maine Art Education Association since 1980.

(Image credit: Eowyn Michaels, Grade 4, *Rainbow Kitty*, marker, Canal School, Westbrook)

### MUSEUM INFORMATION

With an extensive collection and nationally renowned exhibitions, the [Portland Museum of Art](#) (PMA), is the cultural heart of Portland, Maine. The PMA boasts significant holdings of American, European, and contemporary art, as well as iconic works from Maine—highlighting the rich artistic tradition of the state and its artists. The museum brings it all to life with unparalleled programming. From special members-only events, Free School Tours, and a commitment to family activities, to PMA Movies, curator talks, and exclusive tours of the Winslow Homer Studio—it's all happening at the PMA. The museum is located at Seven Congress Square in downtown Portland. Hours are: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday. Memorial Day through Columbus Day, the PMA is open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Third Thursdays open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students with I.D., \$6 for youth ages 13 to 17, and children 12 and under are free. Special exhibition fees may apply. Admission is free on Friday evenings from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. No admission is required to visit the PMA Café and Store. Winslow Homer Studio tours are available by reservation. For more information, call (207) 775-6148 or visit [portlandmuseum.org](http://portlandmuseum.org).

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