

## **THE 2016 EUGENIE COLADARCI ARTS SCHOLARSHIP**

### **TYLER HARKER**

Eighteen years ago, as a part of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Morris Arts collaborated with the Coladarci family and initiated what has become a \$1,500 scholarship award to be given annually to a graduating Morris County high school senior who plans to pursue further study in an area related to the arts. Created as a tribute to the memory of our former Board Chair, Eugenie Coladarci, who was an active member of the Morris Arts for eleven years, the scholarship recognizes artistic excellence and encourages the artists of the future, in keeping with Morris Arts' mission and with Genie Coladarci's role as a statewide champion of the arts who actively encouraged the development of young artists and strongly believed the arts were essential to the quality of life.

I am pleased to announce that this year's award winner is Tyler Harker, a talented visual artist who lives in Morristown and is also soon to graduate West Morris Mendham High School.

In this year's highly competitive Blackwell Street Juried Student Exhibit, Tyler surpassed his prior record of multiple winning entries in pen drawing, watercolor and oil by simultaneously winning the coveted *Best in Show* award (from among nearly 800 submissions!), as well as first, second and third place ribbons in oil painting! Tyler has also studied painting at the Studio Incamminati School for Contemporary Realist Art in Philadelphia and taken summer classes at the Ridgewood Art Academy and at Morris County Art Association).

In addition to multiple art courses at West Morris Mendham High (including AP and International Baccalaureate courses), Tyler continually

seeks to understand the “secrets” of the great masters and to learn everything he can about art in all its forms. He studies works by great masters, visits museums, reads widely about art and sets tasks for himself to broaden his own artistic skills. In one of his essays, Tyler cites Leonardo Da Vinci as his inspiration because Da Vinci was never “just an artist” but also “an engineer, mathematician, musician and anatomist.” Pursuing multiple dimensions with art at the core embodies Tyler’s approach to art.

His recommendations paint a portrait of Tyler as a truly exceptional talent. One teacher calls him “...brilliant, energetic and eager to learn” and says Tyler “....also has an innate artistic sensibility, along with a superb natural ability to draw” adding, “...with his prodigious intellectual and artistic gifts, Tyler’s potential is limitless.” That same teacher then states, “His ability and understanding was so far beyond the other students, that he took on the aura of a second art authority without saying a word.” A second teacher (also a respected professional artist in his own right) wrote, “Tyler is an exceptional artist” whose work is “head and shoulders above his peers....” That teacher marveled at Tyler’s unusual “...desire to learn all there is to know about art” and called his talents “remarkable.” Perhaps the most telling comment was that same artist/teacher’s admission “At times, I am actually envious of Tyler’s talent.”

The panelists were deeply impressed by Tyler’s advanced talents and intense dedication to art. His rendition of Leonardo Da Vinci’s “Lady With An Ermine” was, as one of his teacher’s succinctly phrased it, “startling for its fidelity to the original.” The sheer skill, talent, draftsmanship, and mastery of multiple styles evident in Tyler’s portfolio made his selection clear, even with competition from a number of other, highly qualified and gifted applicants.

Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Morris Arts, it is my great pleasure to award the eighteenth annual Eugenie Coladarci Arts Scholarship to visual artist Tyler Harker.

March 30, 2016.