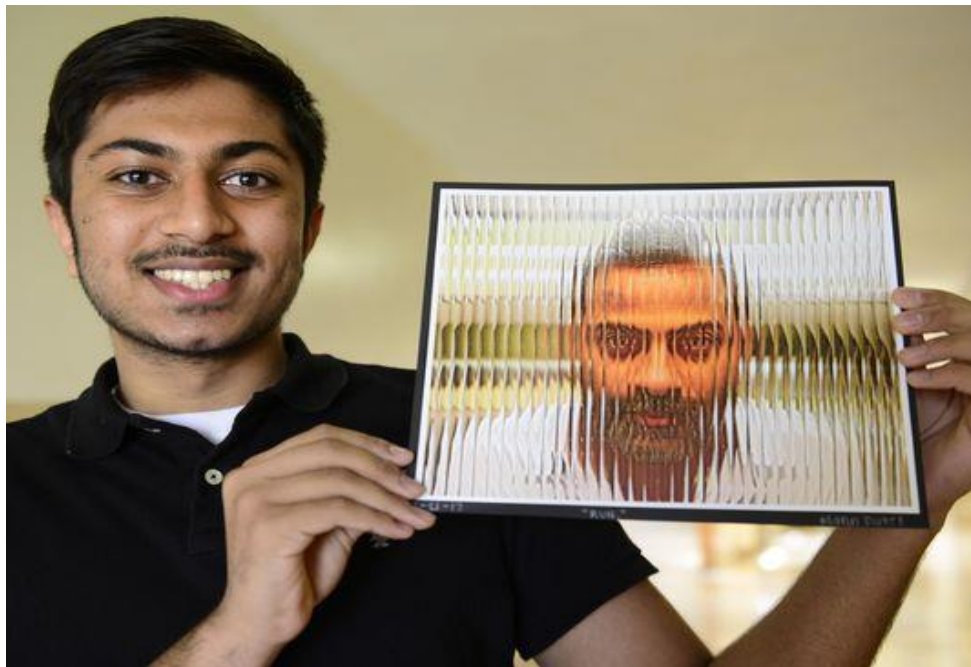


Ross student honored in congressional art contest

Andrew Carter, Reporter 1:59 p.m. ET April 26, 2017



(Photo: Molly Corfman/The News-Messenger)

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MARION - A Fremont Ross High School student placed third in the [4th Congressional District Art Competition](#) this year.

Mann Patel, a senior at Ross, was honored for his work last Friday during a reception at the [Marion County Building](#). Artwork from all of the entrants was on display at the county complex in downtown Marion ahead of the announcement of the winning piece.

"The project was about concealment, and I had my dad stand behind glass and I used a filter and Photoshop to create the photo," Patel said.

The 17-year-old is the son of Sheetal and Aashish Patel and plans to major in medicine.

The Ross High School senior will attend the University of Cincinnati in the fall.

"Art is more of a hobby," Patel said. "I got into it my freshman year — I prefer photography."

Seth Brown, a senior at Lehman Catholic High School in Sidney, won the competition. His self-portrait montage drawn with colored pencils will be on display with works by other district winners from across the nation at the [U.S. Capitol Building](#) in [Washington](#) for one year.

As the congressional district winner, Brown will be offered two airline tickets to visit the display of artwork in the U.S. Capitol. He is also eligible to receive a scholarship.

[Rep. Jim Jordan](#), R-Urbana, and his wife, Polly, attended the reception and presented awards to the top artists.

“Just like a politician, I show up for the reception when you did all the work,” Jordan said to the students prior to announcing the winners.

Jordan said he enjoys meeting the students and seeing their handiwork each year.

“We get to see the amazing, talented young people we have and have a fun evening,” Jordan said. “No one’s really talking policy too much. You get to see the smiles on these young students’ faces when they get to stand proudly by their artwork. Our staff puts this together and we have professional artists who judge the artwork.”

Jordan said this year’s judges asked to remain anonymous, which was a departure from past years.

“In the past, we’ve actually had the judges come here and talk about the artwork,” he said.

According to Jordan’s website, the Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 “to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition.”

Ava Johnston, a junior at Pleasant High School in Marion County, was the runner-up in the art competition.

“This is my first time doing anything like this,” said Johnston. “It’s kind of surreal right now.”

A total of 30 students submitted pieces to the competition.