

Media release

Liverpool City Region's best young artists announced

Two budding young artists are celebrating after battling it out with more than 900 pupils from 56 schools across the Liverpool City Region to be named the area's best young artists.

Jacob Crummey, a Year 9 student from St Margaret's Academy and Harrison Fair a Year 5 student from Eaves Primary School, were crowned the overall winners of the dot-art Schools competition at a special prize-giving ceremony at Liverpool John Moores University's School of Art and Design on Thursday 21st June.

Jacob's winning mixed media piece "Exploding Head 5" and Harrison's collage piece "The Rainforest Alive 11" both feature alongside the other shortlisted artworks, in the sixth exhibition in the competition's history. This free exhibition at the John Lennon Art & Design Building opened to the public from 22nd June to 30th June. Following this, prints of the artworks will also be displayed at Merseyrail's Lime Street Lower Level train station from 1st August – 31st August.

dot-art Schools is already a well-established fixture in the academic calendar for many Merseyside schools; since its inception almost 4000 students from over 270 schools have taken part. This is the sixth year it has taken place in the Liverpool City Region and due to its success and a new partnership with Liverpool John Moores University, a pilot scheme for Cheshire was also launched last year.

Entrants are asked to produce a piece of artwork that reflects themes they are already exploring at school and best showcases their skills and interests. Schools initially submitted up to 25 student pieces of art, which were then shortlisted by a judging panel made up of representatives from some of the region's best-known arts and cultural institutions, including Liverpool Biennial, National Museums Liverpool and LJMU, who selected their top three entries from each school for a public vote. The public were then encouraged to vote online for their favourite piece of work from each school to form part of the exhibition.

The overall winners and runners-up for both primary and secondary categories were chosen and announced by guest judge Pete Ward, (Assistant Headteacher at Childwall Academy and a Specialist Leader in Cultural Education) at the prize-giving ceremonies and exhibition launch. Each shortlisted student was also presented with a certificate by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool Cllr. Christine Banks and Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Peter Brennan during the ceremony.

A wonderful LJMU Scholarship prize was announced by Professor Caroline Wilkinson, which will provide £1000 per year for 3 years toward course fees for the Year 9 winner and two runners up if they take up a course within the Arts Faculty.

Professor Caroline Wilkinson the Director, Liverpool School of Art and Design, said: " I am delighted to be involved in the dot-art Schools competition and offer this prize. It is incredibly important for school children to see the value of art and to be awarded for artistic potential. If creative talent can be recognised at an early age, then some of these winners may be inspired to progress to a creative art career and have a positive impact on future innovation in the UK."

dot-art Services who manage the schools competition are delighted that Liverpool John Moores University is the project partner and world famous hairbrush brand Tangle Teezer is the principal sponsor of the programme for the third year running. Tangle Teezer joins other supporters including Cass Art, Paragon and Merseyrail to support the initiative.

As the winner of the Year 9 category, Jacob Crummey was also awarded a scholarship giving him a year's membership to dot-art's network, allowing him to showcase and sell his work alongside professional artists, while Harrison Fair won the Year 5 category and was presented with prizes donated by Tangle Teezer and Cass Art.

Runners Up Awards in the secondary category were presented to Luke Hallman from Maricourt High School and Molly McMaster of Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy.

In the primary category Runners Up Awards were presented to Charlie Beesley of St Michael's Catholic Primary School and Alex Connor of St Bede's Catholic Junior School.

The winners were awarded a variety of prizes from Tate Liverpool, the Albert Dock, Rennies Art Supplies, Cass Art and Tangle Teezer.

dot-art Schools project manager Carolyn Murray commented: "The high standard of work continues to develop year on year and it's rewarding that we have so many talented young artists in the region. We're also delighted to hold this year's exhibition at LJMU School of Art and Design for the first time, which is a wonderful space within a setting which can inspire creative young people's future aspirations."

Entry for next year's dot-art Schools competition opens in September but schools that register before the end of term will receive an early bird discount on the entry fee. For more information and to enter, visit <http://schools.dot-art.com> or contact Carolyn Murray on schools@dot-art.com.

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For more information or photos please contact Carolyn Murray, dot-art Schools Project Manager schools@dot-art.com or call 0345 0176660.

EDITORS NOTES

dot-art

dot-art was founded in Liverpool in 2006 and specialises in affordable, high quality, locally sourced art. We work with over 100 artists to provide an unrivaled choice of original art and limited edition prints for home or business, as well as offering a range of complementary services including; commissions, art rental, art consultancy, exhibition planning and implementation, bespoke framing, art valuation and restoration and artist sourcing.

All our work supports our **not-for profit arm, dot-art Services CIC**, which exists to support North-West based visual artists, both emerging and established, through a range of services and opportunities designed to help them develop their careers and gain exposure and promotion for their work, as well as delivering a programme of art classes across Liverpool; and [dot-art Schools](#), our innovative inter school art competition, launched in 2012.

Find out more on our websites

<http://dot-art.co.uk/>

<http://schools.dot-art.com>