

Media Contact:
Emily Carter
Communications Coordinator
Sister Cities International
1301 Pennsylvania Ave Ste 850
Washington, DC 20004
Phone 202.347.8630 ext. 4005
ecarter@sister-cities.org Program Contact:
Swathi Veeravlli
Sister Cities International
Phone 202.347.8630 ext. 4877
sveeravlli@sister-cities.org

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION WINNERS

Youth Connect Global Communities & Advocate for Peace Through Artwork

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2005

WASHINGTON - Although terrorism dominates news headlines, young people are sounding the call for peace in an unlikely way - art. This year's entries in the Sister Cities International Young Artists Competition offer visions of hope and encouragement.

Based on the theme, "Connecting Global Villages," youth ages 13-18 expressed Sister Cities International's mission to, foster mutual respect, understanding and global cooperation. This year's awards winners hail from around the globe.

Giovanna Bittar from Cartagena, Columbia, sister city of Coral Gables, Florida, offers insight into the value of love and understanding. Her dreamlike pastels bring encircling hands from all parts of the globe to intertwine and form a heart. Local Contact: Lourdes Cuzan, (305) 460-5310, lcuzan@coralgables.com.

Qin Lue is from Beihai, Guangxi, China, and sister city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a second year winner. The work offers a mirage of light pastels in her paintings of doves, flowers, trees, international landmarks and children circling together. Doves, the traditional symbol of peace, are the focal point of her painting. Local contact: Bob Lieser, (918) 591-4750, boblieser@lakewebs.net.

Zhai Tianlei of Beijing, China, sister city of Pasadena, California created a colored ink on black picture. This joyous picture, called, Building Connections Around the World, shows international monuments such as the Great Wall of China, Eiffel Tower, Tower of Pisa, and the Sydney Opera house dancing in a circle. Local contact: Joanne Stebbene, (626) 793-6692, gordansteb@aol.com..

Leyla Mozayen lives in Gastonia, North Carolina. Her work known as Heart, is an abstract collage of the physical and metaphysical ways the heart binds us to our world. Bright ribbons and beads connect a clay heart to a globe, animals, symbols, words and shapes. It reminds viewers of the heartstrings that bind people together. Local Contact: Randy Vincent, (704) 866-6902 or (704) 214-9093.

From Daytona Beach, Florida, Austin Spitz created a graphic design called, Wires. This textured multi-colored world map includes layers of flags imprinted over colorful continents. The convergence elements evokes a feeling in viewers about the complexity of connections to people and places. Local Contact: Mary Lou Deeley, (336) 677-6931, mdeeley@mindspring.com.

Raul Martinez from Fort Worth, Texas, portrays agile hands sewing threads through the globe and tying countries together. This colored pencil drawing entitled, We need to get closer, plays on the symbolism of hands and their potential to work and build a new world in which we work together. Local contact: Liekeshia Shaw, (817) 392-2723, liekeshia@fwsistercities.org.