

EcoART contest seeks nominations

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Monet had his enchanted water lilies, Ansel Adams had his breathtaking national parks and Audubon had his colorful birds. It seems that art and nature have always gone hand in hand, and artists have drawn their inspiration from Mother Nature since the first cave paintings. The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection wants to encourage that tradition

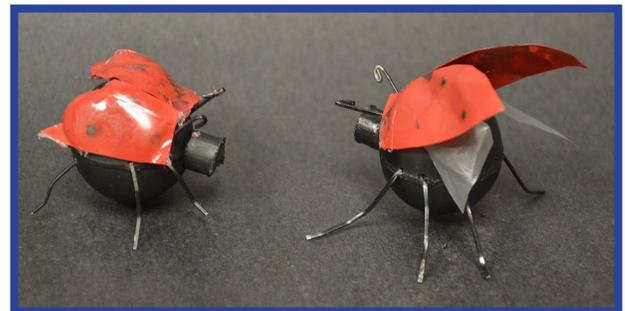


with its annual EcoART Contest. The department is currently soliciting nominations from Kentucky high school students for the contest, now in its seventh year. This year's contest features an exciting change in the environmental themes and a new art media category.

People view and appreciate our natural environment in different ways, and the proof can be found in the variety of entries received each year. In the past, some of the contest entries have included wind chimes and wall hangings made from recycled aluminum cans, a hanging sculpture created from plastic soda bottles that had been colored and cut into spirals, brightly colored nature photographs and an oil painting honoring the artist's grandfather who spent his life protecting the Commonwealth's environment. The artists are also asked about the inspiration behind their works and the thoughts behind many of the pieces that show the concern and respect the teens have for both the Earth and nature. Winning artwork from previous contests can be found at <http://dca.ky.gov/LGGS/Pages/ecoart.aspx>.

This year, students are being asked to create artistic works that are inspired by Kentucky's air, water and land resources and its natural habitats. Students can flex their artistic muscles using any of the five accepted media types including drawing/painting/print, mixed media, sculpture/pottery, photography and the new category of digital artwork. Digital artwork includes imagery or graphic designs created via computer or other digital device though art applications, graphic design software, desktop publishing tools, etc. Multiple winners will be chosen in each of the theme areas and media types. Winning art pieces are proudly displayed at the department's central office in Frankfort.

All nominations are due electronically by midnight on Feb. 28, 2016. For more information about the EcoART Contest and to access a nomination form, visit our website at <http://dca.ky.gov/LGGS/Pages/ecoart.aspx> or call the Division of Compliance Assistance toll-free at 800-926-8111. We look forward to seeing what Kentucky's young artists have in store for us.



TOP LEFT: Mindy Greenwell's, "Reflections."
MIDDLE LEFT: Peyton Hanks', "On the Ohio."
BOTTOM LEFT: Stephanie Stumbur's, "Who Is Winning."
ABOVE: Kennedy Kinkaid, "Ladybugs of Spring."
Photos courtesy of the Division of Compliance Assistance.