

Top honors go to Viking artist

Junior Andy Havranek receives People's Choice Award and \$1,000

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Last month, junior Andy Havranek received the People's Choice Award and has been awarded a \$1,000 at the Top Young Artists 2015 Scholarship Award Ceremony, sponsored by the Studio Gallery, a local art gallery.

"It was really cool winning," Havranek said. "At first it was hard to believe, but it was really exciting to win \$1,000."

The piece Havranek entered was originally a photograph taken by sophomore Jacob Turnage. But Havranek decided to take it a step further and create his own version of the portrait. Using oil paint, Havranek was able to maintain the appearance of the original photograph.

"I saw Jacob's photo and I really wanted to paint it because the lighting was really cool," Havranek said. "I painted it on a piece of wood because I figured it would be more creative than painting it on canvas."

Art teacher John Perdichi said that he was not surprised Havranek won.

"Andy has an excellent eye for observation and has the gift to be able to turn his visions into a drawing or painting," Perdichi said. "It doesn't surprise me at all that he won."

For more than a month, the public was invited to view all the entries and cast a vote for their favorite painting. Vanguard students and their families supported Havranek in the competition. Perdichi loaded up all of his students on a bus and took them over to

Studio Gallery, the local art gallery that sponsored the event, to vote for their friend's masterpiece.

"It was great having the support of Vanguard behind me," said Havranek. "I couldn't be more thankful."

Havranek has done dozens of other drawings and paintings, but this was his first oil painting.

"I was really happy with the way my first oil painting turned out," he said, "and I hope to improve on my techniques as I work with it more."

Havranek said this title makes him feel validated as an artist.

"It really boosted my confidence as an artist," Havranek said. "Hopefully having this on my resume will make me stand out to well-renowned art colleges."



Andy Havranek, junior, beams as he accepts a check for \$1,000 at an award ceremony at Art Center Waco.