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### **YoungArts Announces Top 148 Young Artists in America**

*Students from 27 states recognized for excellence in the visual, literary and performing arts*

**MIAMI, FL (November 30, 2010)** – YoungArts, the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA), has announced its 30<sup>th</sup> class of YoungArts finalists. These students, recognized for their excellent work in nine disciplines across the visual, literary and performing arts, will come to Miami for YoungArts Week, January 10-15, 2011. A full list of finalists is available at [www.youngarts.org/2011-finalists](http://www.youngarts.org/2011-finalists)

“These students have been judged by our panels as the best amongst their very talented peers,” said Christina DePaul, NFAA President and CEO. “They have proven themselves through a strenuous application and adjudication process consisting of audition pieces and evaluation from expert judges.”

This year’s finalists represent the top 3% of the application and were selected through a blind adjudication process from a pool of 5,164 applications. They represent disciplines from world dance to woodwinds; from non-fiction writing to Jazz trumpet. At YoungArts Week, all finalists will participate in master classes with internationally renowned artists, workshops, interdisciplinary activities, performances and exhibitions, and all young artists finalists attending YoungArts week will win a monetary award of at least \$1,000, with top-level awardees receiving \$10,000.

These finalists will be adjudicated to determine further award levels, including participation in the special, New York-based *In The Studio*, another week of workshops for YoungArts Gold and Silver Finalists. YoungArts is also the sole nominating agency for the Presidential Scholars in the Arts, the highest honor that can be awarded to any artistically talented graduating high school senior, and 20 YoungArts finalists will be named Presidential Scholars in the Arts by the Presidential Scholars Foundation.

Top YoungArts alumni who benefitted from YoungArts Week include painter John Currin, multimedia artists Doug Aitken, actors Adrian Grenier, Vanessa Williams and Kerry Washington, musicians Josh Groban and Jennifer Koh, writer Allegra Goodman and choreographer Desmond Richardson.

“This will be the 30<sup>th</sup> class of young artists to come through our program, and the quality of this year’s finalists is a testament to the strength and prestige of our program,” says DePaul. “It is our hope that through supporting them, we are helping to ensure the continuous creations of American artists.”

YoungArts is the only organization in the nation to recognize students in each of nine artistic disciplines – cinematic arts, dance, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing.

#### **About YoungArts Week:**

Each year, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) invites up to 150 of the nation’s most talented young artists to Miami for a week of intense learning experiences to aid in their artistic

development. This week is a key part of the nomination process for the prestigious Presidential Scholars in the Arts, as students are adjudicated throughout the week for nomination to this honor. Throughout YoungArts Week, there are performances, readings, exhibitions and screenings that are free and open to the public. More information is available at [www.youngarts.org/exhibitions-and-performances](http://www.youngarts.org/exhibitions-and-performances).

YoungArts Week is supported through the generosity of the following organizations: National Premier Sponsor Carnival Cruise Lines, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the *Miami Herald*, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, Canon Business Solutions, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Miami Parking Authority and Coca-Cola North America.

**About YoungArts:**

YoungArts, the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA), is the signature national program that recognizes and supports America's most talented 17-18 year olds in the visual, literary and performing arts. The mission of YoungArts is to identify emerging artists and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development, and to raise the appreciation for, and support of, the arts in American society. YoungArts provides financial awards, master classes with world-renowned artists and a rich network of professional contacts and career development opportunities; all applicants are eligible for some \$3 million in scholarships from prestigious colleges and universities around the world. YoungArts partners with the Presidential Scholars Foundation, the arm of the U.S. Department of Education honoring the nation's most deserving high school seniors. YoungArts is the sole nominating agency for the Presidential Scholars in the Arts, an honor given to just 20 seniors, who receive their award at the White House.

YoungArts regional programs in New York City and Miami are hands-on, laboratory programs designed to provide additional resources and enrichment. Participants have access to informative workshops, information about scholarships in the arts, career guidance, and portfolio development resources. YoungArts' 16,000 alumni include Broadway actors, award-winning playwrights, published authors and numerous well-known visual artists and notable names and arts advocates like Vanessa Williams, Allegra Goodman, John Currin and Kerry Washington.

For more information about YoungArts, visit [www.youngarts.org](http://www.youngarts.org).

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