

*For Immediate Release*

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## **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Ernie Pope Art Show Begins on May 11<sup>th</sup> Showcasing Local Student Artists**

FORT ATKINSON, WI – The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Ernie Pope Art Show will be displayed in the windows of downtown businesses as a walkable art exhibition on Main St from May 11 to May 27. This year’s exhibit will also be viewable online via the School District of Fort Atkinson’s K-12 art website, [www.1fortart.com](http://www.1fortart.com).

15 students from each art teacher in the [School District of Fort Atkinson](#) and [St. Joseph’s Catholic School](#) were chosen to have their artwork on display to recognize their creativity, talent, and hard work. Mediums of art on display include paint, pencil, papercraft, photography, jewelry, sculpture, and more!

This event is proudly sponsored by [Fort Community Credit Union](#) (FCCU), [IRONMARKETS](#), [Fort HealthCare](#), and [The Fireside](#). Additionally, awards were funded through a dedicated fund in memory of Ernie Pope by the [Fort Atkinson Community Foundation](#), and a recurring donation by Robert Farrell in honor of his mother, June.

**The closing ceremony and reception will be held at FAHS Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, May 27 at 5:30pm.** Certificates and monetary awards will be presented to winners in seven awards categories (chosen by four local judges):

- Ernie Pope Award
- June Farrell Award
- People’s Choice Award
- Gold Award
- Silver Award
- Bronze Award
- Purchase Award

Community members are invited to help choose the People’s Choice Award by voting for their favorite piece using the QR code hanging in the windows of the downtown exhibition!

**About the Ernie Pope Art Show:** The Cygnus Ernie Pope Scholastic Art Awards began over 30 years ago. Ernie Pope, who worked for Johnson Hill Press, was a strong supporter of the arts. Ernie believed that Fort Atkinson students had significant artistic talent and he wanted to encourage it. He approached the art teachers at the time and proposed the scholastic art awards. Sadly, Ernie Pope succumbed to cancer, but the show has continued. The awards have recently been granted by a fund set aside in Ernie’s name through the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation.



[fortcommunity.com](http://fortcommunity.com)



**Photo:** 2025 Ernie Pope Poster Award Winner, "Out of Focus," Evanna Thao, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade FAHS