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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TMA Reaches New Milestone with Entries
for 15th Annual High School Art Exhibition**

(TYLER, TX) – Nine students from Cumberland Academy are among the unprecedented number of aspiring artists from local schools will have their first opportunity for a full museum exhibition with the Tyler Museum of Art's *15th Annual High School Art Exhibition*, opening Sunday, March 31 and continuing through May 5 at the Museum, 1300 S. Mahon Ave. on the Tyler Junior College main campus. Admission is free.

Under the instruction of April Schodowski, seniors Christopher Alvarez, Ellie Fish, Quenton Harvey, Christian Haskell, Joshua Kriechbaum, Emma Rambin, Rebecca Rusley and Carlie Sessions are entered into the juried competition and will be eligible for one of four "Merit of Honor" awards as determined by the judging panel, to be presented during the exhibition's Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony from 2:30-4 p.m. Sunday, March 31 at the Museum. Isabel Neuenschwander,, a junior also under Ms. Schodowski's instruction, is entered out of competition in the exhibition's special "Up & Coming" category.

The community is invited on March 31 to meet the participating artists, enjoy light refreshments – and cast their votes for the annual Viewers' Choice Award to be presented at the exhibition's conclusion. Ballots are available at the Visitor Services desk in the TMA lobby. "Merit of Honor" winners will receive gift certificates from Dick Blick Art Materials. All participating artists will receive Certificates of Participation and one-year student memberships to the TMA. To RSVP for the March 31 opening reception, call (903) 595-1001.

The *15th Annual High School Art Exhibition* is presented by The Ralph & Mary John Spence Exhibition Fund, established in 2016 during the TMA's 45th Anniversary celebration in memory of two of the Museum's founding benefactors. The program also is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by Collectors' Circle-Platinum Sponsor The Robert M. Rogers Foundation, Collectors' Circle-Gold Sponsors Martha and Randy Key, and Community Partner Sponsors Hibbs-Hallmark & Company Insurance and Southside Bank.