

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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**Viewing the Coast through the Eyes of Youth**

*(San Francisco, October 11, 2011)*—The artwork and poetry of several southern California students are included in an exhibit at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro now through January 8. These youth were honored in the 2011 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, presented by the California Coastal Commission.

Among the artists to be exhibited are Gideon Choi (1<sup>st</sup> grade) of Cerritos, Julia Kim (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) of Irvine, Edward L. Smith (5<sup>th</sup> grade) of Rancho Cucamonga, Eric Frankel (6<sup>th</sup> grade) of Santa Ana, Grace Li (7<sup>th</sup> grade) of Cerritos, and Chrystal Yen (12<sup>th</sup> grade) of San Marino. The honored poets include Elizabeth Brem (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) of Yorba Linda.

Following the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium exhibit, the 2011 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest will be on display at the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center in Oxnard. Earlier this year the contest was shown at the Ford House Museum in Mendocino and the San Francisco Bay Model in Sausalito.

Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission Education Coordinator, commends the student artists and poets. “We received 2,272 entries from around the state, and these pieces stood out from the crowd. These students have remarkable talent and have really captured the essence of the California coast.” She added, “Even if you don’t think of yourself as an artist or poet, it’s worthwhile to sit down and put your feelings and experiences to paper. You may learn something new about yourself and your relationship with our coast.”

All California students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grades are encouraged to enter the 2012 contest. Entries are due January 31.

The California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest is held annually to encourage youth to reflect on the beauty and spirit of California’s beaches and ocean. Through this effort the Commission endeavors to inspire a greater sense of appreciation and stewardship for these natural places, since a population that cares about the coast is more likely to conserve and protect it. For more information about the contest and the Commission’s other education programs, visit [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org) or call 800-Coast4U. For information about Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, visit [www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org) or call (310) 548-7562. The Aquarium is located at 3720 Stephen M. White Drive in San Pedro and is closed Mondays.

*Images available upon request. Email [afrankel@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:afrankel@coastal.ca.gov) or call 415-597-5888.*

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