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Contacts: Donna Granata, FOTM, 805.653.2501 or
Margaret Travers, VCAC, 805.658.2213

Focus on the Masters and the Ventura County Arts Council announce the Tamima Al-Awar Memorial Scholarship applications are now available.



*Life Size Figure Study from Life by Zack Montoya
2008 1st Place Al-Awar Memorial Scholarship Recipient, Ventura High School*

\$3,500 in scholarships available for students of the visual arts!

Applications are due by February 19, 2009 and are available online at: <http://www.focusonthemasters.com/pdfs/AIAwarApplication2009.pdf>
or <http://www.venturacountyartscouncil.org/pdf/taa2009app.pdf>

Focus on the Masters and the Ventura County Arts Council are joining together to provide scholarship funds and exhibition opportunities to high school seniors who plan to pursue art studies in college. The Tamima Al-Awar Memorial Scholarship program provides \$3,500 in scholarships and the opportunity for all students applying for the scholarships to exhibit their work at the Ventura County Government Center in Ventura. The competition is open to high school seniors who reside in Ventura County and who

show in their application a commitment to further study in the visual arts. Recipients for these scholarships are chosen by a distinguished panel of jurors from our art community, based on artistic merit and visual arts academic commitment as demonstrated by the student's application, portfolio and essay submitted.

The jury panel is comprised of:

Sheryl Al-Awar, Gallery Owner

Richard Franklin, Artist, Retired Architect, Focus on the Masters Board Member

Susan Gerrard, Artist; Director of Marketing, Museum of Ventura County

Scott Miles, Photographer; Professional Photography Program Director, Brooks Institute

Elisse Pogofsky-Harris, Artist; Visual Arts Committee, Ventura County Arts Council

Applications are available at Focus on the Masters' office located at 1147 East Main Street or at the Ventura County Arts Council's office located at 646 County Square Drive. You can also download an application at both organizations' websites by clicking on the following web addresses www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or www.VenturaCountyArtsCouncil.org located on their home page.

Submissions must be signed by an art department faculty member of the student's high school and a parent and submitted by the high school's art department directly to Focus on the Masters. Each Ventura County high school can sponsor up to, but no more than, three applicants for this award.

All applications must be received by Focus on the Masters no later than Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 4 p.m. Incomplete or late submittals will not be reviewed.

All students applying for the scholarship will be invited to exhibit their work in a group exhibition at the Ventura County Government Center shown from March 12 through April 28, 2008. The scholarships will be presented to the recipients at the Opening Reception & Awards Ceremony March 12 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The Ventura County Government Center exhibition provides the students with the unique opportunity to exhibit their work in a prestigious venue and work with art professionals in a real life environment.

About Tamima Michele Al-Alwar

The scholarship fund was established by art patron Paula Spellman to honor Tamima Michele Al-Alwar, daughter of Khaled and Sheryl Al-Awar of Ojai. Before her death in 2002, Tamima planned to pursue a degree in fine arts. She pursued her art passionately at her home studio and at Santa Barbara City College. Her passion for painting and the arts is memorialized by this scholarship. Focus on the Masters and the Ventura County Arts Council are non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations. Contributions to the scholarship fund are always welcome.