



Point Arena High School graduating seniors Faye Ritchie and Kaed Sanders were the recipients of the Gualala Arts Young Artists Scholarship at last week's awards ceremony at the high school.

Ritchie, a high school senior, has been involved in art and drawing all her life. She has taken Advanced Placement classes in high school and had a solo show at Coast Highway Artists Collective in Point Arena.

Ritchie has used her artistic ability to contribute to the community by painting a sea mural at the Point Arena Pier and helped paint stage sets for the high school plays. She has also volunteered, helping out in after-school art classes at the elementary school. Her goal is to become a zoological illustrator and she will be attending Sonoma State University in the fall.

Sanders uses his creativity to create very colorful and detailed drawings. His drawings generally start out as doodles which he then incorporates into larger art pieces. Sanders received a creativity award at his 8th grade graduation and has been taking art classes throughout high school. He plans to pursue a career in art and will be attending Santa Rosa Junior College in the fall.

Ritchie received an art scholarship of \$2,500 and Sanders was awarded \$1,000.

"This scholarship is a wonderful way to encourage young artists and to fulfill the mission of Gualala Arts of encouraging participation in the arts," said Executive Director David "Sus" Susalla. "The scholarship helps to support the career development of local talent by recognizing and honoring a young person's commitment to a chosen field of art and by helping with the considerable expenses of further study."

Since the Young Artists Scholarship Program was launched in 2000, Gualala Arts has encouraged local talented young people by awarding more than 30 scholarships, totaling more than \$35,000. Awards go to young and talented graduating seniors with a strong commitment and a record of achievement and distinction in their fields of art. Eligibility also includes local residency and focused, realistic plans to further a career in the arts. Applicants submit a written application, school records, and letters of support. Finalists bring examples of their work to an interview.

Gualala Arts Scholarship committee is very grateful to the Pacific Piecemakers Quilt Guild for their donation to the scholarship from the Quilt Raffle at Art in the Redwoods. "We would not be able to have this scholarship without their commitment," said Nancy Kyle, chairperson of the committee.