



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Two photographs by Carver Center student Britney Simbana-J selected as finalists in Drexel University High School Photography Contest**

Towson, MD – Two photographs by Britney Simbana-J, a senior at George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, have been selected as finalists in the [Drexel University High School Photography Contest](#).

Simbana-J's photographs, "Hermanos de las Primera Generacion" and "Your Landscapers," will be displayed in Drexel's photography gallery from Saturday, March 4, through Wednesday, April 5, 2023. They will also be considered for possible cash prizes of up to \$500 (to be announced on Monday, January 23, 2023) and will be showcased online.

Drexel's photography contest is coordinated by its Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design and is open to high school students across the nation. This year, 532 students entered the contest, submitting up to three images each. Of those students, 116 were selected to be in the show with a total of 120 artworks. Simbana-J is one of only four students who had two photographs selected for the show.

Simbana-J's photography has earned several other honors in the past year.

Earlier this week, it was announced that Simbana-J was one of two BCPS students earning finalist honors in the prestigious [2023 YoungArts program](#). As a finalist, she has been invited to participate in National YoungArts Week in January 2023 to learn from notable artists. In addition, her work will be further evaluated and eligible to earn prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. If she attends National YoungArts

Week and meets eligibility requirements, she also will be considered for nomination to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

In November, Simbana-J's photograph "Hermanos" was selected a finalist image in the [Maryland High School Juried Art Exhibition](#), which will be on display in the Arts Program Main Gallery at University of Maryland Global Campus, from Sunday, January 22, through Sunday, April 2, 2023. Exhibition awards will be presented at a reception on Sunday, February 12.

This past summer, Simbana-J's "Your Landscapers" photo was named one of eight finalists in the [Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery's 2022 Teen Portrait Competition](#). In her artist's statement, she wrote: "My work represents the workers who go unnoticed in American society. I have faith that you may see those who raised me as more than the hands that clean your yard. I believe my work adds to the representation of a hard-working community that many fail to acknowledge today. Through black-and-white photography, I introduce my personal experiences and document my raw observations to the world. Ultimately, I hope my work provides comfort and removes judgment, an obstacle that limits our respect and understanding of each other's backgrounds. By documenting the emotion surrounding us, I hope to help move away from the hate that makes us narrow minded."

Last March, Simbana-J's "Your Landscapers" photograph earned a national gold medal and an American Visions Medal in the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers' prestigious [Scholastic Art & Writing Program](#). She also earned a silver medal for photograph titled "El Machismo." Out of 260,000 entries, fewer than 2,000 entries were honored with national medals. Only one nominee from each region is selected for the Visions Award.

*(Editor's note: Images of Simbana-J's ["Hermanos de las Primera Generacion"](#) and ["Your Landscapers"](#) photographs and a photo of [Simbana-J](#) can be found on Flickr.)*

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