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**WORK BY YOUNG IRISH ARTISTS TO FEATURE IN MAJOR TOKYO EXHIBITION**

Four prizewinning artworks chosen from the winning entries in last year’s 65th Texaco Children’s Art Competition are to go on exhibition at the 21st International High School Arts Festival which begins in Tokyo from August 5th next.

They are a work entitled ‘Gannet On Clogherhead Beach With Ping Pong Bat’ by 15-year old Anya Clarke-Carr from Ratoath; ‘Colour Blast’ by Nadia Stefaniak (15) from Abbey Community College, Ferrybank, Waterford; and two pieces by students from Loughrea – a self-portrait by Lauren Dolphin (18) from St. Raphael's College and a pencil artwork by Emma Harris (17) from St. Brigid's College.

The International High School Arts Festival is one of the most prestigious exhibitions to take place in Tokyo annually.  Sponsored by the International Foundation for Arts and Culture, it is described as ‘a showcase for the world’s best young artistic talent’ and will feature some 400 artworks by students representing nations across the world.

The opening ceremony this year – which traditionally has been attended by the overall Texaco Competition winner – will take place behind closed doors due to Covid-19 restrictions and will be broadcast live via YouTube.

The current 2020 Texaco Children’s Art Competition – which would have been the 66th in the long-running history of the event and for which entries were received and preliminary judging had taken place – was forced into suspension due to Covid-19 restrictions before final judging could be completed and winners announced. According to organisers it remains the intention to complete the process and announce winners as soon as conditions allow.

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**Editor’s Notes:**

1. The Texaco Children’s Art Competition is celebrating its 66th anniversary this year. For further information about the Competition, contact Ashley Hall (mobile 086-3127774) or Don Hall (mobile 087-2552699) at Hall PR on 01-660 9377 (office) or email pr@hall.ie. For more information on Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited, contact Bronagh Carron on (+353) 01 6258208 or email bronagh.carron@valero.com
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