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**YOUNG WEXFORD ARTIST REPRESENTS IRELAND AT MAJOR TOKYO EXHIBITION**

Young Wexford artist, Naoise Hennessy – a 16-year old student from Craanford, near Gorey – has returned from Japan after attending the 20th International High School Arts Festival in Tokyo at which her prize-winning entry in this year's 65th Texaco Children's Art Competition was displayed.

Travelling at the invitation of Japan's International Foundation for Arts and Culture, Naoise attended the opening of the exhibition, which took place recently at Japan’s largest art museum – the prestigious National Art Center in Tokyo.

At the event, described as a ‘global showcase for the world's best young artistic talent’, Naoise’s work – entitled ‘‘Lifelines’ – was exhibited alongside some 400 other artworks by students worldwide.

Other winning works selected for the exhibition were ‘Mirrored’ by Jean O'Riordan (15) from Model Farm Road, Cork; a portrait by Evan Kearney (18) from Bray and a self-portrait by Justin Cole (15) from Dunclug College, Ballymena (all from last year’s 64th Texaco Children’s Art Competition) and ‘Lone Tree’ by Joel Smyth (17) from Bangor Academy & Sixth Form College – a winner in the 2017 edition of the Competition.

**ENDS.**

**Editor’s Notes:**

1. The Texaco Children’s Art Competition is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. For further information about the Competition, contact Don Hall (mobile 087-2552699), Ashley Hall (mobile 086-3127774) or Maximilien McKenna (mobile 086-7848464) 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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