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**TEXACO ART SUCCESS SEES LIMERICK STUDENT INVITED TO JAPAN**

Limerick student, 17-year old Marta Turalska from Newcastle West has returned from Japan after attending an exhibition in Tokyo at which her prize-winning entry in this year's 62nd Texaco Children's Art Competition was displayed.

Travelling at the invitation of Japan's International Foundation for Arts and Culture, Marta attended the opening of the exhibition, which took place from June 22nd to July 3rd at Japan’s largest art museum - the prestigious National Art Center in Tokyo.

In winning the coveted first prize, Marta – a pupil at Scoil Mhuire agus Íde in Newcastle West – fought off competition from thousands of young students from across Ireland who took part in the 2016 Texaco competition.

Described by competition adjudicators as a ‘wonderfully composed and superbly finished portrait study’, her winning entry – entitled ‘My Grandma With Grape’ – is an exceptionally detailed work carefully executed with paint, colouring pencils and white pen.

Inspired by a photograph of her grandmother taken in her native Poland, the work – which took almost one month to complete – was said by Professor Declan McGonagle, Chairman of the judging panel to have been “executed with skill and maturity overlain by a playful humorous quality that gives it an added visual impact.”

Described as a global showcase for the world's best young artistic talent, the purpose of the exhibition in Tokyo is to provide an international platform for young people to engage in their artistic exploration of the world and to nurture a broader understanding of the experiences and events that impact on the younger generation across different cultures.

Marta’s work was exhibited alongside some 400 other artworks by students worldwide including a number of other winning paintings from the Texaco competition.

**PHOTO CAPTION: Limerick student, 17-year old Marta Turalska from Newcastle West is pictured in Japan attending an exhibition in Tokyo at which her prize-winning entry in this year's 62nd Texaco Children's Art Competition is displayed. With her is Diarmuid O’Leary, Deputy Head of Mission, The Embassy of Ireland in Japan.**

**ENDS.**

**Editor’s Notes:**

1. The Texaco Children’s Art Competition celebrates its 62nd anniversary this year. For further information 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](mailto:pr@hall.ie). For more information on Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited, contact Bronagh Carron on (+353) 01 6258208 or email [bronagh.carron@valero.com](mailto:bronagh.carron@valero.com)
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