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SACRAMENTO, CALIF. - Today, Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-05) announced that Damarys Solorzano, a junior from Florin High School, has been named the Congressional Art Competition winner from California's Fifth District. Ms. Solorzano will travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in a reception honoring the winners from across the nation and see the unveiling of her artwork in the United States Capitol.

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Ms. Solorzano's work, as well as all other entries, were displayed at an art show at Sacramento's Art Foundry Gallery last week. Solorzano's winning submission is a unique, colorful, untitled piece featuring a design created by hole-punched paper. At the end of the show, Ms. Solorzano was pronounced the winner by this year's judges: Jan Geiger, Chair of the Friends of Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission; Zenaida Lopez-Cid, Arts Education and Outreach Assistant from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission; Reverend Fran Cione, Ph.D. from the Sacred Arts Center; and Chelsea Hunt of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Sacramento students to show the rest of the nation how talented, innovative and creative they are. Every time I walk through the Capitol, it fills me with pride to see the artwork of a Sacramento student hanging on the wall. It reminds me what a wonderful place Sacramento is, and I look forward to seeing Damarys's artwork on display," said Rep. Matsui.

Ms. Solorzano is an honors student who plans to attend art school and pursue a career in the arts when she graduates. She enjoys playing video games in her spare time. She consistently achieves a G.P.A. over a 4.0, and typically spends her weekends working on her artwork.

Ms. Solorzano will travel to Washington, D.C. later this month courtesy of Southwest Airlines, with hotel accommodations provided by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. She will meet with Rep. Matsui, and participate in workshops and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The trip will culminate in a reception honoring all of the winning artists.

This year marks the 26th anniversary of the Congressional Art Competition. First launched in 1982, thousands of contests have been held around the country. Throughout the history of the competition, more than 650,000 high school students have been involved in the program.

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