

# The San Diego Union-Tribune

By Associated Press October 9, 2015

## Michigan, NY artists win \$200,000 grand prizes at ArtPrize



Students from Amy VanAllsburg's West Ottawa Lakewood Elementary 4th grade class look at Ryan T. Schmidt's ArtPrize entry "Ascension" at the Grand Rapids Public Museum Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, in Grand Rapids, Mich. (Cory Morse /The Grand Rapids Press via AP)

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Artists from Michigan and New York each won \$200,000 grand prizes Friday at the seventh annual ArtPrize, a competition that brought 1,550 entries to western Michigan.

Textile artist Ann Loveless and her husband, photographer Steven Loveless, won the public vote for "Northwood Awakening," a large photo print and quilt hybrid. It depicts a serene woodland panorama.

Ann Loveless also won in 2013. The couple lives in Beulah, Michigan.

"Once again, reverence for technical skill in two-dimensional work — this time in a stunning combination of large-scale photography and intricate textile — has captured the imagination of the voting public," said Christian Gaines, ArtPrize executive director.

Gaines said he's "stunned and delighted" to have a repeat winner.

Separately, a jury of experts awarded a \$200,000 grand prize to Kate Gilmore of New York for "Higher Ground." She transformed a former Grand Rapids convent into performance art with women swinging on swings in open windows.



Kylie Luttrell, 8, left, of Custer and her sister, Alex, 11, looks at "Illuminated Thoughts" by Audrius Plioplys in Grand Rapids, Mich. during ArtPrize, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015. (Neil Blake/The Grand Rapids Press via AP)

"Kate Gilmore's piece is really kind of magical in a way that we've maybe lost sight of," said juror Dan Cameron of New Orleans.

The event's total purse was \$500,000. Other awards totaling \$100,000 were given to winners in certain categories. There were 1,550 eligible works at ArtPrize from 48 countries and 42 U.S. states and territories.

Public votes were cast using the ArtPrize mobile app, online and via text message to determine the grand prize given to Ann and Steven Loveless.



Artist Michael Townsend's mother, Joan, left, and artist Leah Smith work on "The Grand Rapid Tape Drawing" by The Tape Art Crew in Grand Rapids during ArtPrize on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015. Wind and rain knocked down many of the fish in the piece over the weekend but the artists constantly tinker and repair the work. The artists drove the 1984 Volkswagen from Rhode Island with their artwork. (Neil Blake/The Grand Rapids Press via AP)



Entry "Blue Giraffe" by Jim Neal sits outside the Grand Rapids Children's Museum in Grand Rapids, Mich., during ArtPrize, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015. (Neil Blake/The Grand Rapids Press via AP)