



HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

Nightmare on Main Street Gallery Artist Statements



With Additional Support from:

Main St. Benefactor Members

Beth and Charles Levinthal

Bette and Paul Schneiderman





Candido Crespo | Nightmare on Main St Juror

Artist Bio

Candido Crespo is a husband, father, artist and 17 year Art Educator. Each of those titles are dear to him as his art and community work stand at the intersection of each. Crespo's long-time interest in art directed him to SUNY New Paltz where he received his BS in Art Education and later his MA from SUNY Stony Brook. During those years, Crespo was able to experiment with a variety of mediums including drawing, painting, digital photography, and printmaking. Crespo's recent involvement in the arts includes teaching, podcasting, presenting, and creating artwork. His personal artwork allows him to both celebrate and examine society and joyfully play through illustrations, printmaking, and painting. His community work and initiative titled 'creativiDAD project' aims to encourage parents, specifically fathers and male guardians to include creativity in their parenting tool belt.



Maxwell Asadourian



Our Eyes are Wide Open
Canvas with Paint Pen and Wine, 10" x 14"
Northport Middle School
\$125

Artist Statement:

My dad is 100% Armenian and my painting is about Armenians and the genocide that happened in 1915. I used purple forget-me-not flowers in the picture as a reminder of all the people who lost their lives just because of hate. These flowers cover the earth, beautiful but sad, like our history. There's a darkness in the background because the pain is still with us, but I also showed a light colored cross to represent love because love will win in the end. Even though it's hard and we can't rest, our eyes are wide open, and our family and Armenians still remember.

Our flag is still strong. This painting is my way of showing that no matter how much pain we've been through, we are still here, and we will never forget.



Ava Beck



Miss Matched
Color Pencil, 14" x 8.5"
Harborfields High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

My inspiration for this piece was instead of going for the traditional scary zombie I was inspired by bright colors.



Isabella Bermudez



October's Roses
Color Pencil, 9" x 12"
Valley Stream Central High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

For this piece, I was inspired by the vibrancy of my own Mexican culture. During the month of October, Mexicans prepare for Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. This holiday is filled with the joy of remembering our passed loved ones, involving bright colors, flowers, and colorfully decorated skeletons. My piece conveys the joyful and brightness that is ingrained in Mexican culture, and the holidays that go with it.



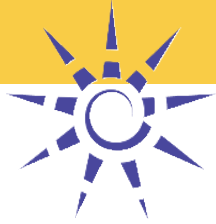
Eden Bonamassa



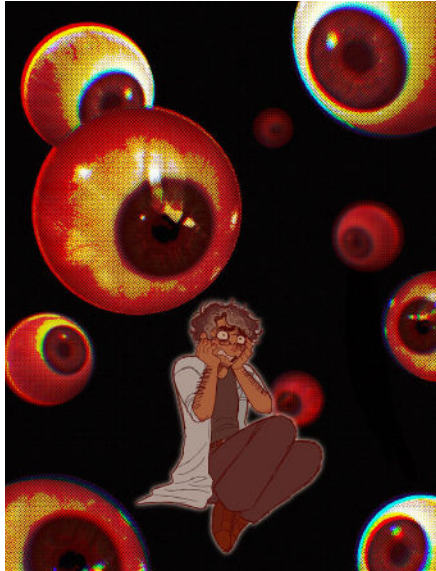
Chupacabra
Gouache on Paper, 10" x 8"
North Babylon High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

My art piece depicts a the tale of the chupacabra, meaning goat sucker in Spanish. According to reports, the creature acts like a vampire killing animals by sucking their blood, sightings which originated in Puerto Rico. Being Puerto Rican, this story holds great significance to my culture along with supernatural superstition in general which I've learned to break away from. Something else that holds great significance in my culture and part of tradition is religion hence the dead animals blood fading into the wine from the cup, referencing the Moses story. For me it's acknowledging the great extremes my family and many others have gone through for their faith. Which can be a very beautiful or very limiting thing. Overall, this piece is meant to represent the spirituality in my culture tied in with my traditions, tying in unnatural elements to others everyday.



Gwen Carfora



Omettaphobia
Digital Print, 9" x 12"
Huntington High School
\$50

Artist Statement:

This piece portrays themes of being observed, or more specifically the fear and discomfort that can be invoked from that observation. The subject of the "Omettaphobia", is a much less subtle piece, with an overwhelming amount of eyes surrounding the central character, creating a suffocating, entrapping environment that invokes a strong sense of paranoia and fear of being perceived. It represents the overwhelming feeling of scrutiny often felt by today's teens, especially with the overbearing presence of social media.



Audrey Chen



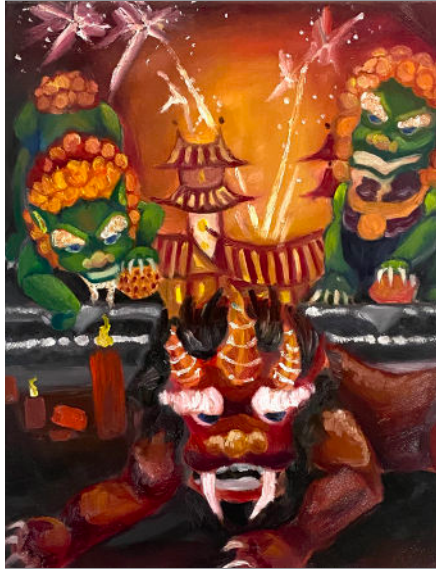
Xin Nian
Linoleum Print, 11" x 9"
The Wheatley School
NFS

Artist Statement:

This piece is inspired by Nian, the Chinese New Year monster known for its ability to destroy and wreck havoc. I chose to specifically represent this character because although it's associated with negativity, without Nian, Chinese New Year, the most important and festive Chinese holiday, would cease to exist.



Jacqueline Chen



Firecrackers of Fear
Oil Paint on Canvas, 20" x 16" x 1"
Great Neck North High School
\$50

Artist Statement:

Firecrackers of Fear brings in Chinese mythological creatures created decades ago and traditions still present and celebrated today. The two lions on the platforms are "Foo Lions". They are known to have stood in front of important monuments to protect the place from evil spirits because they possessed mythical protective benefits. The beast in the foreground of the painting is called "Nian Shou", the evil spirit that showed itself every Chinese New Year to eat the people's vegetation and villagers, which caused fear amongst many towns. In the villager's way to retaliate against the beast, they find that Nian Shou is frightened by loud noises, firecrackers, and the color red. Successfully scaring away Nian Shou, the color red and firecrackers became a symbol of peace and prosperity for another year. To this day, many celebrate Chinese New Year with decorated cities filled with red, loudness, and excitement.



Yijia Chen



Tale of the Nian
Acrylic Paint on Canvas, 14" x 11" x 0.7"
Great Neck North High School
\$100

Artist Statement:

As artists are encouraged to be inspired by Candido Crespo's "Vejigante," I learned that "Vejigante" Reflects Puerto Rican culture. This inspired me to create something in my own culture that reminds me of Vejigante. The Legend of the Beast Nian, whose colors are similar to Vejigante's masks. In the Nian legend, this beast comes and eats the towns people and crops every last day of the lunar new year. To prevent such things from happening again during festive times, the towns people scared the Nian away with red. Red fire works, red costumes, red decorations, and bright lights. Thus why in my Chinese culture, red is the lucky color. Both cultures use these beautiful bright colors to celebrate.



Maggie Deegan



From My Table to Yours
Digital, 2048 px x 2048 px
Harborfields High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

This piece looks into my own American/Italian mix heritage that I have grown up with my life. Though sharing as something as simple as a pizza from a local place with pizza seems like a nice prospect, family dinner can bring unprecedented situations and judgment to the people around it. Though I bet at the end of the day, being in New York, it would be a good pizza either way.



Shawn Delcasse



Scary Pumpkin Monster
Color Pencil, 10" x 9"
North Babylon High School
\$35

Artist Statement:

In my piece "Scary Pumpkin Monster" I was inspired by the Halloween theme of the show. I wanted to include my Haitian nationality and culture so I added elements such as the flag.



Daniela DeLillo



Llarona

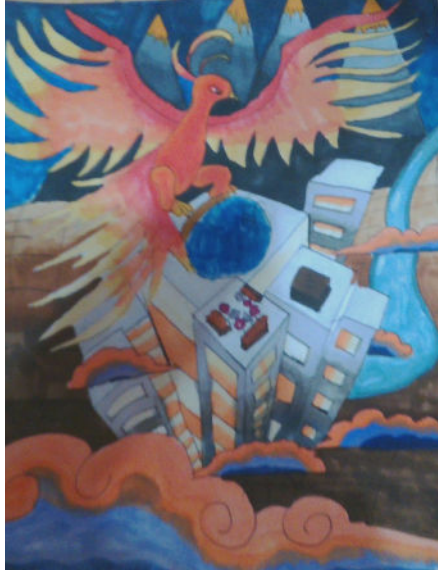
Gouache, Color Pencil, 11" x 14"
East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

I've always tried to convey an every emotion in my work to really tell the story to the viewer. I enjoy making little details within my work as well. The inspirations for these pieces vary, two are based on folk lore, one is an original concept.



Grace Deng



The Birth of the Phoenix
Markers, 11" x 14"
Syosset High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

In Chinese culture, the phoenix represented power sent from the heavens to the Empress. If a phoenix was used to decorate a house it symbolized that loyalty and honesty were in the people that lived there.



Pavithra Eswar



A Slice of Time
Charcoal, 18" x 24"
The Wheatley School
NFS

Artist Statement:

The celebration of birthdays is a cultural tradition in nearly all households. For this exhibit, I also had to find and bring out the eerie and hidden aspects of such a joyous moment. The birthday candle is the most prominent icon of a birthday celebration. In blowing out the candles, I wanted to symbolize that of blowing one's years away. The medium charcoal was chosen also because while color is mainly used to express vibrancy and liveliness, fear is best brooded in a monochromatic state of solitude. I ended up adding spooky figures in the back lurking in the shadows lying in wait to grab the person's soul. The flexibility of charcoal brings out both the mood and the suggestiveness of what is detailed and what is left to the viewer's imagination. I made this piece specifically for this Nightmare on Main Street exhibition. The piece captures the seasons and moods of time in one's life, be it in nature, our possessions, or passions - the joy of time is in its passage, and to be aware of its finiteness makes each moment even more delicious, and to enjoy it in the stillness of our own thoughts makes it even more powerful. This is ultimately what art is all about, to speak to one and all by connecting their memories and life experiences with what the artist has rendered - to still and stir love and life in you.



Liyah Fearington



A Mermaid's Song
Paint, Thread and Beads, 9" x 12"
Uniondale High School
\$55

Artist Statement:

Growing up away from my mother's country of Jamaica I've never been in touch with my roots fully, but i have always loved the stories my family would tell me. One story that stands out is a story about mermaids in the Caribbean. This artwork shows that stories of mermaids and how the would leave things like seashells on the beach so they can drag them into the ocean.



Madeline Francis



Fading Away 2
Digital Photography Blur, 16" x 20"
Huntington High School
\$50 (Frame Not Included)

Artist Statement:

I have always loved photography & saw that I could create something beautiful with a well composed image, good lighting & an interesting subject matter. Advanced camera techniques and Photoshop have brought my work to a new and exciting level. I love to create images that capture the attention of the viewer for more than a few seconds. The work presented here is intended to make you question what you see.



Divya Ganshani



Escape
Digital Photography, 10" x 20"
Half Hollow Hills High School East
\$150

Artist Statement:

My work can be interpreted in the literal meaning of escape or in a spiritual way of escaping a bad situation. Escape can relate to mental health because we all escape from some form of darkness and get trapped in our own minds. This series of narratives show the process of escape and release.



Rebecca Gillon



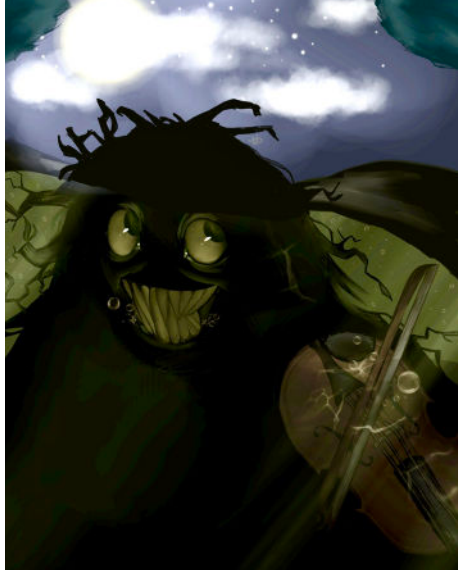
Samhain Shadows
Color Pencil, 9" x 12"
Commack High School
\$150

Artist Statement:

My piece is inspired by my personal experience on Halloween and also my Irish heritage. Halloween originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain; it took root in the United States in the 1800's when the Irish were immigrating to America. During Samhain large bonfires were lit and costumes were worn to ward off ghosts and spirits. Samhain symbolized the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. When I think of Halloween I picture dressing up in fun costumes, going trick or treating with my friends and then eating all of my candy afterwards. This contrasts pretty heavily with the ancient traditions of my ancestors. This look into my heritage inspired me for this piece, I combined my own experiences with the ones of my ancestors.



Alice Hammerquist



Nokk
Digital, 18" x 24"
Huntington High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

I am of Scandinavian descent. This piece represents the Nokk, a lake monster from Norwegian folklore that lures people into a lake by playing the violin. This piece took about 6 hours on Procreate with multiple techniques and rendering styles.



Henry Hartmann



Afterparty
Gouache on Paper, 9" x 12"
North Babylon High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

The inspiration for this piece was the night following the usually eventful day of Halloween, conveying the tiring miles walked simply for candy and the cold weather me and my sister would endure for it. This was the usual aftermath I remembered from celebrating Halloween, hence the title, the tiring and cold day in our costumes all being worth it for the childish joy we got to experience together.



Khushpreet Kaur



Monster Mask

Pencil and Color Pencil, 9" x 12"

Stimson Middle School

NFS

Artist Statement:

The mask I drew has cool and warm colors. The mask is supposed to be a scary animal that has a mix of many different animals. The mask has horns and sharp teeth. I drew the mask to be a nightmare because the contest is called a Nightmare on Main Street and the subject was Vejigante Masks.



Yitong Ke



Skeleton
Digital, 9" x 9"
Syosset High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

I was inspired by a traditional Chinese story about a skeleton hiding in human skin. I think a skeleton dresses up as a human, just like we dress up as skeletons for Halloween. I combined dot and traditional Chinese line drawing art style to create an interesting and complete work. And I also tried to do digital art to make a symmetrical mural style background.



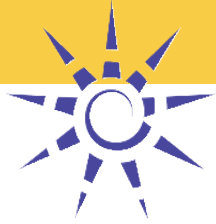
Zahra Khan



Into the Unknown
Mixed Media, 9" x 6"
Half Hollow Hills High School East
NFS

Artist Statement:

This piece is called "Into the Unknown" and is inspired by a real life event that took place. In the summer of 2023, my family and I suffered a horrible house fire, and our house completely burned down and we lost everything. It was extremely devastating and difficult for all of us. We lost all of our personal belongings, and more. This artwork is my mother walking toward a light in a long hallway made completely out of wood, representing the unknown of it all, as we didn't know what was to come for us in the future.



Hannah Lee



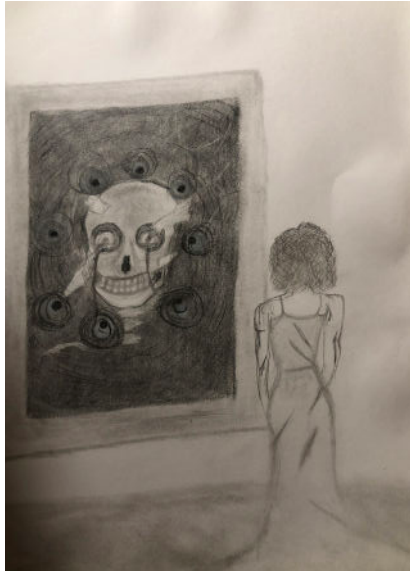
Night of the Tiger
Mixed Media, 12" x 9"
Syosset High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

When I think back to happy times in my childhood I think of Halloween and story times. When I was little my mom would tell me Korean traditional stories of mischievous tigers disguising themselves to trick children out of their homes and into its mouth. It wasn't just the stories that interested me, but the illustrations. Korean traditional depictions of tigers have the large cat with big bulging eyes, and a huge smile that stretches across its face. I also have always loved Halloween, I am a VERY big fan of dressing up and interesting costumes. My painting is an Asian child wearing a tiger costume however the tiger is modeled after the Korean traditional version. The emblem on top means "double happiness" since I got to combine 2 happy childhood memories into one piece.



Wandaly Leo Perez



It's Like Looking in a Mirror
Charcoal, 9" x 12"
North Babylon High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

The message I would like to convey with my art is behind the perfection on the outside one can look in the mirror and see a monster. We try our best to blind the monster and look away. We do our best to ignore the eyes upon us but no matter how much we try. No matter how much you dress up and try and make yourself look picture perfectly pretty for everyone else you're only going to see the monster in the mirror. You see the nightmare that you believe you may be. Even if others don't see you that way.



Caitlin Liu



A Fusion of Cultures
Watercolor, Marker, Color Pencil, 9" x 12"
South Woods Middle School
NFS

Artist Statement:

I am Chinese and I drew about the Hungry Ghost Festival, a festival in China that's very similar to Halloween. Behind the lanterns of the festival I illustrated a Chinese Pine Tree and a yin yang with some Chinese Zodiac animals. I wanted to create a new perspective, showing an overlap of culture and tradition between my two cultures, as I was born and raised in the US. In more recent times ethnocentrism has been more common and I want to show people that everything is a matter of perspective and we may share more similarities than you think. I always thought that the lanterns and zodiacs were so beautiful and I wanted to share them with more.



Liam McGrory-Luikart



Lechery
Digital, 14" x 11"
East Rockaway High School
\$30

Artist Statement:

My pieces are all connected to the one exploration of how the seven deadly sins would look if they were personified by animals. Through the attempt to make the images horrific and grotesque, I tried to convey how detrimental these sins can be on people through the representation of animals.



Melanie Mejia



Swirly

Led Pencil, Wood Pencil, and Tortillion, 7" x 5"

Central Islip High School

NFS

Artist Statement:

The inspiration to this piece is the movie Coraline which has always been one of my favorite movies. One of the reasons is because of how many different symbols are in the movie and how it is interpreted in a whole bunch of different ways. I tried making this piece so it would somewhat embody what i thought of the movie. The plot was simple but the nuances were complex which is why i made the piece gray with the main drawing simple and the background full.



Kaitlin Melling



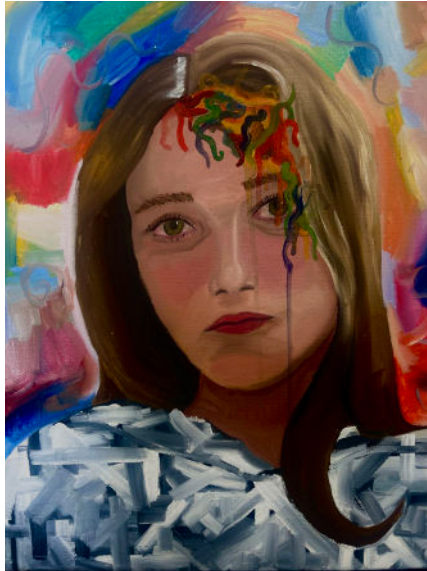
Terrance
Color Pencil on Black Board, 11" x 14"
Syosset High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

"Terrance" is about a character me and my friends created as we were playing video games when we were little. We would randomly lose in the game and always blamed it on the imaginary figure we named Terrance. "Untitled #1" is of my great great grandmother and my great grandmother on a boat set. My family has always been passionate about boating and the ocean, so I wanted to show them in the environment they love. "Untitled #2" is about my grandmother's boat, inspired by the scary stories she would tell me when I was on it. She vividly described to me the 40 waves in the storms she has driven her boat through in the past.



Eva Mena



Ms. Perfection
Oil Paint, 14" x 12"
East Rockaway High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

All my art shown here has a story, that story is up for interpretation as the reader. Most of the time we won't see eye to eye as I created it through the process and you just see the final product.



Amanda Morales



Nightmare Meal
Marker and Painting, 8" x 11"
Central Islip High School
\$50

Artist Statement:

My inspiration was the theme, "Nightmare". So I drew what a nightmare would look like for me. Some sort of scary, monster eating a body part.



Christopher Murray



Puerto-Rican Vejigante Mask
Pencil, 8" x 11"
Stimson Middle School
NFS

Artist Statement:

I liked drawing this Vejigante mask because I decided to use values of gray, shading from dark to light using a light source to make it more realistic and scary.

There are endless possibilities of what you can draw and what you're capable of putting on your paper.



Taylor Nappi



Gonna Get Ya
Digital Photography, 16" x 20"
Huntington High School
\$50 (Frame Not Included)

Artist Statement:

I love to be creative with art with a specific concentration on photography. Photography helps me explore ideas and feelings that are difficult to express or convey through just words. The image presented here depicts a sense of fear and panic.



Karin Pan



Controller of Water
Painting, 24" x 15"
Syosset High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

They say Chinese dragons can control water, creating tsunamis destroying human civilization. But others see them as protectors. The dragon is also in possession of a pearl symbolizing wisdom, spiritual energy and power.



Lillian Pu



The Glow in the Dark
Marker, 14" x 8.5"
Great Neck South Middle School
\$300

Artist Statement:

Everyone experiences things that scares them. For me, Halloween is a holiday that is frightening, exciting and full of adorable candies. Yet, every time I go trick-or-treating in my neighborhood, I encounter spooky ghosts and skeletons that give me a scare. To brighten my experience, I decided to design a cute Halloween decoration. That's right! Here's what I came up with: a beautiful pumpkin outfit with bat wings that have cute candies at the tips and a cute little spider hanging from a person's hat. In the dark of night, everything glows with a warm golden light, creating a fun and inviting atmosphere. After drawing this, I feel like I can embrace Halloween without fear!



Toni Reyes-Sorto



Vampire
Fabric and Lace, 65" x 18' x 11"
Huntington High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

"Vampire" is a striking gown inspired by the allure of darkness and the elegance of the night. It captures the essence of gothic beauty with a modern twist. Vampire legends have existed for centuries throughout many ancient cultures in Eastern Europe.



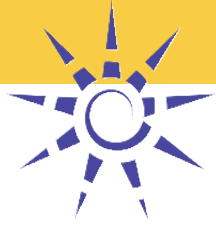
Deanna Santos



Plague in the Forest
Articlic on Canvas, 14" x 11"
North Babylon High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

In my piece, *Plague in the forest*, I was inspired by the artist Candido Crespo. I was inspired by his cartoonist style and how he would express the characters in his pieces. I picked a plague mask to have a masked being like how Crespo used the Vejigante mask as a spooky figure.



Corey Schack



Burn
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"
Syosset High School
\$90

Artist Statement:

The vibrant flame of candles burning brightly resonates deeply with the Jewish experience of faith, tradition, and perseverance. Fire is central to Jewish rituals, from lighting Shabbat candles to kindling the menorah during Hanukkah. This image magnifies the burning intensity of the flames, suggesting more than just physical light; it hints at spiritual illumination, the warmth of tradition, and the enduring legacy of the Jewish people. The menorah carries deep historical and religious significance and serves as a bridge between past and present. The sharp brightness contrasts with the surrounding darkness, a powerful reflection of how light, knowledge and faith have dispelled the shadows of oppression and adversity in Jewish history. At the same time, the burning suggests an almost mystical or superstitious reverence for fire, reminding us of the ancient belief that flames represent the divine presence. Through the lens of superstition, fire also serves as a protective and purifying force—its flame is fragile and eternal, much like Jewish continuity.



Grace Schoonmaker



Celtic Night

Acrylic Paint and Posca Pens, 40" x 30"

Northport High School

\$350

Artist Statement:

The inspiration for my piece was Irish Celtic culture. Halloween holds a big significance to Irish Celtic culture, Halloween's roots connect back to the ancient Celtic Festival, Samhain. To incorporate this theme and message into my piece I painted different Celtic knots and Celtic animals that are symbolic to this festival and culture. I decided to keep the Celtic knots more organic rather than clean-cut because I felt they flowed better throughout the composition that way. I also allowed drops of paint to flow through the piece as well because I liked the way they connected everything. I kept this piece gray scale to symbolize the nighttime scene as this is the time of day the Samhain festival took place.



Mickayla Sharkey



The Last Breath
Color Pencil, 14" x 11"
East Rockaway High School
NFS



The Everlasting Pimple
Mixed Media, 15" x 12"
East Rockaway High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

Through my pieces, I wanted to create drawings/paintings that made people react. Whether it was disgust, fear, fascination, or more, I wanted them to feel a certain way when observing my art. My goal was to create a piece that would make the audience uncomfortable by something they wouldn't have maybe thought of.



Kyla Simms



The Three Card Spread
Oil pastel and Color Pencil, 9" x 12"
Uniondale High School
\$40

Artist Statement:

Something that I love to focus my art around is the concept and look of femininity. My art piece displays three tarot cards, The Empress, The Sun, and The Moon. The Sun represents contentment, self confidence, and is an overall message of joy and made to encourage one to be their true selves. The Moon represents our uncertainties and fears while also guiding one to trust their instincts and to be cautious. The middle card, The Empress symbolizes beauty, nature, abundance, and femininity. The art that I created to represent each card shows three African American women basking in their femininity. I chose to focus on the details and textures of the hair because in African American culture it is extremely common for us to express and take pride in our hair, especially for women. Something that sounds so simple as hair has so much complex and detailed history behind it. Being connected with my culture and femininity on a spiritual level is something that is shaping my world and values constantly. The joys of feeling confident and secure and the fears of how the outside world may perceive you is an obstacle that Black women are capable of overcoming.



Alivia Stephenson



Guyana: Grandeur, Glamour, and Grudge
Digital Art Drawing App, 9" x 12"
Uniondale High School
NFS

Artist Statement:

My tapestry is linked to one of my ethnic backgrounds, Guyana, and I turned it into a Guyanese flag, since it is one of my ethnic backgrounds. Each color on the flag represents three aspects of Guyanese culture: joy for green, fear for red, and tradition for yellow. Red depicts Bush Dai Dai, an entity who takes the form of a beautiful woman, to seduce weak men she might take a fancy to and lure them into temptation. Green depicts Hootzin, or Canje Pheasant, a native South American bird, representing Guyana's rich fauna. It is protected by residents due to its connections with the British Empire, where was Guyana's last colonial master before independence.



Maxine Tian



The Lion Dance

Oil Pastels and Color Pencil on Cardboard, 11.5" x 11.5" x .2"
South Woods Middle School
NFS

Artist Statement:

This piece is called The Lion Dance. The Lion Dance is a traditional Chinese dance usually performed in South East Asia, around Lunar New Year. It involves two people under a Lion suit that dance and mimic a Lion. It is meant to bring good fortune and protect people from evil. I chose this because it is a well known dance among many Chinese people and protects us from evil.



Leah Trope



Samhain Night

Digital Photography, 9.5" x 13.4"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

\$50

Artist Statement:

This piece was inspired by the tradition of Samhain where the family left an empty plate for the deceased. The tradition also had the family bring the plate into the woods to keep the spirit of the deceased family away as the Celts believed spirits were evil.



Thomas Wasylyshyn



Forest Hunter
Pencil, 9" x 12"
Stimson Middle School
NFS

Artist Statement:

Art makes me feel calm and proud of myself when I create something I like. I like drawing in a multitude of styles, realism and architecture being my favorite. When I grow up, I hope to become an Architect or Interior Designer. I loved learning how to use my drawing pencils and creating value.



Emma Wilck



The Impeding Force

Digital Photography and Editing, 16" x 20"

Half Hollow Hills High School East

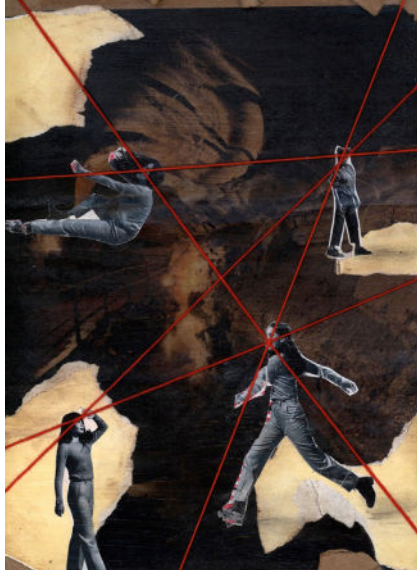
\$150

Artist Statement:

I altered a photograph of my sister who appears to be emerging from the light like a mysterious genie entering the world. The shadow behind her acts as a hindering force trapping her on an exaggerated scale. The shadow appears like a dominating force as it is big and muscular compared to my sister who appears to be very subsequent to the shadow. This difference symbolizes the masculine vs feminine nature which is very significant. The figure of my sister becomes a ghost in the light that can haunt the living.



Sophia Wolinetz



Claustrophobic
Mixed Media, 13" x 8"
Half Hollow Hills High School East
\$150

Artist Statement:

I used mixed media to represent figures emotionally and literally trapped in a cave. Connected and guided together by red string, the figures are attempting to find their way out. The piece communicates feelings of mental block and a struggle to express oneself. The use of different medias further represents the difficulty and texture the figures face in their entrapment. The fear of tight, and small spaces, claustrophobia is depicted through the artwork. Fear of the tight space as well as the fear of ones own thoughts when trapped alone are represented.