



HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

## Nightmare on Main Street Online Gallery Artist Statements



With Additional Support from:

Main St. Benefactor Members

Beth and Charles Levinthal

Bette and Paul Schneiderman





## Allison Bardales



*Día de Los Muertos*  
Color Pencil, 9" x 12"  
Uniondale High School

### **Artist Statement:**

My art piece is inspired by my culture. I'm Mexican and wanted to incorporate the day of the dead in my art work. On the day of the dead there are a lot of flowers, colors, things that represent us. I tried to incorporate some things I've seen in the movie Coco. My picture is a graveyard a pathway to the other world. There are traditional paper mesh, graves, traditional Mexican flowers, and other things.



## Kellee Benitez



*What's For Dinner?*  
Digital Photography, 16" x 20"  
Huntington High School

### **Artist Statement:**

As an artist who focuses on photography I take a lot of gratification from the experience of creating images. Photography is a way of capturing moments and our histories. It brings me a sense of joy and peace. In the image presented here I used my Photoshop skills along with my creative vision to bring you this image that creates an illusion titled *What's For Dinner?*



## Terence Byrnes



*Stingy Jack*  
Paper Origami with Paint, 12" x 16"  
Commack High School

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece was inspired by my Irish cultural background. I choose to make a jack-o-lantern mask because carving pumpkins into faces originated in Ireland with the legend of Stingy Jack. Usually, I incorporate emotions into my pieces, but this one was challenging to do. There aren't many emotions matched with jack-o-lanterns and Halloween other than fear. This piece isn't meant to make you afraid, but instead is to express the spooky feeling that accompanies this annual tradition. The holiday of Halloween has deep roots in Irish folklore and culture, and I hope to honor the ancient celebration of my ancestors that has helped shape one of the most famous holidays in the world. Happy Halloween!



## Milagros Cadillo Torres



### *Illusions*

Markers, Acrylic Paint, Color Pencils, 9" x 12"  
Uniondale High School

### **Artist Statement:**

I'm half an Inca from my father's side. I grew up knowing that's a part of my mixed family history. I find their culture fascinating and the colors and symbols so vibrant I couldn't resist incorporating that into my piece.



## Connor Chomyonk



*Monkey Business*  
Markers, 8" x 10"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

I drew a monkey.



## Aidan Ellis



*Industrialized Mask*  
Paper Mache, 5" x 6" x 1"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

My first piece conveys the American culture of industrialization. I chose to focus on this topic because I find factories and cars out of place on Earth. Whenever I see an asphalt road crawl up a forest, black tar infiltrating a green environment it looks out of place. For my project I made a paper mache mask which has an industrialized vibe and looks like a robot. It conveys fear through the wires coming out of the face but also portrays joy because robots are pretty fun little things.



## Kate Esposito



*Scala Reale*  
Digital Photography, 11"x 17"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

For this piece, I drew inspiration from my Italian heritage and culture. I used bracelets with a horn and an eye, which are Italian symbols believed to ward off evil. The cards seen in the photo are used for an Italian card game called Briscola. To further illustrate the meaning behind these superstitions, I placed a winning hand of cards in the subject's hand, showing how the bracelets have warded off evil and given the wearer good luck.



## Maria Florez

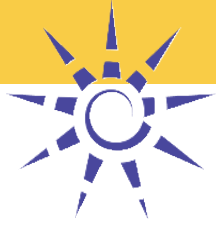


*The Silbón*  
Color Pencil, 9"x 12"  
Uniondale High School

### **Artist Statement:**

The Colombian legend "El silbon" has been my inspiration for this work. El silbon is a legend that reminds me a lot of my childhood. This was one of the legends that my grandmother told us when we were little and has been present in my culture.

This legend represents the fears that wives had when their partner went out drinking late at night. This specter attacked people out enjoying the night. But before attacking, you could hear his whistle. If you heard it at a short distance, you would be safe since it would not be close to you, but if you heard his whistle as a distant noise, you would be in danger, he is about to attack you and there is no way to escape.



## Zhiyi Gao



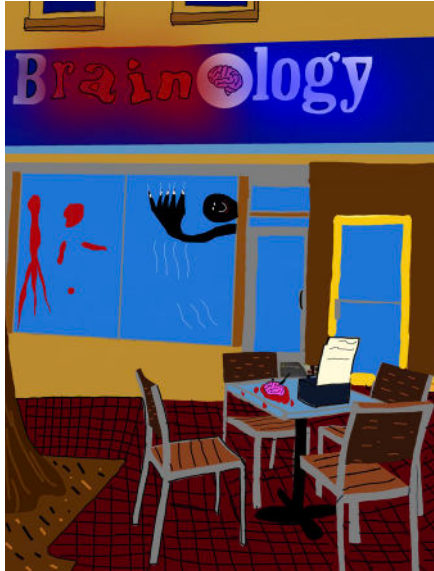
*Whispers in Red Glow*  
Digital Photography, 8"x 10"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

In Chinese culture, red candles are commonly associated with good fortune and happiness. They are often used during festivals/holidays to invite positive energy and ward off evil spirits. In my photo, I presented a lighted candle with smoke surrounding it symbolizing the evil spirits.



## Michael Gitto



*Brainology*  
Sketchbook App on iPad, 8"x 10"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

My art is a parody on the Huntington restaurant Burgerology. I made it to be a type of zombie restaurant. My inspiration is my love for the restaurant and love for horror movies.



## Serena Glantz



*Lost in the Woods*  
Markers and Color Pencil, 8"x 10"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

This work was inspired by my past times pumpkin pickings and sometimes the woods would look spooky and it made me want to capture that moment in this piece.



## Caitlin Grant



*The Blue Devil*  
Acrylic on Canvas, 20"x 16"  
North Babylon High School

### **Artist Statement:**

In my piece "The Blue Devil" I got inspired by my Trinidadian culture . There are so many tails surrounding this majestic creature.



## Jessica Hernandez Moran



*Leave Us Alone...*  
Digital Art, 2048 px x 1316 px  
Uniondale High School

### **Artist Statement:**

"Leave Us Alone..." Embodies bright and joyful colors from Dominican culture. The character on the left is called the Diabla Cojuelo. Dominicans dress as this character during their most popular festival. It has a colorful costume and a grotesque mask, it dances through the streets, interacting with the crowds and spreading joy and fun. It is also used as a spiritual scare tactic to scare away spirits of all kinds, which is what can be seen in the art piece.



## August Hill Watson



*Ghost in a Cage*  
PNG, 1000 px x 1275 px  
Uniondale High School

### **Artist Statement:**

In Barbados, a lot of the folklore involves keeping ghosts locked away from humans, so I wanted to emulate that in my drawing by drawing a ghost in a birdcage, locked and stored far away from civilization to keep the people safe from all of the horrors of the restless spirit, enraged from the prison it is kept in.



## Sienna Katz



*Attack of the Skeleton*

Digital Photography, 10" x 11"

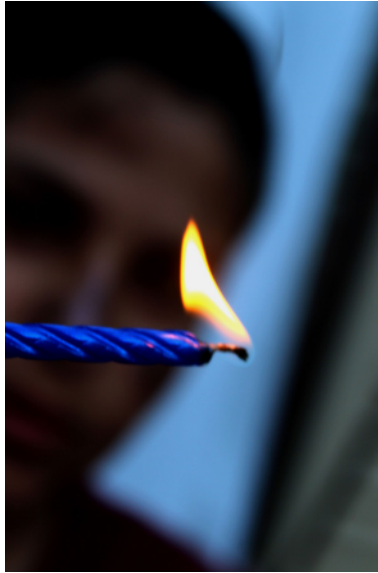
Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

### **Artist Statement:**

I was inspired by cheesy horror movies like Gingersnaps. I love the look of the low budget horror films as they are entertaining and fun. The props are cheap and the photography is often grainy. This piece reflects that genre.



## Kashish Kochar



*Fire in the Eye*  
JPG, 20" x 16"  
High School East

### **Artist Statement:**

My art communicates the message of light, and how the idea of light may not be as worthy as one may see. The focus may be the fire, something a person seeks to achieve, but if one takes a closer look at the boy holding the flame, one can see their face covered in soot. The moral of the story is that if one strives to seek a happily ever after, it may not be all that they aspire to achieve. It is important to realize what truly benefits you rather than being ignorant.



## Alexa Koinis



*The Black Cat*  
Tombow Markers, 9" x 12"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

I was inspired by all of the falling leaves around Cold Spring Harbor. I used Tombow markers to create this piece.



## Zackery Lau



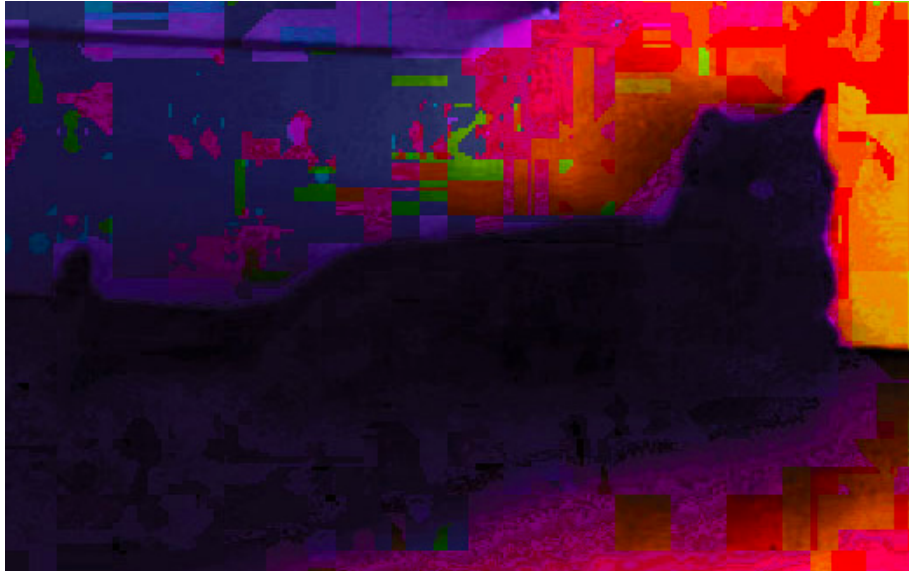
*1 am. Cooking*  
Digital Photography, 11" x 17"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

1 am. Cooking : Literally a photo taken at 1 am. My mother was cooking late at night with only the stove lights on. Includes a wok full of nice Chinese cuisine for tomorrow. Fish, shadows, and a door : A picture of a painting older than me, with a doors reflection on it. To this day it leans on a wall in the deepest corners of the basement. The unluckiest number : 4 is the most unlucky number in Chinese, In Chinese it sounds really close to the word for death. From now on count 123 56789.



## Jacqueline Lee



*Hidden in the Shadows*  
Digital Photography, 11" x 7"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

Hidden in the shadows is based on the Wenzhou folklore surrounding cats. My mom's side of the family has a strong dislike for cats, my grandmother's house has stray cats around the area and she's always had a distaste for them. The folklore states that cats like to stir problems in large groups, typically families. The cats feed off of the negative energy from the families being split. Unwanted Guest is based on a Chinese tradition typically done after funerals. The cloth is meant to protect a home from evil spirits entering their home. The cloth acts as a barrier preventing the spirit from coming into your home and harming you and your family.



## Emma Leibowitz



*The Shining*

Digital Photography, 10" x 12.5"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

### **Artist Statement:**

I wanted to invoke fear, a Halloween feel, by using a dark contrast and making her eyes appear black. The expression is one of almost evil, similar to Jack Nicholson's character in the movie *The Shining*.



## Oiying Li



*Curse of Number 4*  
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

Both the number 4 and death is pronounced Si in mandarin which is why in China the number 4 is considered to be a bad numbers. In some buildings they skip the 4th floor entirely. In this art piece I took a photo of a skeleton representing death.



## Ethan Light



*The Mummy of Main Street*  
Marker, 9" x 12"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

I was inspired by old time black and white movies and horror films. One of my favorite scary movies of all time is *The Mummy*, and I often go to the AMC movie theater in Huntington with friends and family when I have free time or for special occasions. these things inspired me to create the *Mummy of Main Street*.



## Grace Lu



*Zongzi*  
Digital Photography, 13" x 19"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

Zongzi - In Chinese culture, zongzi are eaten during celebratory events and shared with family and friends. However, the story behind zongzi is much darker. Allegedly, a poet committed suicide in a river, and the townspeople threw food wrapped in leaves and tied with colorful string into the lake so that neither the fish nor the dragons below the water would harm the poet's body.



## Brooke Marich



*Shadows*

Digital Photography, 11" x 17"

Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

For my piece, I found inspiration from my cross necklace. As a Catholic, I believe in Jesus and the holy trinity. So I decided to use the flash of my camera to capture the cross and the dark shadow behind it. I used the shadow to represent bad energy and the devil and the cross to represent Jesus and how he protects me daily.



## Megan Mego



*A Terrifying 31 of October*  
Color Pencil and Marker, 11" x 14"  
North Babylon High School

### **Artist Statement:**

I'm a proud Peruvian, who really loves her country and culture.



## Dania Meledan



*From Ink to Flame*

Digital Photography, 9.5" x 14.2"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece symbolizes witches, the wooden hand holds a crystal wand that writes magical words. The flames represent the aftermath of the spells as they burst forth into the world. Witches played a big part in the Scottish rituals during Samhain, this represents the myth that Samhain is the night all the witches release their spells.



## Michael Mendikyan



*Solemn Man*  
Digital Photography, 16" x 20"  
Huntington High School

### **Artist Statement:**

The work presented are shots that I envisioned through my cinematic vision. My process involves first finding inspiration, either watching a movie late at night or simply seeing a video on my Instagram. The scene develops from there with an idea of how to replicate the emotions I feel from my inspiration, whether that be from a thriller movie with exciting emotions, or a psychological movie in solemn. Finally, the end result produces a photo, rather for me a single frame, from a movie with the exact plot that is yet to be developed, but a photo that captures a scene that has a plot to tell in itself.



## Kelsey Miller



*Trick or Sea*  
Color Pencils and Ink, 14" x 17"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

For my piece, I wanted to include the water because due to where I live, the beach and ocean have become a big part of my life. I love spending my time near the water and loved incorporating it into my piece.



## Sophie Mink



*Threads of Protection*  
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

Threads of Protection explores the intertwined nature of Jewish culture and tradition. Centered around the Hamsa hand, which is a symbol of protection, and the Hebrew letter "Chai" represents life. Both symbols invoke blessings of prosperity and resilience. The tarnish on the Shabbat candlesticks and the kiddish cup symbolizes the passage of time and these protective rituals across generations.



## Candace Pan



*Calamity*  
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

In Chinese culture, there's a saying that breaking dishes can bring misfortune and bad luck, especially during the Spring Festival. I wanted to showcase how such a happy time of the year, like the Chinese New Year, can be flipped into something that can -- supposedly -- damage your whole year with one single mistake.



## Natalie Parrott



*Illumination*  
Photography, 16" x 20"  
Huntington High School

### **Artist Statement:**

When taking my photo, I wanted to communicate the feeling of loneliness and anxiety that comes over one once the party is over and everyone has gone home. I incorporated the bright colors of Candido Crespo's "Vejiante" into my photo in order to symbolize the idea of celebration and festivities. However, I stayed true to the concept of anxiety by creating dramatic contrast and dark tones throughout the photo. I also used the model's expression and the dimly lit bathtub tiles to produce an isolated, eerie atmosphere.



## Adriana Peres Da Silva



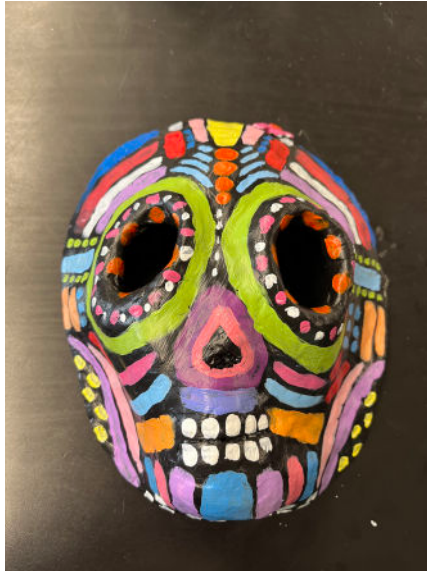
*Bacalhau Pendurado*  
Photography, 11" x 14"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

The Grutas, or caves, of Portugal are often filled with stunning formations that evoke both beauty and eeriness. This particularly striking cave features stalactites that resemble hanging dried codfish, a staple in Portuguese cuisine. This haunting resemblance not only highlights the cave's natural wonders but also serves as a reminder of the deep-rooted connection between the landscape and Portuguese culture. The sight can be unsettling, evoking the ghostly presence of the past floods that helped for this limestone structure, while also celebrating the traditions that define the nation, such as bacalhau, which has become synonymous with Portuguese identity.



## Sophia Philip



*Día de Los Muertos*  
Mixed Media, 6" x 8" x 2"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

The vejigante is similar in a way to the piece I created, my piece also consists of bright colors. My mask was based on Día de Los Muertos which although sounds more sad than joyful, it really is joyful because it celebrates the lives of those who have passed. Fear is also an aspect of my mask because of it covers most of the face so the only visible parts of the face is the eyes and mouth. The dark black background also adds to the fear element. Tradition is incorporated into my artwork because this holiday has been celebrated for years and is a significant part of the culture. I took inspiration from my Indian culture which has bright colors similar to Mexican culture.



## Olivia Preval



*The Culture of Haiti*  
Colored Pencils, Markers, Pen, 8.5" x 11"  
Memorial Junior High School

### **Artist Statement:**

This artwork communicates with my message because it shows the different foods in Haitian culture like Banana fries, Black rice, etc. It also has different fruits because Haitians love the vibrant choices of fruits and vegetables in this country. There are people and many flags because Haitians love to celebrate their culture in special occasions. Haiti is a beautiful country with lots of diversity and traditions. This piece really shows an example of how Haitians live and show respect for their country.



## Carter Prizzi



*The Smile*  
Digital Art, 8" x 10"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

My work is inspired by both the joker and jigsaw. I mixed both of their features together to make a different clown. As the background I used an image at a theme park which shows the jokers fun house, and used Photoshop for that. For the character I used marker. In general this picture is representing my fear of killer clowns and my enjoyment for the joker series.



## Bryce Raymond



*Two Storytellers at The Bonfire*  
Digital, Pencil and Paper, 8" x 10"  
Uniondale High School

### **Artist Statement:**

I was inspired both by the start of the Haitian Revolution, which was started with a boar sacrifice by a Vodou priest and a blood pact for the rebels' victory and by the difference between how Vodou is practiced in Haiti and how it gets portrayed in pop culture. That's why the figure to the left of the fire is surrounded by the Loa, Damballa - one of the most important spirits in Vodou, said to the sky father and creator of all life - showing the former, while the figure to the right is holding the severed head of a boar, showing the latter. The Loa are also called les invisibles, hence why Damballa is transparent.



## Reece Rene



*Unity Makes Strength*  
Pastels, 9" x 12"  
Uniondale High School

### **Artist Statement:**

My interpretation of a tapestry in the context of the piece is using symbols and items that can come together to create a strong feeling within a scenery. I used the core items that most people think of when they hear the word Haiti: warm weather, lots of plants, and bright skies. But to make the piece represent how Haitian culture mixes with me, I combined what everyone thinks about Haiti with what I know about it; that it's my home.



## Faith Rhodes



*Good Enough*

Alcohol Ink, Color Pencil, Archival Ink on Bristol, 7" x 10"  
High School East

### **Artist Statement:**

Being raised in a Roman Catholic household, and being brought up culturally Italian, the fear of hell is rooted deep within you. Whether this fear comes from the church or from the people surrounding you, you'd do anything to find another way.

This piece shows someone reaching for the heavens in the hopes of being deemed 'good enough' to be amongst the angels, and it represents my upbringing in the catholic church.



## Kaden Robles



*Fiesta In The Forest*  
Gouache on Canvas, 14" x 11"  
North Babylon High School

### **Artist Statement:**

In my piece I was inspired by the creative designs of the vejigante masks and folk lore in Latin American countries so i decided to include my own perspective on what i had learned, adding element of childhood and joy.



## Audrey Rogan



*Homeward Bound*  
Charcoal on Paper, 24" x 14"  
The Wheatley School

### **Artist Statement:**

My artwork depicts a young boy shown on Halloween night who is trapped in the wilderness in search of finding his way back home. This piece portrays the spookiness most children associate with Halloween. Using charcoal for this creation allowed me to create a spooky sensation through creating a dark and gloomy setting. The thought of a young boy getting lost in the woods on Halloween night conjures up bravery and innocence. I hope to engage the audience through this piece by having them consider their own experiences of being lost and the bravery it took to find their path.



## Hannah Rosario



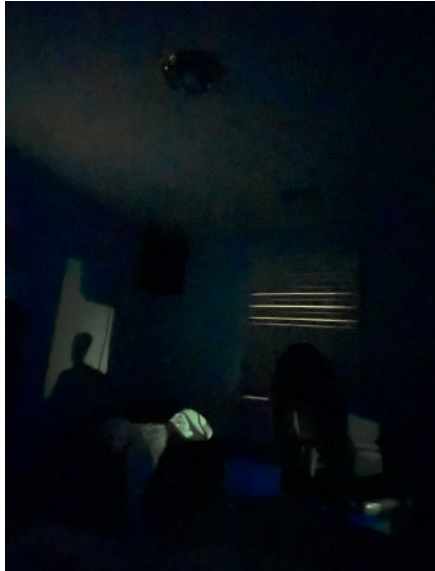
*Trick or Spirit*  
Watercolor on Paper, 9" x 12"  
North Babylon High School

### **Artist Statement:**

She was inspired by all All Hollow's' Eve were ghosts are allowed to wonder the streets for one night a year and is combined with the tradition of trick or treating.



## Jack Ruppel



*Cleavage Of Shadows*  
Photography, 10" x 8"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

These pieces have been constructed of several different materials that make up one masterpiece. Utilizing the wire hanging off a high-strung neon sign, a light emitting off a broken set of blinds, a jacket, and a chair angled to perfection, this piece demonstrates the shadow of a human like figure and a meat cleaver like shape surrounding it. This figure is entirely artificial and is not associated with me at all. This concept inspired the name of my piece due to the separation of shadow and the human it's parasite like figure attached to. My second piece utilizes important items that most would find a necessity. However, what makes the piece unique is the usage of a fully enclosed helmet, my inspiration for this piece was that a scary factor of our lives is that we represent ourselves only on the inside of our souls and our pockets where no one can see. However, we chose to wear a mask and hide our true selves on the outside, letting that light shine through is the scariest aspect of life.



## Julius Sakowitz



*Masked in Spiritual Forgery*  
YouTube, 12" x 9"  
High School East

### **Artist Statement:**

This art piece in question is supposed to represent the horrors that I have with society as a whole in which I feel that sometimes don't know how to properly express my emotion and/or repress certain emotions/thoughts onto or away from other people. It's also supposed to represent the fears I have towards other people (strangers or not) in the fact that maybe they aren't/weren't who they claim/claimed to be as a person and that I hadn't noticed anything until it is/was too late.



## Gabby Schwarz



*Jewish Connection*  
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

My Jewish culture inspired me for this work. Featuring Jewish symbols such as my Star of David necklaces and Siddur. If you look closely, one of the stars are connected to the necklace chain, but the other one isn't. This represents my connection to Judaism throughout my life, struggling how to apply Judaism in my own life, which can be scary to figure out.



## Emma Seaton



*Campanula Rapunculus*  
Acrylic Paint, 10" x 8"  
Northport High School

### **Artist Statement:**

My inspiration for this piece was derived from my connection to my German background. A major part of German folklore includes "Kinder und Hausmärchen," or "Grimm's Fairy Tales." The Brothers Grimm wrote a collection of fairy tales, and "Rapunzel" is the story my work takes after. I used a picture that I took myself as a reference photo for the brick building and the window, and added in the girl with the long, blonde hair, Rapunzel. Rampion flowers, also known as Rapunzel, are how the story starts, so I made sure to include them hanging from the branches. The Disney adaptation of the story was my favorite movie when I was younger, so this piece connects a lot to me both culturally and through nostalgia.



## Angela Shi



*Big Dragon!!*  
Acrylic Paint, 14" x 11"  
North Babylon High School

### **Artist Statement:**

In my piece, I was inspired by the dragons in Chinese culture. They scare away bad evil spirits and protect good people!!



## Lauren Swierupski



*Generations Unfolding*  
Mixed Media, 16" x 20" x .5"  
P.J. Gelinas Junior High School

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece symbolizes my connection to my family. The Russian nesting doll and the music box were gifts from my grandmother, and my cousin and I used to make paper people chains together. The dreamy aspect reflects how my parents have helped me to achieve my dreams, and how they will help me achieve my dreams in the future. This piece covers the nostalgia of family, as well as family lifting me up to achieve more.



## Maria Taveras



*Socially Haunted*  
Digital Photography, 16" x 20"  
High School East

### **Artist Statement:**

In my artwork, I captured a lonely teenager succumbing to the destructive habits of technology usage. He is trapped in the darkness as his only illuminating light is the screens around him, demonstrating the hopelessness in his life. With his hands covering his face, it further conveys how he is trapped in a bottomless pit of his emotions and alienating screens. My artwork tackles the challenges of being a teenager in this generation, specifically with the ever-evolving landscape of technology.



## Madden Tepper



*Face Muncher*

Photography with Digital Art, 2160 px x 1620 px  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

My main inspiration for this art was the monsters in the game "Half-Life". One of the enemies in Half-Life is an alien that attaches to people's heads and turns them into zombies. My thought process behind this piece was if one of those aliens was attached to something but still in the process of turning it into a zombie. Along with this, I also designed the alien to be more like a parasite that fully consumes its victim. I used a photo I took of a cat stress toy with a sock around its face and edited the sock's color and material to look more like an alien that was in the process of eating the cat.



## Amelia Townsend



*Escape Roots*  
Color Pencils and Marker, 11" x 14"  
Uniondale High School

### **Artist Statement:**

Death leaves you with a ghastly paleness that haunts those around you. My ancestors were Jamaican and South African, so that influenced me to use the vibrant colors of both flags. To fight back against the tragedies that surrounded them, slaves turned to religion to fight back the mental chains that their oppressors had on them. Determined to escape, there were many methods used as secret codes, such as hair. A hairstyle called cornrows were used to show escape routes, a hairstyle that they used to wear are now a symbol of salvation. My piece aims to capture the sorrow, joy, and hope that circled through the whirlwind of emotions my ancestors went through.



## Riley Tsui



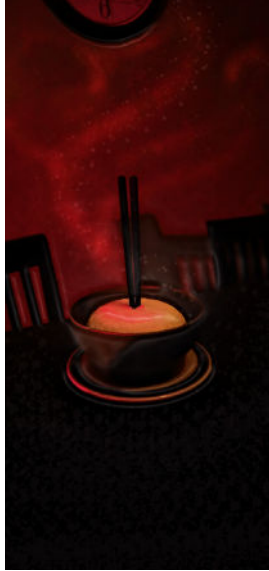
*Severing Fate*  
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

My artwork is to explore the act of cutting noodles on one's birthday, a contrast to the Chinese superstition where long noodles is to resemble longevity. From severing the noodles, the person who withholds the scissors rejects the wish for a long life, representing the challenge of cultural expectations. Through this art piece, I aim to bringing attention about the complexities of life choices with the tension of both individualism and tradition.



## Kailey Tsui



*A Spirit's Offering*  
Digital Photography, 11" x 17"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

My piece is a visual representation of an Asian Superstition that represents death. In my piece, chopsticks are sticking straight up in a bowl of rice, with smoke surrounding it, like an incense stick. This superstition of sticking up your chopsticks in your food, particularly rice, invites spirits and death to you, as it looks like an offering to the dead during funerals in Asian Cultures. Through this piece, I try to give nostalgia to those who had this superstition ingrained into their beliefs.



## Graydon Vitagliano



*Goblin Man*  
Marker, 8.5" x 12.5"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

My artwork is a half human and half monster. It is a scary project which shows my art skills at the same time.



## Hailey Weisse



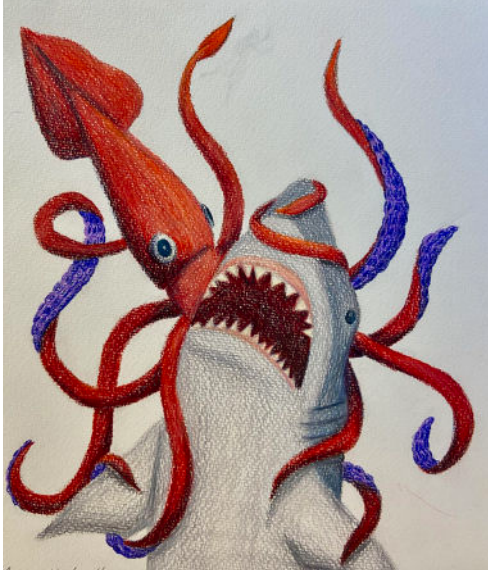
*Pumpkin Guts*  
Mixed Media on Paper, 8" x 10"  
North Babylon High School

### **Artist Statement:**

In my piece "Pumpkin Guts" I was inspired by my family tradition of carving pumpkins with my cousin Layla. I believe that family tradition and culture are so very important when growing up, even through adulthood. I hold these memories very tightly as I get older and have now limited time until I leave for college and I don't get these opportunities to spend as much time with my favorite cousin. 13 years later, me and Layla still carve pumpkins together.



## Camryn Woodworth



*Dangerous Depths*  
Color Pencil, 9" x 11"  
Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School

### **Artist Statement:**

My art is a representation of my fear but also love for the deep sea. I've spent all my summers in Montauk and I love swimming and surfing in the ocean. I've always loved marine life but I have so many questions concerning the depths of the ocean that no one has discovered. My artwork is my take on the chaos happening in the deep sea. I hope it inspires other to wonder about what is really below the surface of the ocean.



## Melanie Zhu



*Choking Fates*  
Digital Photography, 11" x 17"  
Syosset Central School District

### **Artist Statement:**

"Choking Fates- Within Chinese cultures and myths, the red thread symbolizes fate and connection. It binds two people together, the end tied to their finger. Never will it break, and never can the person escape it. Sometimes, the presence of a soulmate is exhilarating and promising, though other times, it can be painful like a vice grip on one's life. The red thread in the photo is tangled around the model's fingers, as they try to loosen their own, choking, fate.