



HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

Nightmare on Main Street 2025

Online Gallery

Artist Biographies & Statements



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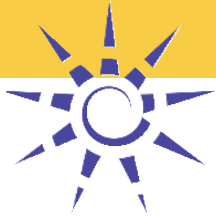
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Isabella Fernanda | Nightmare on Main St Juror

Artist Quote for HAC Nightmare on Main Street

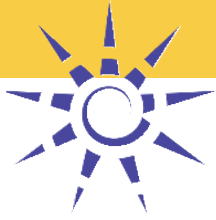
Do scary stories give you a fright? Or do they wickedly bite your toes in sight...?

In a scary story, fear is like a shape-shifter. It can disguise itself in the forms of nightmares, themes of death, or mysteries of the unknown. Feasting on our horrors, the narrative of our fears have ghoulishly shaped the scary stories we tell in the dark... Throughout history, mortals have used storytelling to craft haunting imagery. Frightening 18th century viewers, *The Nightmare* painting by Henry Fuseli, portrays a woman sleeping while a creature sits on top of her vulnerable soul. An eerily painted story that reflects the realm of nightmares. Another artist, such as Frida Kahlo, has used painted symbolism to evoke themes of death, and express the macabre stories of her own life. Similarly, in classic horror novels such as *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelly and *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, the stories of these monsters explore the supernatural and fears of the unknown. Chilling stories conjured by our fears, yet the monsters echo the shadows that dwell within us... When fear invades our brains with ethereal whispers and hellish wails, those melodies reveal the deepest parts of the self. To release the dissonance, we must learn to dance along with the tune.

What's your scary story? Using the medium of your choice, create an artwork that portrays a scary story. Use narrative art to vividly bring your scary story to life. Be honest, be expressive, even be playful. Think of symbolism, composition, and always remember the art of a good scare... Let your fears roam free, in plain sight for all to see!

Artist Biography

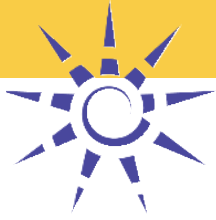
Isabella Fernanda is a multidisciplinary artist based in New York. Primarily working in visual and performance art mediums, her practice engages with the exploration of identity and self. Her work has been featured in film festivals, national and international exhibitions, and site-specific installations. She has exhibited at On the Spot L.I., Shockboxx, and at Ma's House & BIPOC Art Studio. She has performed live on the streets and subways of New York City and has been digitally projected onto Long Island's Village of Patchogue MoCA L.I.gh's site-specific installation. Fernanda received her B.A. in Film and Screen Studies & Art from Pace University. Presently, Fernanda is the Exhibitions & Museum Assistant at the Museum of Contemporary Art Long Island. As she continues to devote herself to the arts, Fernanda's intention is to encourage the public to love both the familiar, and peculiar of the self.



Morolaife Ahmed



The Graveyard
Pencil, 12" x 8"
Memorial Jr. High School



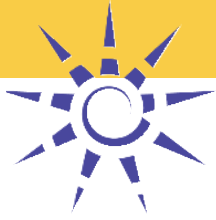
Kaylee Balkon



The Last Sunset
Digital Photography, 16" x 20"
High School East

Artist Statement:

My name is Kaylee. I am a junior at High School East and I am currently taking photography III. I have been doing photography for 3 years now and it is my passion. I worked this summer at a day-camp as a photographer and I loved it. I love taking pictures of landscapes and light trails as well as people.



Raniya Bawany

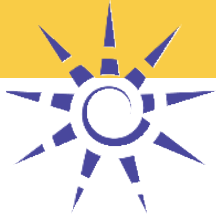


Too Much Pressure
Chalk Pastel, 12" x 18"
Walt Whitman High School

Artist Statement:

This art piece is about feeling unworthy and pressured, feeling like you aren't enough no matter what you do. I chose to create a piece like this because I feel that way often, and sometimes the pressure to "be better" is exactly what is holding me back.

The juror's prompt encouraged me to think about what scares me and show it openly. I wanted to make my fear visible, so I added hands grasping at me, digging into my skin, and masks to represent the words that make me feel like I'm not doing enough or doing too much. Red shows the anguish I feel, and blue shows the fear underneath. By putting my feelings into visual form, I turned an invisible fear into something people can see, making my own experience of pressure the "scary story."



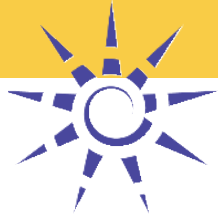
Kyle Benedis



The Haunted Forest
Digital, 11" x 8.5"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

My artwork titled "The Haunted Forest", shows a forest that is never ending, every direction you turn, every path you follow, never gets you back home. You are caught in a cycle of day and night, and day and night, and day and night. You try to scavenge for food but the supply is scarce, and at night you start to hear weird noises, and rustling in the bushes, but you don't know what to do. In this piece I used the softwares Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. In these softwares I used various effects to show emotion like grain and vignette to give it a more haunted feel.



Leah Blumkin



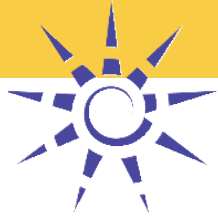
It's Just A Dream

Oil Pastel & Color Pencils, 20" x 28"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

Artist Statement:

Dreams.. We all have them every night in our sleep, we close our eyes and are transported to other worlds. But some nights the worlds are darker than others, sent down a spiral seeing nature turning into their own horror creature. These floral creatures seen in my dreams have been described as both gorgeous... and deadly, turning dreams into a radioactive field, or a bloody rain forest. Salvatore Dali used surrealism to express his dreams, like many others draw their dreams for reality. The Venus flytrap, a beautiful flower with a diet that requires death. If you see these flowers of contrast, while going in a spiral, beware of your nightmare's, they might be your fate.



Aurelia Borkowski



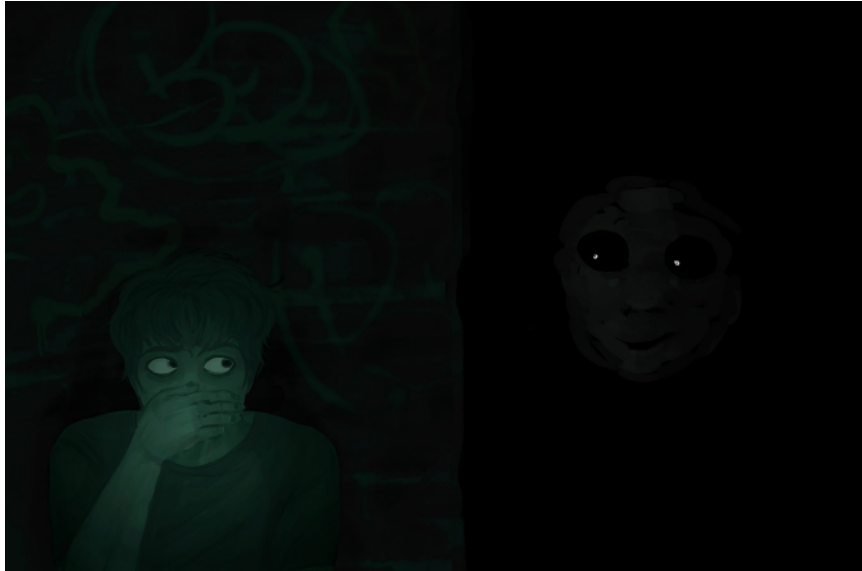
Wanderer
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

For the photo "wanderer", I wanted to show the feeling of stepping into the unknown. The person walking into the trees represents curiosity but also mystery, since you can't see where they're going. I like using photography because it can make everyday places look more dramatic. The dark green colors made the picture feel almost like a dream. To me, it shows how life is sometimes about taking risks, even if you don't know what's waiting for you.



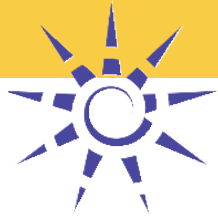
Gwen Carfora



What's Inside the Dark
Digital, 8" x 12"
Walt Whitman High School

Artist Statement:

This work is meant to portray the human fear of the dark-- or, more accurately, what could be lurking within. The two characters seen in this eerie, desolate area are parts of this fear, as the human attempts to hide, possibly in vain, from the unfamiliar entity stalking him-- its face familiar, yet grotesque and twisted.



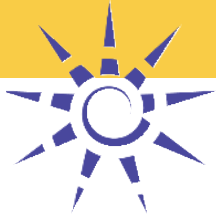
Sophia Carmel



Alone at Dusk
Digital Photography, 12" x 16"
Half Hollow Hills High School East

Artist Statement:

In my photography and digital art I tried to capture the spaces where an ordinary landscape shifts into an unsettling setting. This image transforms a simple fence line and bare trees into a scene heavy with silence and unease. The muted light, tangled branches, and dark shadows create an atmosphere that feels abandoned. My work aims to evoke emotions of loneliness and fear. It's the feeling that often lurks in the background of the human experience. This tension between the familiar and the frightening is where my art finds its voice.



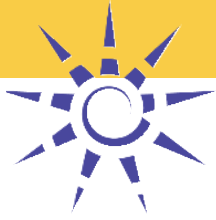
Joseph Chen



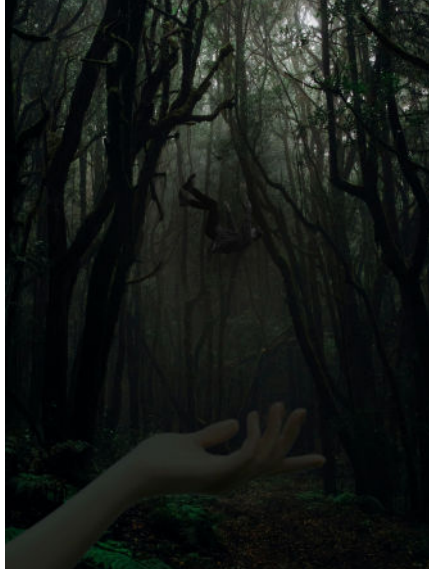
The Legend of the Skintaker
Photography, 2.6" x 4.25"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

In my photography and digital art I tried to capture the spaces where an ordinary landscape shifts into an unsettling setting. This image transforms a simple fence line and bare trees into a scene heavy with silence and unease. The muted light, tangled branches, and dark shadows create an atmosphere that feels abandoned. My work aims to evoke emotions of loneliness and fear. It's the feeling that often lurks in the background of the human experience. This tension between the familiar and the frightening is where my art finds its voice.



Rayne Chiang

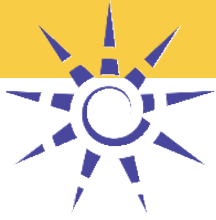


Falling

Digital Photography, 8.5" x 14"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

This photo can represent a physical fear of falling from a tall distance and being taken by an unknown creature. But, to me, the hand symbolizes academic pressure and the person is a student. Students are often being sucked into academic pressure and they can't get back up.



Felix Contreras Reyes



Spider-Zombie

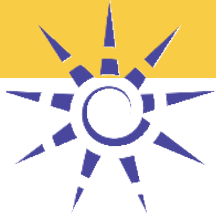
Digital Photography, 8.5" x 14"

Walt Whitman High School

Artist Statement:

"Spider-Zombie" is what would happen if Spider-Man got bitten by another spider, but this time it turned out worse. I wanted to show how something we usually see as a hero could turn scary. I chose this media because I like working with bold colors, especially red since it's my favorite color, and it stands for blood and danger.

The juror's quote inspired me when it said to "let your fears roam free in plain sight." That made me think about showing the blood in a way that pops out so people can't ignore it. I also liked the part about being expressive and even playful, because I took a character everyone knows and changed the story to make it creepy. My goal was to use the color and the details of the blood to make the story feel alive and scary.



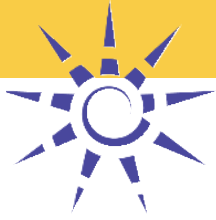
Carly Corcoran



Sins of Distortion
Pen & Ink, 12" x 18"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

The purpose of my piece is to unsettle the viewer. I think that not all art should come with comfort, not everything voluntary should be satisfactory. My work depicts the mental state of someone ill, the thoughts of someone who cannot think straight. The sketchy nature represents the fuzzy thoughts, unsure of what is desire or real. The faces who gaze upon you belong to no one, yet are reminders of your sorrows and troubles. I hope that this illustration makes you anxious, I hope it makes you think about the eyes that are watching you and your every move. They are watching, you just cannot see them.



Elijah Depre

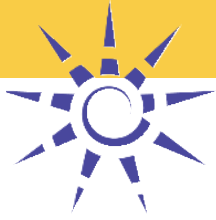


The Bloody Brain
Resin & Paint, 4" x 8" x 6"
Valley Stream Memorial Jr. High School

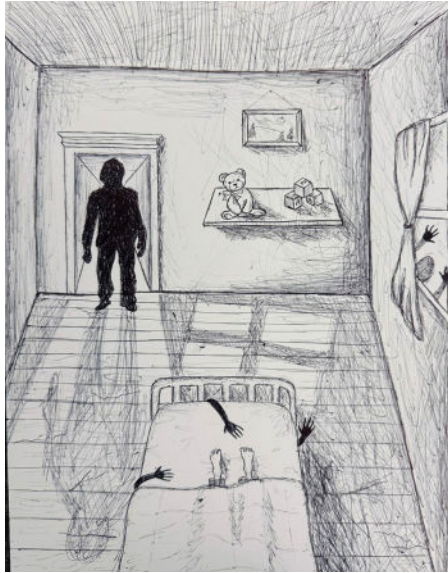
Artist Statement:

My thought process was to make a 3d realistic-looking brain that still has blood dripping off of it. I think it's scary because it is the fact that it still has blood on it, and I think it's an accurate size of a small human brain.

First, I made the resin and added pink paint into the mixture. Then I took 2 days to dry, and then I made a second batch of resin and dropped it all over the brain, which made it look like blood.



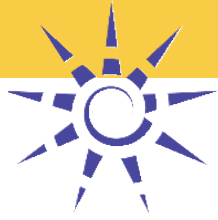
Ainsley Dircks



Things We See in the Dark
Ballpoint Pen, 9" x 12"
Cold Spring Harbor High School

Artist Statement:

The line "fear is like a shape shifter" inspired by piece, *Things We See in the Dark*. When I was a little girl, I had a hard time falling asleep, and I would lay staring into the dark corners of my room. As the clock ticked closer to midnight, the shadows would slowly turn into people standing in the doorway, or hands grabbing for me from under my bed. From behind my drooping eyelids, outlined in the dim moonlight were creatures peering into my bedroom. The shadows would dance and "shape shift" into all my greatest fears in the dark of the night. When choosing how I would approach this piece, I thought using only a black pen would be a great way to create the shadowy and spooky feeling in the work. I hope this drawing captures the ominous fear that would ignite me when I had the blankets pulled up to my chin and the shadows would seep in when I was a child.



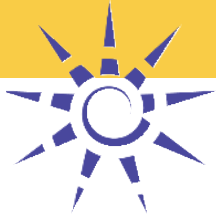
Jason Feldman



Long Walk Home
Adobe Photoshop, 12.5" x 18"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

For this project I decided to go for the spooky aspect that most people think of when they think of something "scary". In the picture I knew I wanted the scene to be in a forest. But then I thought, "If I was walking through the forest one night (as one would), what would I find scary?" The first thing that came to my mind was seeing a lot of wild, vicious animals. Then I began to think that it would be even scarier if you just saw the animals' eyes. I tried to use various tools such as masking tools, layers, opacity reduction and a lens flare to make the image come to life. I saw the light to be mysterious in a way showing that what comes ahead is unknown.



Sophia Florez



Fears of the Unknown
Watercolor & Pencil, 9" x 12"
Cold Spring Harbor High School

Artist Statement:

This artwork conveys the message that in life, everyone has their own fears, and whether large or small, the best thing to do is to face them. I chose this media because I believe that the only way to get over a fear is by doing it until you are no longer afraid. When I read the Juror's quote, the line "fears of the unknown" really inspired me to create this piece. I wanted to create a dark, blurred background to represent "the unknown" and a large, intimidating figure to represent the "fears" that people deal with and have to face every day.



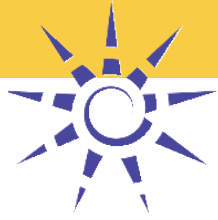
Ella Fried



Hands Up
Digital, 16" x 20"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

This artwork conveys the message that in life, everyone has their own fears, and whether large or small, the best thing to do is to face them. I chose this media because I believe that the only way to get over a fear is by doing it until you are no longer afraid. When I read the Juror's quote, the line "fears of the unknown" really inspired me to create this piece. I wanted to create a dark, blurred background to represent "the unknown" and a large, intimidating figure to represent the "fears" that people deal with and have to face every day.



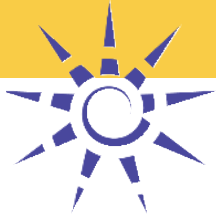
Kenia Guevara



Mute Terrors
Digital Painting, 1532px x 1823px
Uniondale High School

Artist Statement:

I think we've all had at least one nightmare or several, but have you ever had a nightmare where you're trying to scream for help but can't? I've had dreams like this in the past and it reoccurred to me while reading this quote. I chose to do a digital illustration that shows the concept of not being able to yell in your dream while in danger. In the nightmare I've had in the past all I could remember is the shadowy figures that lurked in my dream.



Nicole Guzman



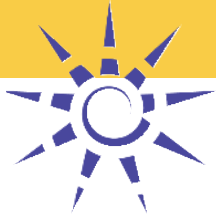
Lingering Figure
Darkroom Photography, 8.5" x 11"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

The photo "Lingering figure" is a sandwich print that should give a chill. The model is crying blood while looking out to the unknown. The other photo is of him on the floor scared for his life as he is about to be taken by some phantom. The darkness of the photo gives a spookiness to the photo that gives the viewer the chills.

"Echoes on her hands" is a photo that will make you wonder. It gives that feeling of fright as the viewer wonders what she did. I smeared fake blood onto my hands and positioned them over a sink to represent me trying to wash it off.

My third photo "Cry of the Lost Child" is a that should give a chill. The model who is a little boy is crying blood while looking out to the unknown. The photo lets the viewer to predict what will happen, if the boy is going to be taken, did he hear a sound? Who knows...



Henry Hartmann



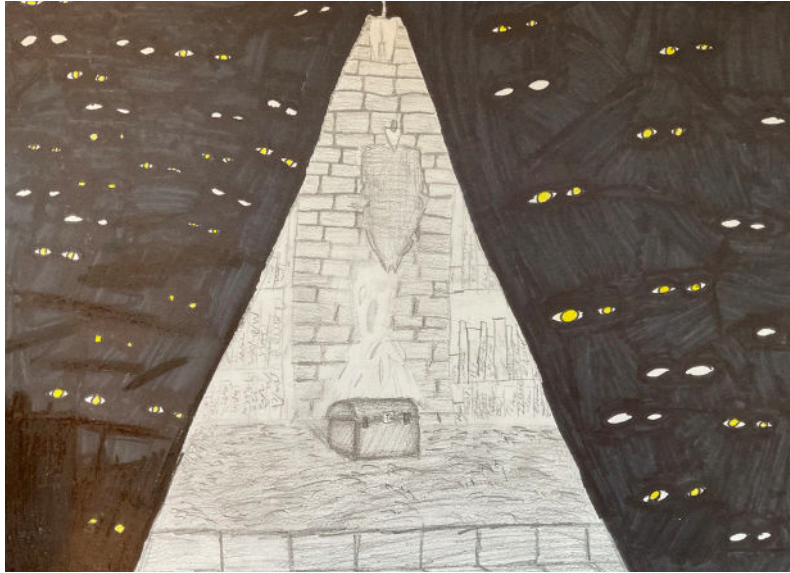
Assimilation
Digital Painting, 16" x 20"
North Babylon High School

Artist Statement:

This artwork draws inspiration from the jaw dropping horror movie "The Thing" by John Carpenter, having such incredible visuals that even decades after its release it still managed to captivate me with its story. Not only was the movie a beautiful sight itself, but its message spoke to me in a way that led me to make this piece. The sentiment that even in your state of belonging, even if you took all the right measures to fit into the society you molded yourself from, their could still be something innate within you that people can still recognize, that is a terrifying but real reality for not just the mutating aliens in this movie, but people in everyday life.



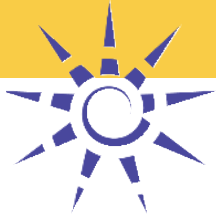
William Hendrickson



Shhh they're looking
Mixed Media, 9" x 12"
Stimson Middle School

Artist Statement:

In this drawing I used pencil and marker, using the pencil to represent the shine of the light and the sharpie to represent the deep darkness. The ghost is supposed to protect the treasure but the unknown already got to it. Now they have to sneak in and claim the treasure that awaits.



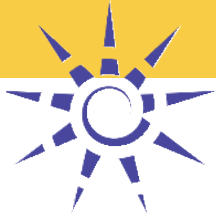
Laila Jabir



Just Out of Site
Digital Photography, 11" x 17"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

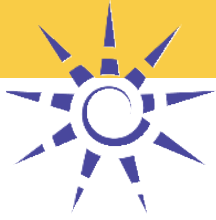
My first photo "just out of sight" portrays the eerie feeling when you know something is there but you just can't see it. My subject is my dog who is looking at a figure in the distance who is unknown to the viewer.



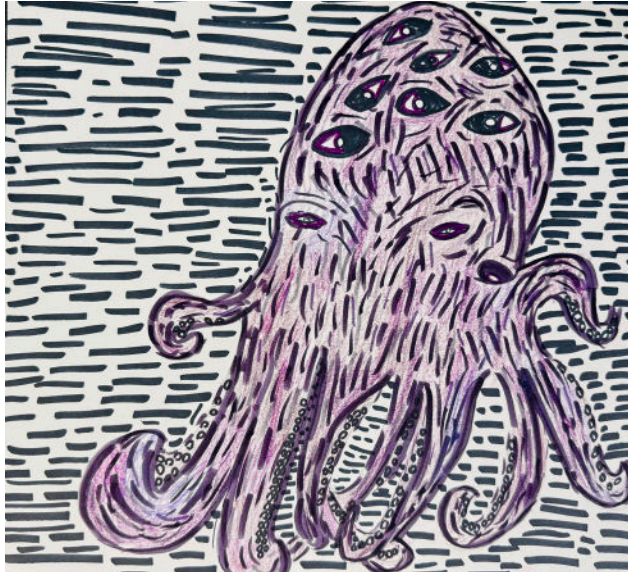
Mayher Kaur



Wanna Play
Color Pencil, 8.5" x 11"
Memorial Jr. High School



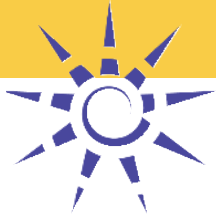
Ella Kiefer



I Spy Octopeye
Marker & Color Pencil, 13" x 13"
Cold Spring Harbor High School

Artist Statement:

My two fears are things under the sea and being watched. I wanted to create a dark fearful underwater scene. So I combined the two concepts a scary octopus of a purple coloring because usually when animals are florescent colors they are poisonous. The octopus has eyes all over because it's watching your every move which is horrifying to me. The black dashes all around show the darkness and the light in between shows the hope when seeing something like this and the hope you will survive.



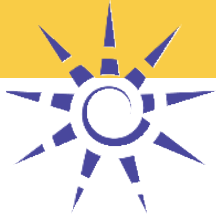
Doolin Leavy



Stitched
Pencil, 9" x 12"
Cold Spring Harbor High School

Artist Statement:

I wanted to tell a story of peril during the medieval era that depicts an interesting creature clad in armor, whose limbs were taken from past victims.



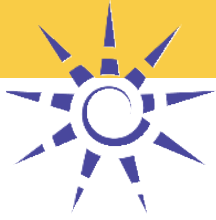
Grace Lin



Franks Wonderful and Lovely Circus
Marker & Color Pencil, 8.5" x 11"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

Gregory, a once joyful young man loved visiting the circus. However, one day he happened upon a certain circus named Franks Wonderful and Lovely Circus. No one knows what happened that day after he went in...all they could hear were his cries for help before silence fell and he never came out again...



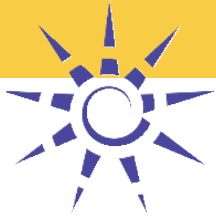
Lyla Long



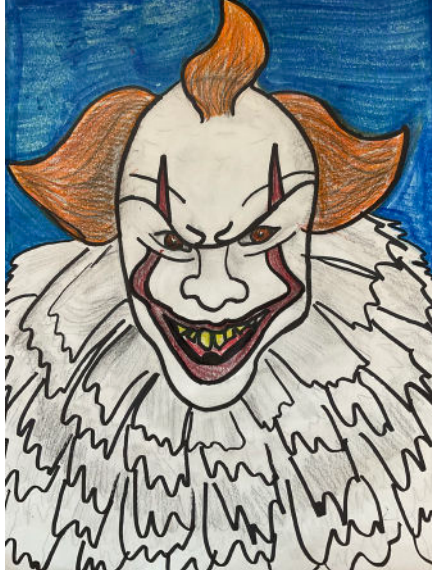
The Haunted Dream
Pencil & Sharpie, 9" x 12"
Cold Spring Harbor High School

Artist Statement:

When I was told the assignment was to represent a nightmare I automatically thought of a Haunted House. This piece was imagined to be ones dream on the night before Halloween. I used pencils of different depths to make the house come alive and creep one out.



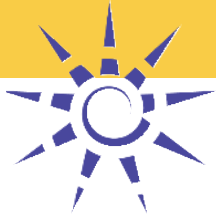
Camila Malena



Crooked Eye Clown
Mixed Media, 9" x 12"
Stimson Middle School

Artist Statement:

My drawing is a crooked eye scary clown I drew it with color pencils, pencil, a blending tool, marker, and sharpie. I added some touches to go over my mistakes and I made his teeth yellow because clowns teeth aren't always perfectly white. I thought this effect would make him a little scarier.



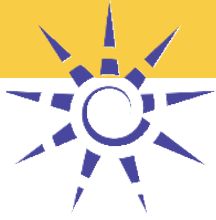
Dylan Mangibin



The Bridge
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

My first photo demonstrates a sense of uncertainty. With the other side of the bridge, it's almost impossible to tell what's at the end of the bridge. The path is slightly lit by a single headlight, highlighting the idea that shadows and darkness can dominate and set the mood for the bridge.



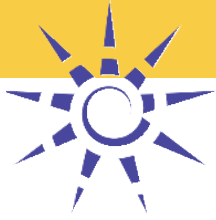
Lucas Martinez



Together Forever
Color Pencil, 16" x 12"
North Babylon High School

Artist Statement:

The theme I tried to capture with the art is not being able to let go of someone. The woman the vampire is biting could be a significant other, a family member, or a friend. I chose to use Prisma colored pencils for this artwork because I felt that the smudgy look fit the vibe and feel of the art.



Alisson Mayen



Gold
Photography, 16" x 20"
East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School

Artist Statement:

My work explores how different cultures mourn and celebrate death, showing many different forms of grief and remembrance. I was inspired by the juror's quote "fear is like a shape shifter, disguising itself in the form of nightmares" I began thinking about how death, and the fear surrounding it, also changes depending on our cultural lens. In some traditions, death is mourned with silence. In others, it is honored through music, dance, and vibrant color. The juror's reference to "ethereal whispers and hellish wails" reminded me that both grief and celebration can coexist, and that the way we process loss often reflects the deepest parts of who we are. I tried to show how fear of death is not always dark and static; it can also be bright, communal, and even beautiful. As the quote suggests, we learn to "dance along with the tune," embracing both the sorrow and the celebration that come with saying goodbye.



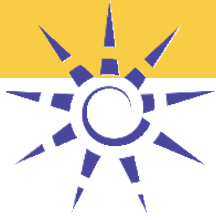
Ava Mckean



Shadows We Fear
Watercolor Markers, 9" x 9"
Cold Spring Harbor High School

Artist Statement:

The quote from Jurors, "Fear is like a shape shifter," gives my piece a sense of uneasiness, seeing a man with no features but just red eyes, standing in the dark. I chose watercolor pencils because they made the bricks surrounding the door look smooth but also textured at the same time. The quote I mentioned before inspired me because a person looking at my piece might infer that the man standing could be a threat to them, but I don't physically show it. This piece had made me go beyond the boundaries I had set for myself as an artist.



Destii McNulty



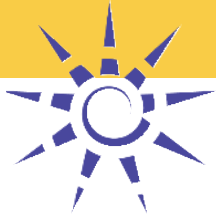
HeadLights

Color Pencil & Watercolor, 5.5" x 8.5"

Valley Stream North High School

Artist Statement:

"HeadLights" is meant to show the feeling of vulnerability in the rawest form of survival. To feel like a deer in headlights is to feel exposed, unguarded in an unknown space, I wanted to encapsulate that. A young girl caught in her darkest moments, ravaging an unknown piece of meat.



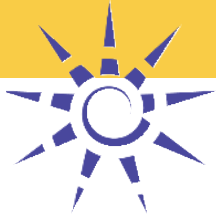
Roselyn Membreno Gonzalez



The Hell of Being Guilty
Chalk Pastels & Pencil, 9" x 12"
Stimson Middle School

Artist Statement:

My drawing is about hell, this drawing means your guilty when you do something wrong and your mind becomes hell. When you start overthinking what you do. The feeling that this draw transmits is pressure, desperation, frustration and stagnant.



Emma Mittasch



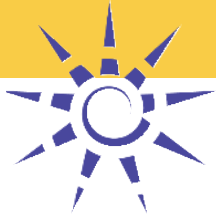
Reflections

Digital Photography, 18" x 25"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

Artist Statement:

The inspiration for my piece is the overall essence of Halloween. When you think of Halloween, usually the first thing that comes to mind is someone in a costume asking for candy. The real meaning of Halloween is the scare factor, that's why so many people enjoy Halloween, it's a holiday where you can spook people with how decked out your costume is. I attempted to express this through my piece. As you can see, there is a person in a mask looking into glass as their reflection is the center point and there is a fire behind the glass. I believe that my piece communicates the fear of looking into glass and seeing yourself for the first time as the real you and not the mask you wear around.



Abby Moriarty



It Lives Inside
Mask, 8" x 12" x 5"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

It lives inside. Eats you up. Can't be stopped. So don't try. You can't escape it, so don't try. Only YOU can see and feel it. Others won't understand so don't tell them. It's not just you. Look around. See the other. It's coming. For my mask I decided to use the very real and scary fear of anxiety and depression. In real life there's no ghosts or goblins, but there are mental health problems. I used my own interpretation of my anxiety as a monster, coming out from my mouth and affecting me. It feeds on your inside and destroys you- feeding on your insecurities and your vulnerable parts.

I used plaster strips and a mannequin head to make the base of the mask. Then I used oven baked clay for the tentacles. Finally I used acrylic paint to paint the whole thing over and super glued tentacles, the nose, mouth, and eyes to the face. I interpreted the junior's quote "In a scary story, fear is like a shape shifter, disguising itself in the form of nightmares....." by taking something physically invisible that people aren't able to see in others and made it in to a real monster. In the real world, anxiety and depression kills more people than vampires or zombies could ever kill. Therefore I decided to use the concept of these mental health challenges being an actual monster and tried to represent how it could feel to those suffering.



Varvara Nartikova



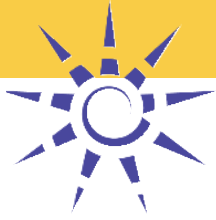
Momo in the TV
Graphite, 9" x 12.75"
Valley Stream Memorial Jr. High School

Artist Statement:

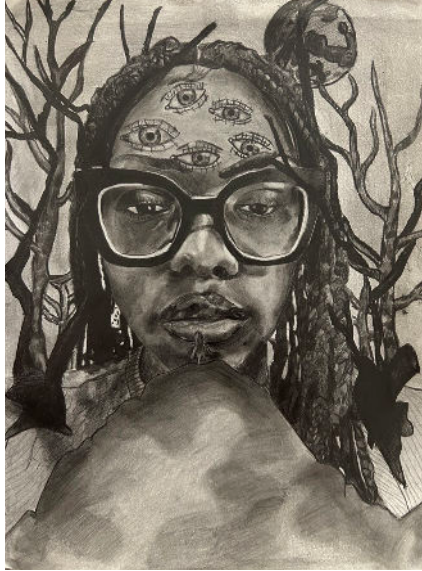
When I was a kid, the character Momo was really popular, and me and my friends always used to download apps and "Call Momo" when we were home alone. We were really scared because of it, so when I heard about the contest, it was the first thing that came to mind.

Also, I wanted to add the TV because one of my favorite movies is *The Ring*, and it was really scary too, so I wanted to add them together.

I chose to cut the paper so that when you see it, it's like she's coming right at you. It feels more realistic. I like drawing, but drawing scary stuff is new to me, so I've never done anything like this before.



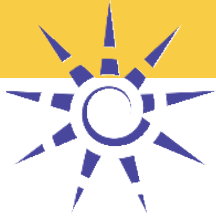
Sharmia Oladipo



Nightmare on Main St. Portrait
Charcoal, 12" x 9"
Valley Stream Memorial Jr. High School

Artist Statement:

The theme/muse behind my work is a portrait of myself as a supernatural creature with human-like features. In the composition, I appear larger compared to the size of an average human being. I choose this media because the eerie effect of the fog from the shading of pencils, better portray this look. The quote influenced my approach while creating my artwork because it made me lean towards a more uncanny, mysterious out mood. The part of the quote; "In a scary story, fear is like a shape shifter, disguising itself in the form of nightmares. Throughout history, mortals have used storytelling to craft haunting imagery." I was inspired to do a portrait of me but, shape shifted to an alien creature in the abandon forest.



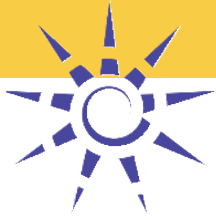
Jamie Pietsch



Trick or Treat
Mixed Media, 15" x 12"
North Babylon High School

Artist Statement:

My piece is displaying a little girl around the age of 5 or 6 in her Halloween costume getting kidnapped by a much older man. You can see one of his hands wrapped across the child's mouth so she can't scream, and the other pulling her hair so she is in immense pain. In my art class we were listening to all of these scary stories and they made me remember about the killer clowns a few years back. I remember being terrified of them and it inspired my artwork. The little girl is dressed up as an innocent, cute little clown as her Halloween costume just trying to go door to door to get Halloween candy when suddenly she's being kidnapped by a stranger. The black shadows in the back represent the fear she is going through. She can't see the man so she doesn't even know who is kidnapping her. Her bright costume represents her innocence and youth and how even if you don't have a costume on to look scary, you never know what or who is going to be behind that door.



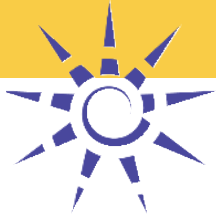
Lily Provisero



Dinner Guest
Acrylic Paint on Canvas, 9" x 9"
Cold Spring Harbor High School

Artist Statement:

In my painting "Dinner Guest", I wanted to use a fear of the unknown to tell my story. I liked the idea of having a subject in the foreground, while the real focus is in the background, and thought that it could add to the story of the piece.



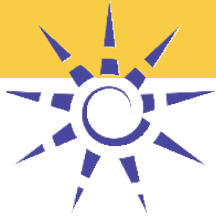
Alaina Qureshi



Crowd That Never Ends
Oil Pastel, 14" x 16.5"
Walt Whitman High School

Artist Statement:

For my scary story, I chose to represent a fear of crowds. Uncontrollable crowds are something that has scared me since I was very young. The fear of being lost, trampled, being in a small space, or feeling like you can't breathe. Visually, I wanted to represent the anxiety and fear that creeps in through the colors on my paper. The red and orange represent anxiety, and the blue creeps in as fear, showcasing the feeling of being in a horrifying crowd.



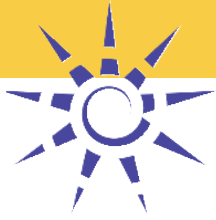
Zoe Raia



The Girl From Room 114
Oil Pastel, 11" x 14"
Walt Whitman High School

Artist Statement:

My painting explores themes of hidden horror and betrayal, drawing inspiration from a recurring nightmare. I aimed to capture the surreal quality of this vision, using colors and shadows to create a haunting atmosphere. The juror's emphasis on "narrative art," "symbolism," and the "art of a good scare" particularly influenced my approach. The painting depicts a skeletal figure surrounded by flames, representing a transformed, ghostly girl from my nightmare that had invited me to go camping. The exposed ribs and dark hair emphasize her gaunt appearance, while the flames symbolize an all-consuming force. When painting I used these symbols to evoke dread and unease, bringing a personal horror to life.



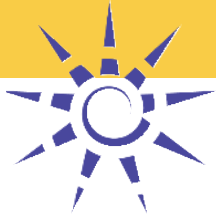
Hunter Razack



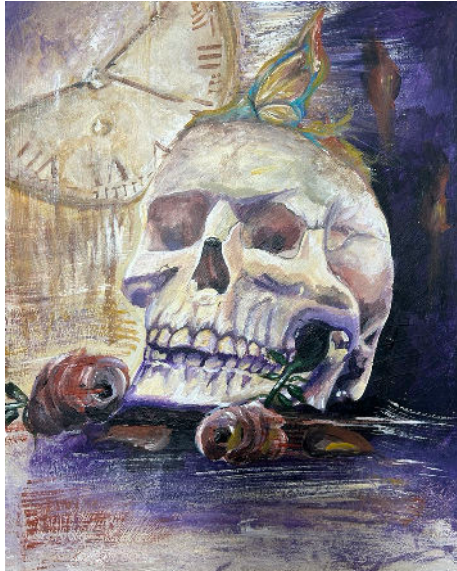
Carnival Crew
Mixed Media, 11" x 12" x 5"
Bellport High School

Artist Statement:

Clowns are a common fear for both children and adults. These clowns give me this nostalgic feeling of when I was younger and kids would dress up for Halloween. The creepiness of the dolls inspire the viewer to feel a sense of horror. I chose to make the clowns during October and they served as DIY horror decorations.



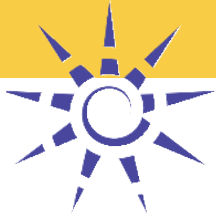
Maida Redzepovic



And the Clock Keeps Ticking
Acrylic Paint, 12" x 15"
Valley Stream North High School

Artist Statement:

The underlying message of this theme is to express the fear of the inevitable. Primarily showing that time is infinite, but for us, it is limited.



Rhiannon Reilly



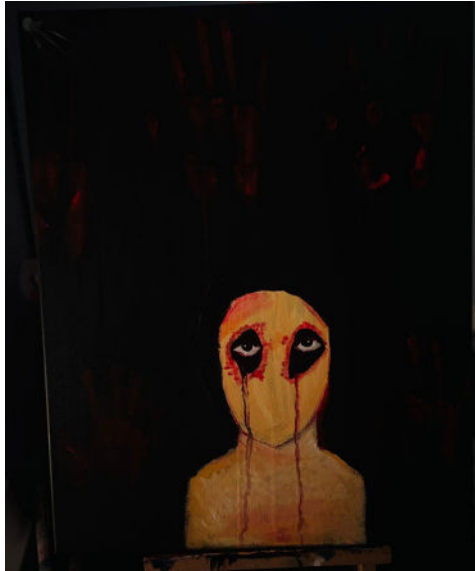
Paranoia
Acrylic Paint, 12" x 15"
North Babylon High School

Artist Statement:

As a kid I have always felt as there was life or death right around the corner. Especially when it came to doctors offices. The snake represents the symbol of life or death and the crazy and tired eyes represent the look on my face when my mom would tell me I had to go to the doctors. The smooth and rough strokes of the paint represent the rocky and easy parts of the experience of being a child. The Juror inspired me to be as weird and wacky with the piece as I wanted since it was made for me and not others.



Jazmin Rivadeneira

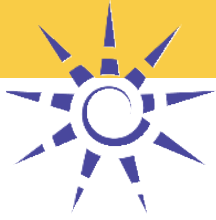


Trapped Soul
Acrylic Paint, 12" x 16"
Center Moriches High School

Artist Statement:

The underlying message is: Afraid to be alone without company, scared to be observed only for errors and not for good things, trying to escape from the toxic life that is given to the soul, feeling trapped to do only good things like the soul can't live the life, because of perfection. I choose this media to express that you can be scared by something that you usually like. When people start to say that you have to do everything well, it can be frustrating, like you don't have emotions and you just have to do it.

The part of the Juror's quote that inspired me conveys, "When fear invades our brains with ethereal whispers and hellish wails, those melodies reveal the deepest parts of the self" (line 4-5). This quote inspired me because it shows how deep my emotions can be. My only solution to express how I feel, is through creating art that I am the only one who can understand why I decided to do it. For example, the Juror's quote refers that sometimes we are afraid of the unknown, because we don't know what's coming next



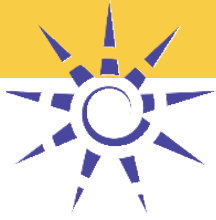
Lexi Rogers



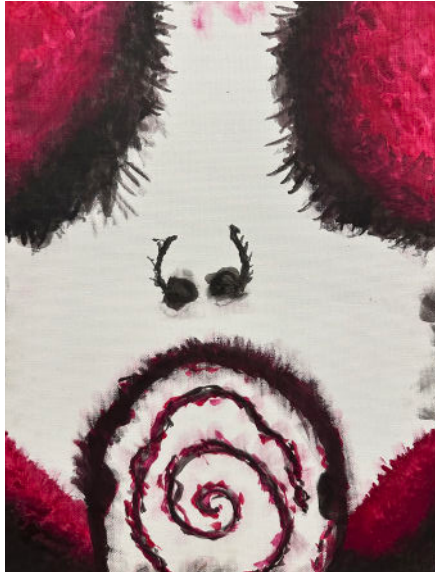
Trick or Treat
Acrylic Marker on Paper, 9" x 12"
High School West

Artist Statement:

"Boo!" It's Halloween night: You're wandering the streets in your favorite Halloween costume, yet... Your friends are terrorizing the candy bowls and you stop and see a fish eye street mirror. "Wow, I have that same one in my room, I saw it trending on TikTok!" You may see Halloween as scary and chilling, but what came to mind for me was the fun, bright, candy-filled time spent with friends as you pick your new Halloween costume trend and go door to door trick-or-treating. I wanted to encapsulate that rare and fleeting feeling of just enjoying your teenage years, especially on Halloween, so that all can feel that fun.



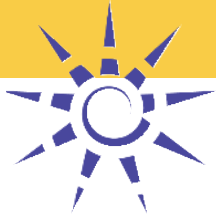
Roselyn Rosales



Hypnotic
Acrylic Paint, 11" x 14"
Memorial Jr. High School

Artist Statement:

Words are capable of deceiving a person and causing their thoughts to be altered. This creates a sense of misdirected thought and understanding of reality. This creates a sense, almost as if one is being hypnotized by the words as they enter their mind. A person can use their words to harm or heal a person, and shape their perspective of the world. The twisting of words and interpretation of these thoughts and ideas can even alter a person's image of themselves. When being deceived by the wrong person, one's life can be changed into a nightmare.



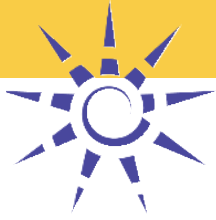
Hannah Rosario



'Til Death Do Us Eternity
Mixed Media, 11" x 14"
North Babylon High School

Artist Statement:

My art work was inspired by music. The main two are Last dance with Mary Jane by Tom Petty (where he dances with his dead wife to move on) and Possum kingdom by The Toadies (where we kills a girl keeping her for himself). The Jurors prompt along with my love for Horror made the story line of a blonde man who kills a girl he's been keeping an eye on. He drowns her to keep her perfect then dresses her in a wedding dress so they can be together forever. He wants to go against the normal "til death do us part". In my painting it's supposed to show wedding photos of her laying on his shoulder being held up as his possession. I used complementary colors to mute her skin and give her a more dead effect.



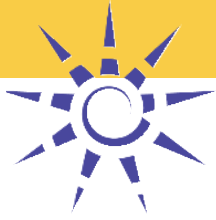
Anum Sajjad



A Rotten Judgment
Digital, 11" x 8.5"
Memorial Jr. High School

Artist Statement:

A hunter is out gathering deer to eat at night with his flashlight and some spears. Looking through the deep thick fog and the disgusting smell of something rotting, she can't help but wonder about that strange deer she saw. It didn't run, it didn't hide, it just watched her for a while before running away... She went to go look for the deer, following said horrible smell until she saw it, but it didn't seem, normal... Its eyes looked dead, it was unusually skinny, its bones and muscles visible, its jaw was elongated as it stood there, eating something... Then she heard it, the deer made a deep growl, she tried to run away but it was too late...



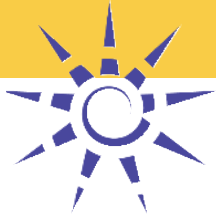
Gabby Schwarz



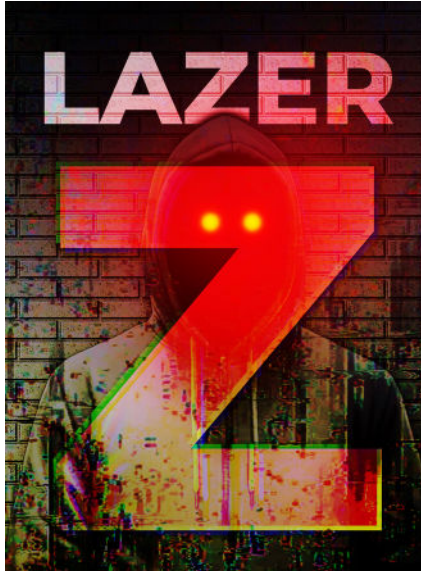
Jump
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

This photograph captures the figure of a hooded presence, half-illuminated by the glow of a light, perched on the edge of an industrial container. This piece embraces the direct confrontation with the unknown. The figure is faceless, anonymous, almost spectral, a reminder that fear often lives in what we cannot fully see.



Krisvir Singh

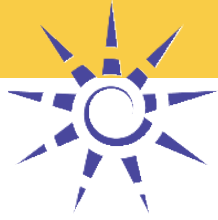


LazerZ

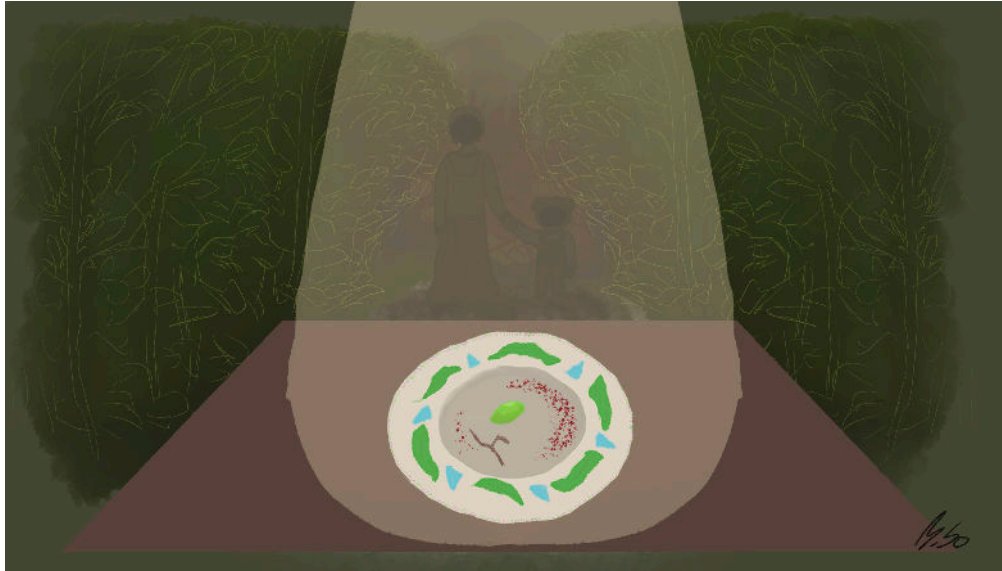
Adobe Photoshop, 19.25" x 14"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

The fictional story LazerZ is about some serious competition between protagonist Teja and antagonist Dhund + Dhund's supporters. There was high demand for this piece of land located in Punjab, India. Top 2 bidders were Teja & Dhund. Unfortunately for Dhund, Teja was the higher bidder leaving Dhund in extreme anger and jealousy. Dhund's anger was so severe that he decided to kill Teja on the spot. The land then was taken off of sale right after the incident. Some years passed by and Teja was provided some superpower by God and returned to Earth for a short time to get his revenge on Dhund and Dhund's supporters who also tried to harm Teja. Teja's superpower was the ability to shoot lasers from his eyes as a defense mechanism. Teja also walked around with metal shields under his clothes making him un-defeatable. He eventually got all of Dhund's supporters. Once he got Dhund at the near end, Teja received another superpower from God. The superpower was the ability to heal himself and the innocent. The piece of land had never been listed on sale again since the incident. Teja eventually had to return to Heaven and donated all his wealth to the society. Why the story is scary to me is because it shows how severe competition can get. Also this type of un-defeatable man with these kind of superpowers will always appear evil and frighten everyone even though the person is actually innocent and somewhat a hero by helping other innocent ones. The process of making the image was done all in Photoshop. The process involves a combo of masking, different overlay styles, paint brush to create the glow of the eyes, RGB splits to create the glitch effect, and glitch backgrounds on top.



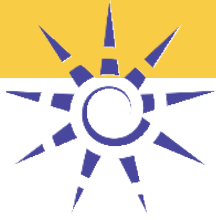
Benjamin So



The Fava Field
Digital, 2064 px x 1188 px
Northport High School

Artist Statement:

This is a piece based on the song "Beans" By Kurt Cobain to which the character looking at this scene is named Jessie. He used to be a husband and father until his wife and daughter died due to a car accident making him grieve throughout the last of his lifespan. Now in a cycle of grief and despair after death he now dreams constantly of this vision of his dead wife and daughter waiting for him to cross over to the fava bean field to which he must eat a fava bean to cross over. This specific bean is representing his humanity and the families soul altogether so will Jessie be deprived of his humanity and accept his fate and eat the bean or to refuse the bean since he's not ready to move on remaining in the cycle. This story is about the themes of cycles and death.



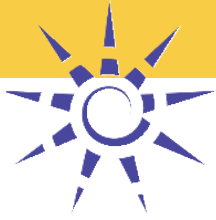
Jasman Sohl



The Silent Forest
Acrylic Paint, 18" x 24"
Memorial Jr. High School

Artist Statement:

This is a piece based on the song "Beans" By Kurt Cobain to which the character looking at this scene is named Jessie. He used to be a husband and father until his wife and daughter died due to a car accident making him grieve throughout the last of his lifespan. Now in a cycle of grief and despair after death he now dreams constantly of this vision of his dead wife and daughter waiting for him to cross over to the fava bean field to which he must eat a fava bean to cross over. This specific bean is representing his humanity and the families soul altogether so will Jessie be deprived of his humanity and accept his fate and eat the bean or to refuse the bean since he's not ready to move on remaining in the cycle. This story is about the themes of cycles and death.



Jessica Stolzenberg



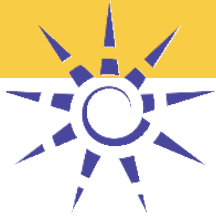
Final Touch
Digital, 8" x 10"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

For the photo "Final Touch" I wanted to portray the feeling of you might never come back to the moment you're in. This was showcased through the hand slightly pulling back from the tree expressing the feeling that they are leaving and may never come back.

For my second photo "Nightly Walk" I wanted to portray the feeling that everyday life can be slightly scary, and even feel uncertain despite being a normal part of your routine. The feeling of never turning back to the path you were once on can be slightly unnerving.

For my last photo "Somethings Missing" I wanted to portray the feeling of leaving something behind, the feeling that something isn't quite right but you just can't place what it is that's missing.



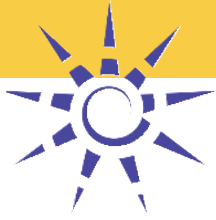
Jack Tedesco



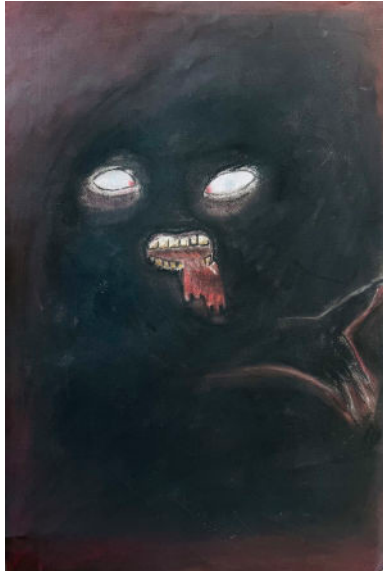
Stitched Suicide
Graphite, 8" x 10"
North Babylon High School

Artist Statement:

The underlying message of this artwork is the symbolism of death this artwork represents it due to the lighting being overall dim and there being two main elements a voodoo doll and a skeleton arm I used these two elements for this piece to make it more relatable due to the voodoo doll having simplistic features and the skeleton arm representing a person the skeleton arm is putting a pin in its visible heart due to it being on the verge of death.



Janiece Torchon

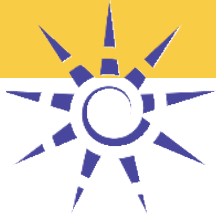


What's in the Dark?
Chalk Pastel, 12" x 18"
Walt Whitman High School

Artist Statement:

My scary story is about the dark and what might be with you in it. When the lights go off, are you really alone, or is there something else lurking in the quiet darkness? I chose this fear because sometimes when I look into the dark, it feels like I can almost see someone there, watching me, keeping me company, or even trying to reach out.

The juror's quote made me think about the art of a good scare and how fear can come from what you don't see clearly. I showed this in my work by creating an all-black figure hidden in the dark with its hand reaching out. It's unclear whether the figure is trying to escape or trying to get to me, which adds to the fear of not knowing what's really there.



Kyla Trinh



Blooming Requiem
Chalk Pastel, 19" x 25"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

People tend to associate death with darkness and fear, however it may also be viewed in a more positive light, like as a sign for new beginnings. In this piece, I wanted to capture the two distinct ways in which death can be perceived. The skull represents the more obvious and common way in which death is viewed and adds onto the scary element. However, it is surrounded by flowers and other components of nature which represent how death can also be a signal for new life to sprout. Scary stories can be deceiving and frightening at first, but hidden underneath lies a new and more comforting tale to tell.



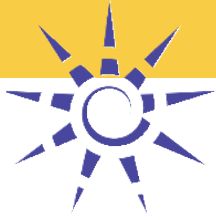
Kailey Tsui



Split Threshold
Darkroom Photography, 11" x 16"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

Shot with a vintage Hasselblad, this image appears serene—an ordinary gateway framed symmetrically with foliage and trellises. Beneath the stillness of the doorway, something is uncanny. The inspiration is the movie *Coraline*, which features an entryway that is otherworldly, innocent in appearance, yet too perfect. The symmetry, framing, and design can lull the viewer into a false sense of security, but the focal point demands confrontation, leaving no room to look away, forcing the observer to dwell on the tension between the lighthearted charm and its abnormal perfection. What initially looks welcoming soon becomes haunting in its core. *Split Threshold* plays with the boundary between the living and the dead, a limbo where neither is in control, to be equally split, visually & symbolically. Balancing life and death, the absence of humanity, and the pristine doorway hints at something. Standing as the only barrier, it keeps them from melding together.



Hailey Vine



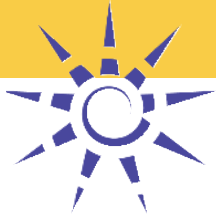
Kill of the Night

Digital Photography, 18" x 25"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

Artist Statement:

In this artwork I have taken inspiration from various horror movies. In most movies we see characters getting chased by the villain. In this photo the story behind it is a girl walking in her backyard. It is very dark, and someone comes up behind her and stabs her, letting her fall on the concrete. The villain leaves the knife in her hands to frame it as a suicide. In my art pieces I love creating things based on a story. I think having a story connected to the art helps it flow better for people to understand the meaning behind the piece. I really try to pay attention to key aspects while taking photos, for example the shot being grainy but the knife is reflecting.



Emily Voorhest

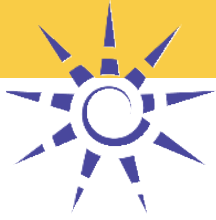


Happiest Place... Or Scariest
Color Pencil, 12" x 18"
Walt Whitman High School

Artist Statement:

For my scary story, I chose to use Mickey Mouse as the subject and Cinderella's Castle as the scene. I wanted to make Mickey scary as a "playful twist," since he is usually seen as happy and friendly. I used greenish lighting and colored pencils to create a realistic look, but with an eerie feeling.

The juror's quote about being playful and expressive inspired me to take something familiar from childhood and flip it into something unsettling. The castle is a place people usually think of as magical and safe, but with the darker colors and the scary version of Mickey, it turns into something creepy. My goal was to make the viewer feel surprised and uneasy by seeing a character they recognize in a way they never expected.



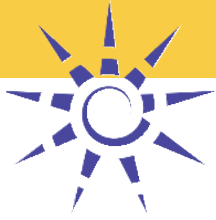
Elizabeth Wei



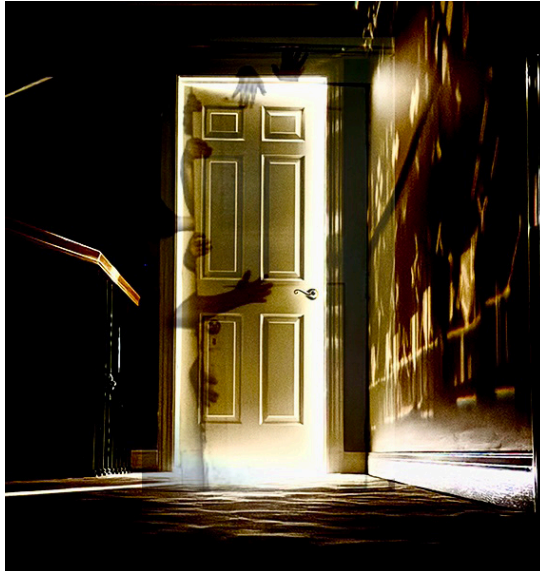
Impermanence of Life
Pastel, 25" x 19"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

My still life presents a human skull, a bull skull, and pink flowers emerging from the human skull against a bright blue background. The skulls symbolize mortality, while the flowers suggest renewal and beauty rising from decay. The strong contrast of pale bone and vibrant color reflects how life and death coexist. The juror's words that "fear is like a shape shifter" influenced my approach. I wanted to show fear not as a monster in the dark but as something quieter and more unsettling: the stillness of death and the unknown beyond it. By combining skulls with flowers, I aimed to transform fear into something layered, where endings also hold beginnings. I was also inspired by the reference to Frida Kahlo's use of symbolism to explore death. Similarly, I used universal symbols to tell my "scary story," which is less about horror and more about the uneasy beauty found in mortality.



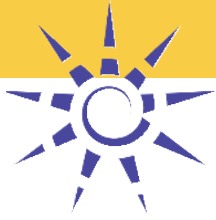
Emma Wilck



Enclosed Secrets
Digital Photography, 7.5" x 10.5"
Half Hollow Hills High School East

Artist Statement:

Photography has become a way for me to express my emotions and feelings through art, while also satisfying my love of science. To me, photography is the perfect balance between the arts and sciences—it combines creativity with technical precision. Taking photography classes has allowed me to expand my knowledge in the art world while sharpening my analytical and problem-solving skills. As someone interested in pursuing a career serving and helping others, I long for a future where medicine and art intersect, allowing me to bring both passions together in meaningful ways. This photo depicts these aspirations as it encapsulates the whimsical atmosphere as well as the secrets that lie behind the closed doors which represents the future of science.



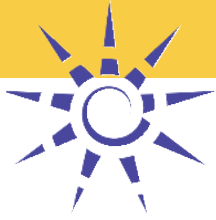
Camryn Woodworth



Follow the Light
Markers, 9" x 12"
Cold Spring Harbor High School

Artist Statement:

The overall theme behind my artwork is to deliver a spooky and chilling feeling to the viewer. I chose to work with markers because I have never worked with them before. The Juror said "...the stories explore the supernatural and fears of the unknown." This inspired me to create a supernatural experience. I do not fail to include a sea creature in all of my works of art, so I wanted to find a way to create a scary scene with a sea animal. I didn't want to create a scene with a shark because they are notoriously known for being scary. I wanted to put the spotlight on another creepy but very interesting creature-the angler fish.



Amanda Wu



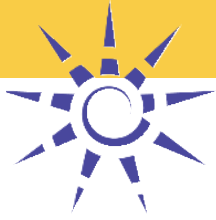
Train
Mixed Media, 13" x 19"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

This piece explores themes of isolation, urgency and the overlooked narratives that coexist within shared public spaces. The passing tram, a symbol of urban life and constant movement, becomes a stage where three contrasting yet connected figures (weary adult, a distressed child and an alert cat) are momentarily revealed.

I chose digital photo manipulation as my medium to create a surreal juxtaposition that would otherwise be impossible to capture in real-time. The medium allows me to interrupt the rhythm of ordinary scenes and inject visual storytelling into a fleeting moment.

The central figure of the child holding a "HELP" sign forces viewers to reconsider what we ignore in our peripheral vision. He becomes the emotional anchor of the piece, echoing a silent plea that is often muffled by the noise of modern life. The adult figure, lost in thought, and the cat, seemingly out of place, enhance the feeling of disconnection and surreal absurdity.



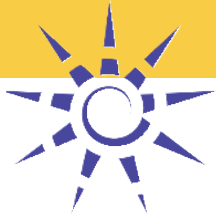
Alyssa Wulforst



The Great Beyond
Pen & Ink, 12" x 18"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

Usually when I'm alone I think about space and what's beyond the universe. Do we always come back to the same space time continuum as earth? Or what lies beyond, to show what I imagine lies beyond I show my thalassaphobia to show that whatever is out there is what we fear. Breaking the glass between reality and delirium. Because what we see is the between



Mingjie Yang



Closet Monster
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"
Syosset High School

Artist Statement:

Hidden among the darkness of your room, have you ever wondered why the babies cry at night and what the kids are afraid of? It is not because of the darkness, but is what it carries, the closet creature. It always watches you, as you fall asleep and seeks for any opportunity to take you away. The only thing you can rely on is your bed sheet and it perhaps protects you til the sun of tomorrow rises.