



HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

## Nightmare on Main Street 2025

Main Street Gallery

Artist Biographies & Statements



With Additional Support from:

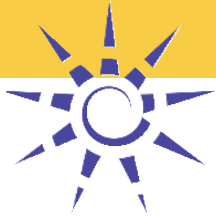
Main St. Benefactor Members

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**Council on  
the Arts**

HAC'S programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature



## Isabella Fernanda | Nightmare on Main St Juror

### Artist Quote

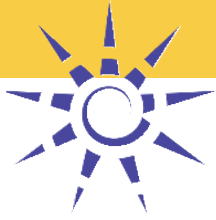
Do scary stories give you a fright? Or do they wickedly bite your toes in sight...?

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.ghts'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.



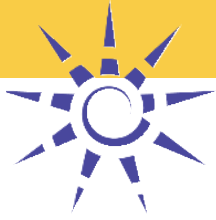
## Sienna Anderson



*The Ghost in The Woods*  
Pencil and Blending sticks, 9" x 12"  
Stimson Middle School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece that I made was inspired by a picture that I found online, just adjusting it a bit and adding some things. The original art piece that I took inspiration from had some color, but something about the piece with no color spoke to me in a way, so I left it simple. With this piece, I was going for a minimalistic style, so I left some things out, and it still worked out. In this piece, I used pencils, and blending sticks. This was one of my favorite pieces that I have ever created.



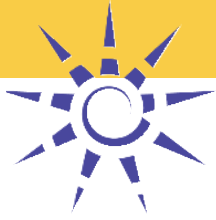
## Kellen Anderson



*I Can't Escape*  
Watercolor on Paper, 9" x 6"  
Huntington High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece was inspired by the dread and fear nightmares cause. I feel that when nightmares happen you feel helpless and that you can't get out. This piece was something that I feel I and many people do not get to express often, so it is nice to put the emotions on paper. With the cool tone and deep darks the feel of the piece is very easy to understand and also feel.



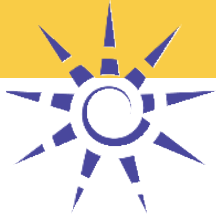
## Sierra Beamer



*The Intrusion*  
Glazed Clay, 4.25" x 6" x 9.25"  
Northport High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

I made this piece of art to make the viewer disturbed. It was inspired by the painting "The Temptation of St Anthony" by Joos van Craesbeeck. The part of the Juror's quote I was inspired by is, "When fear invades our brains with ethereal whispers and hellish wails, those melodies reveal the deepest parts of the self." I want the viewer to feel discomfort at the invasion the creatures are making into the man's head, and think about what evokes that feeling. I was thinking about the unwanted thoughts and feelings that often invade and create discomfort.



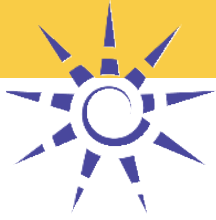
## Leah Bjorneby



*Ghosts*  
Acrylic Paint, 8" x 8"  
Cold Spring Harbor High School  
\$4

### **Artist Statement:**

I painted three friendly looking ghosts on a hill by a swing. However, the swing in the middle is still in motion, leaving it up to you to interpret who was on the swing and maybe what happened to them.



## Amanda Bodeker



### *Feeling Your Presence*

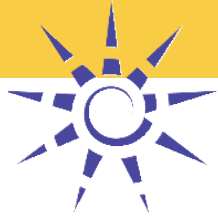
Digital Photography, 20" x 26"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

\$50

### **Artist Statement:**

Life comes to an end in unexpected ways or expected ones like old age. Loved ones and friends are constantly surrounding us even if they have passed. Their presence or ghost still lingers around, protecting you from danger to come. The ghost presented in the photo, although it may look scary, it is how I imagine these spirits to look. The image has a hidden light shining down on the ghost, which represents the light in the area. For me, I believe lights attract spirits. Every lamp, ceiling light, or lamppost light, attracts spirits. This is why the ghost is almost glowing in this photo. So the next time you truly look into a light, just think about the spirits and people who are there with you even if they are hidden in your eyes.



## Eden Bonamassa



*Before She Expires*

Gouache Marker Colored Pencil, 12" x 12"

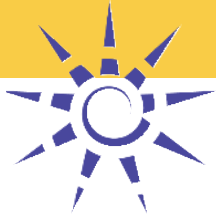
North Babylon High School

NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

The theme for this year truly stuck me.

I wanted to showcase fear literally spilling out of the brain and manifesting itself. I wanted to illustrate a scenario for the viewer to decide if creatures engaging in the mess more terrifying or is the absence of anyone during such terror worse? The girl's brain is exposed and colorful thoughts spill down into her hair hence the multicolor swirls. But instead of helping the creatures feast on her fears. Even a friendly dog but he doesn't even want to touch her without gloves. Her bloody display looks only more, appetizing to them manifesting in a slice of cake. And she has nothing to protect her, not even clothing. I really wanted to emphasize that portion of it as well, the complicated relationship with the body, being trans and getting older. Being so vulnerable is such an overwhelming fear. Yet sometimes that's on display for everyone to see like an open wound and there's no stopping it. To some there's better things for you to offer to cancel that shame out. Using up not only mind but the body as well. Still one day it will all expire. Mind and body.



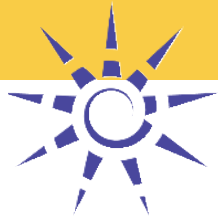
## Preston Booker



*The Spooky Closet*  
Mixed Media, 24" x 28"  
Memorial Junior High School  
\$100

### **Artist Statement:**

Now, I am not the kind of kid who was scared of monster under their bed or ghost appearing. But, ever since I was a kid I had always been afraid of something hiding in my closet. And as a junior high student I still have to admit that I am still TERRIFIED to this day that something will be in there. This drawing brings my horror to life as it shows a horrifying monster waiting in my closet next to my clothes waiting to pounce on anything it sees move with it's bloody thirsty eyes and impeccable sight. Every time I heard a noise, even the slightest creek when I was in my bed. My heart raced and I NEVER wanted to look at my closet EVER again. But, while thinking of art I wanted to draw something in my heart told me that it's okay to be scared. Now, you can call me childish ask much as you want like my brain thought. But, in life being scared is what makes us human, unique, and so much more! So, with everything I have been through I have decided to name my art "The Spooky Closet".



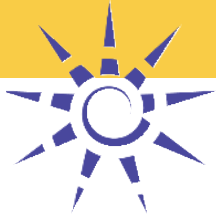
## Callie Bornstein



*Midnight Glow*  
Photography, 11" x 14"  
High School East  
\$150

### **Artist Statement:**

This is un-edited photograph explores the eerie beauty found in the night sky. The chandelier symbolizes the light captured in the night sky which is filled of mystery. This photograph invites viewers to feel thrilled and wonder what stories hide in the shadows of the night sky. As a photographer, I enjoy exploring new perspectives and finding the perfect moments to capture.



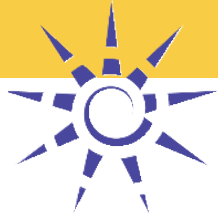
## Rae Carlson



*Pixels*  
Glazed Clay, 9" x 8" x 7"  
Northport High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece is a sculpture, I in part chose this medium as it is harder for AI to replicate. Pixel is a piece about AI's ever-growing, looming presence in creative spaces and how it is slowly poisoning the world of art. As AI threatens the jobs of more and more artists, it paints a scary picture as to what the world would become if one of the most innately human things, something that needs a soul to exist, is completely replaced by a machine that harms more than just the artists it's stealing work from. I was inspired by the thought of fear disguising itself as something else, a foe pretending to be a friend. Watching something, at first annoying, grow into a monster that is praised because it can create faster than you can, the feeling of drowning in the pixels as everything turns to static—a fight to not let it take over. I was also inspired by the increasing number of artists online fighting AI, often redrawing an image to give soul to a machine's creation, showing how humans give a touch that cannot be recreated.



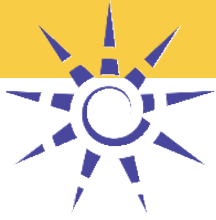
## Cynthia Chen



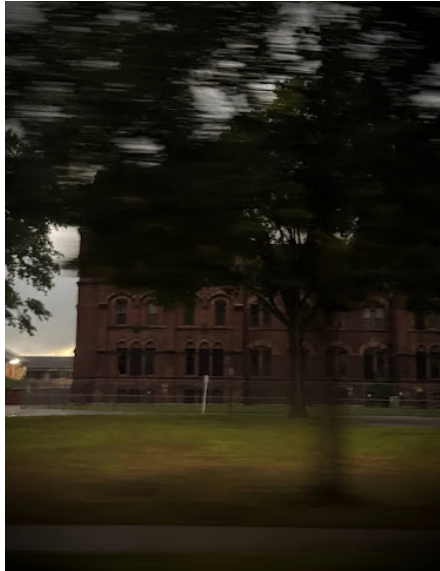
*Judgment Day*  
Gouache, 18" x 12"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My work portrays an apocalyptic world, where the sky is red and the full moon shines down upon you. A black cat glares at you, its red eyes a symbol of its divinity, and its disguise a symbol of death. The buildings surrounding you are blank, the street is empty and covered in red water. An isolated city devoid of life where there is nowhere to run and all you can do is face judgment. I took inspiration from the quote of how fear invades the brain, the fear of death and the judgment that comes with it.



## Vanessa DeVito



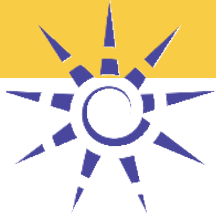
*Fading*  
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My photograph explores the feeling of fear through its blurred action with the trees with this creepy building hiding in the distance. It has dark eerie colors such as browns and reds on the building with compliments of the green trees and grass next to it. The contrast between the darkness of the trees and lightness of the grass and building kind of give the sense of mysterious feeling.

My photograph explores the feeling of fear through the dark pathway of the street leading off into the distance. The street is angled diagonally giving the unsettling feeling of not knowing what's beyond it and by going through it could lead to something worse. The contrast between the dark black street and the street lights makes the viewer's eye go towards the unknown distance giving the feeling of fear.

My photograph explores the feeling of fear because it's a large mysterious building with a dark and cloudy sky in the background. The dark browns and gray colors of the building mixed with the ominous sky give the feeling of being scared to go near. The bright lights on the doors make the viewer's eye go.



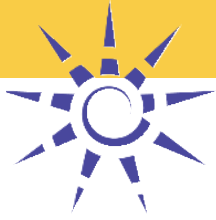
## Andie Dworkin



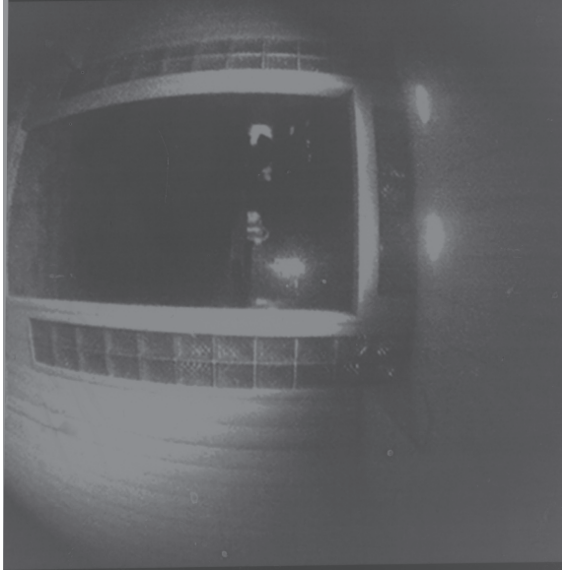
*Unseen*  
Digital Photography, 12" x 12"  
Syosset High School  
\$40

### **Artist Statement:**

My photograph, "Unseen" explores how fear can emerge from distortion and ambiguity. Utilizing a sandwich print between the subject, two different versions of my dog, the image shifts his expression from startled to sinister, the left side suggesting with his bared teeth that there is a hidden story. The surrounding darkness amplifies this uncertainty, leaving space for the viewer's imagination. By manipulating contrast and shadow, the piece embodies fear of the unfamiliar and the unordinary, turning the familiar presence of a pet into something otherworldly. My photograph, "A Darker Companion" explores the unsettling tension between familiarity and fear. The subject, my dog, is captured in stark contrast against a background that is almost void-like, his expression distorted into something both fearful and menacing. By using shadows and high contrast, the image transforms into an uncanny figure, suggesting that even the most ordinary things can hold darker possibilities. The obscurity of the background emphasizes the unknown, drawing on the idea that fear thrives in what cannot be seen or understood. This piece invites viewers to confront the uneasiness of when companionship shifts into something stranger. My photograph, "Shroud" captures the haunting presence of isolation through a single light post captured by darkness. The lamp, faintly glowing, feels less like a source of safety and more familiar to a sentinel. Surrounded by an impenetrable dark night, the structure seems fragile and almost abandoned while still alive under the weight of shadow. The piece reflects how the familiar, an ordinary post meant to guide, can take on an uncomfortable and uncanny presence when stripped of context. This piece embodies fear not through what is revealed, but what remains unseen.



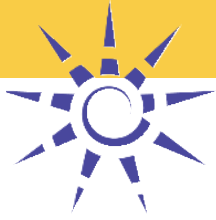
## Judy Elmaddah



*Moon Ring*  
Darkroom Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My second photo shows fear by the angle it's taken. This one also has dark shadows surrounding it but a light glowing in the middle. The background, however, shows the dark night which gives a sense of uncertainty of what could be hiding.



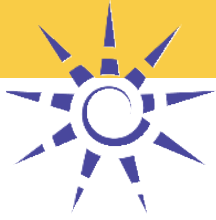
## Kate Esposito



*Old Ghosts*  
Digital Photography, 11" x 14"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

For the photograph, I was inspired by the classic idea of using moving spirals to hypnotize people. The underlying message behind this piece is how parents often warn their kids that they are being "brainwashed" by outside influences, such as their phones or friends who get them in trouble. In taking this photo, I hoped to blend long-standing ideas with current events.



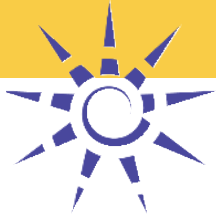
## Katie Flaherty



*The Horde*  
Mixed Media, 7" x 10"  
North Babylon High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

This artwork represents loneliness and the feeling of not belonging, with the central focus being someone walking amongst a horde of zombies, hiding themselves to stay alive. I was inspired by the Juror's quote: "In a scary story, fear is like a shape-shifter, disguising itself in the form of nightmares." This idea really resonated with me because I wanted to symbolize how loneliness can make you feel very out of place, and show it in an extreme way.



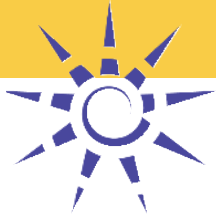
## Divya Ganshani



*The Void in my Head*  
Digital Photography, 16" x 20"  
Half Hollow Hills High School East  
\$150

### **Artist Statement:**

I captured this image with slow shutter speed and cool colored lighting. My goal was to show what lies in the darkness and within ourselves. I am focusing on the void. The void within space and the void we feel when we experience hardship, struggle, and pain. Everyone can relate to this image because we have all felt void and pain at one point of time in our lives which is scary experience that we all share. I am a passionate photographer who works with 35mm film and digital media to express my feelings and point of view.



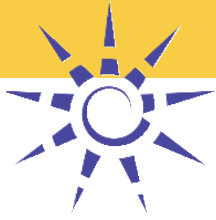
## Angelica Garcia



*The Forgotten Dwelling*  
Photography, 14" x 19"  
East Rockaway High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My artwork shows fear as a presence, found in spaces passed by in everyday life. The Juror has the idea that "fear is like a shape-shifter". I used photography to capture abandoned houses and dimly lit places where the silence is deafening. Each image captures spaces that feel trapped in time, with the suggestion that something has or will happen. Each boarded wall and empty road, leaving questions unanswered. Through the shadows and stillness, I explored the fear in the unknown, of the questions unasked, in the things left behind. I used my camera to freeze the moments that will forever be stuck in time. The worst fear isn't the unknown, it's not knowing what's right in front of you. Fear isn't always hidden; it can be in plain sight and that's when it's most terrifying.



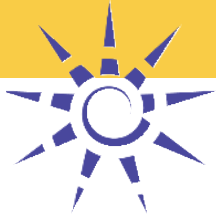
## Zoey Grochow



*Scream*  
Cyanotype, 11" x 14"  
Hills East High School  
\$150

### **Artist Statement:**

I am a photography student and I experienced the digital and cyanotype process to make these art pieces. The message I am presenting is a creepy screaming image to show an abandoned piece and a scream piece. I chose this media because to me it shows skill and experience and I loved using the different types of supplies.



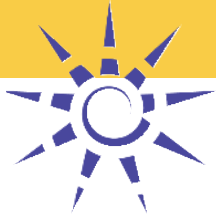
## Justin Guo



*Skull in the Night*  
Mixed Media, 7.5" x 9.5"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My work has an underlying theme of unnerving beauty. Using an image of the Rosette Space Nebula from the Hubble space telescope, I was inspired by the quote, "Throughout history, mortals have used storytelling to craft haunting imagery." Humans have been observing the sky for hundreds of years, and the Rosette Nebula became popularly known as the Skull Nebula over time, due to its partial resemblance to the frightening object. Using editing techniques, I cropped half the nebula and then mirrored it to create a full skull. Afterwards I applied a few global edits, changing saturation and curves, and then played with the color grading to bring out the details of the skull. The image paints an eerie story, yet I feel it's one written beautifully, against the faraway night sky stars.



## Nailah Harvey-Otero



*Ghosed*  
9" x 12"  
Memorial Jr. High School  
\$40 (Does not include frame)

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece explores my lifelong fear of death, which began when I was in third grade. A cemetery serves as the stage, not simply as a spooky backdrop but as a physical manifestation of that anxiety. My rational mind knows that no ghost is lurking behind a tombstone, but that knowledge has never stopped me from glancing over my shoulder, caught between the certainty of death and the ghost stories in my dreams.



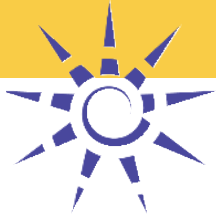
## Lucas Hill Mendizabal



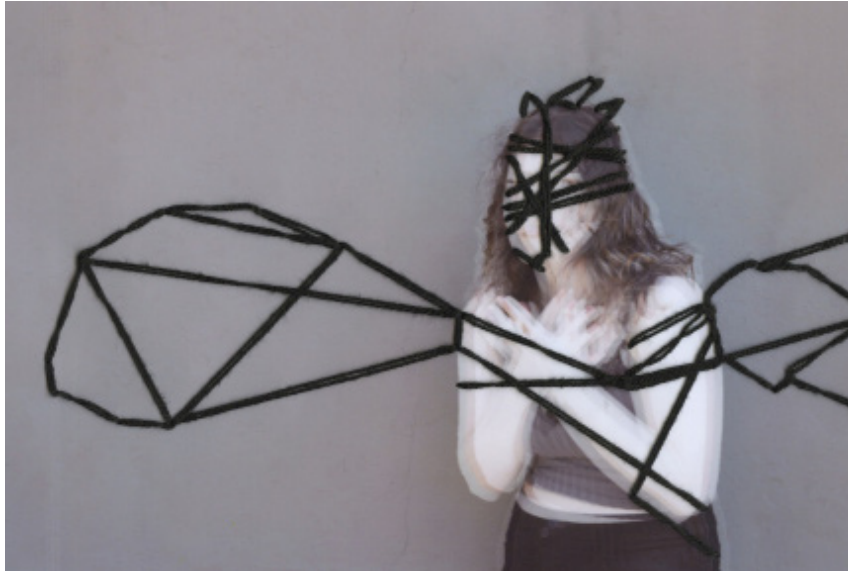
*The Last March*  
Watercolor, Ink, 12" x 18"  
Walt Whitman High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

The story of my piece follows a man shackled by the grim reaper— an embodiment of death— being marched away into the afterlife. This piece draws from themes of fear surrounding death and captive-ness, and draws inspiration from Gustave Dore's "Death on the Pale Horse" and Auguste Rodin's "Burghers of Calais". These pieces both represent the inevitability of death, with the former being a representation of death itself and the latter representing the sense of impending doom in the face of death. This piece will feature heavy contrast and shadows to represent doom and despair, and will feature symbols such as the shackles (which bind the prisoner to his fate) and the scythe (the instrument that will seal his fate).



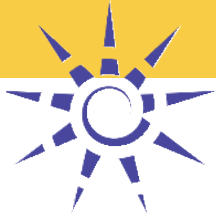
## Matthew Howell



*Bound to Society*  
Photography, 11" x 14"  
Half Hollow Hills High School East  
\$125

### **Artist Statement:**

The underlying message behind my work is the lost of free speech. I captured my subject in motion attempting to break free. Ironically her wings are also the strings holding her back. Also in terms of her being tied town, her face is tied which symbolizes society trying to silence her. As a photographer I combined my passion of making political statements and putting them within my artwork. I chose the media of photography because I felt it was the best way to capture the struggles and the political message I wanted to convey in my concept. The part of the Juror's quote that inspired me was "have used painted symbolism to evoke themes of death". But instead of exploring death in the traditional sense, I wanted my piece to symbolize the death of freedom, especially for the subject.



## Isabella Huang



*Empty*  
Darkroom Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset High School  
\$1,000,000

### **Artist Statement:**

My photo "Empty" was taken with the idea in mind of ghosts in horror movies that haunt homes. They tend to live just like normal humans but unseen.



## Emma Klein



### *Eternity*

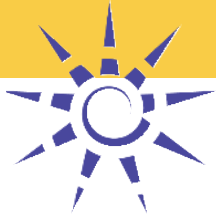
Color Pencil and Marker, 8" x 10"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School

\$200

### **Artist Statement:**

This drawing to me represents the connection between life and death. I've always been fascinated by the intricate connection between life and death. Even though death can be ugly and tragic there is always something beautiful about how necessary it is in life. This drawing was created using colored pencils and gold gouache paint for detailing. I was inspired by the Juror's quote, specifically the way it described how Frida Kahlo used imagery and symbolism "to evoke themes of death." Although I had been toying with the idea of this drawing for long before I heard about this contest it was when I heard Kahlo mentioned I knew this would be perfect. I loved the way her paintings, although focused on nature, also represented themes of mortality and grief. In my drawing the skeleton hand represents death and loss and the flowers represent life and beauty. Although these things are commonly seen as opposites in my drawing they are clearly interwoven.



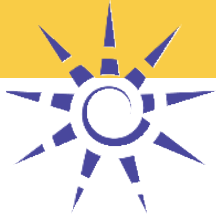
## Gillian Kralstein



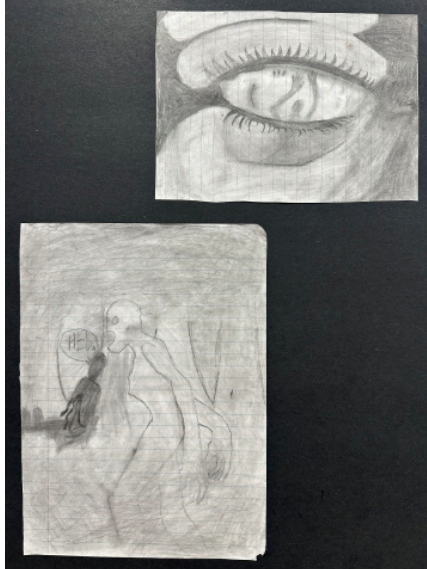
*The Last Match*  
Digital Art, 8"x 10"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

Fear is a distinctly animalistic instinct. The distinct fear of being alone, being vulnerable, is one within us as humans, as animals. If one is in the forest, alone, our nature will create the fear itself. My piece depicts the last match, the last spark before that fear fully consumes the subject. "Fear is like a shape-shifter", and here it exists in multitudes. As dark creeps upon us, when "fear invades," we cling to our last light within the storm. When I created this piece, I aimed to convey messages of being alone in the vast night full of nothing but the cold and the unknown, while something between the trees could be lurking..



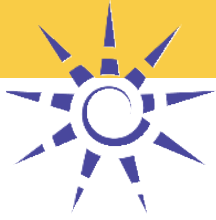
## Sarah Latham Funn



*I Can See You Screaming*  
Pencil, 14" x 18"  
Memorial Junior High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

I thought about all the things that happen to me in the pass and i made a eye with a person.



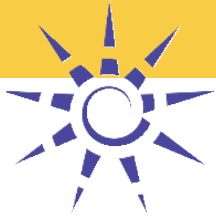
## Zackery Lau



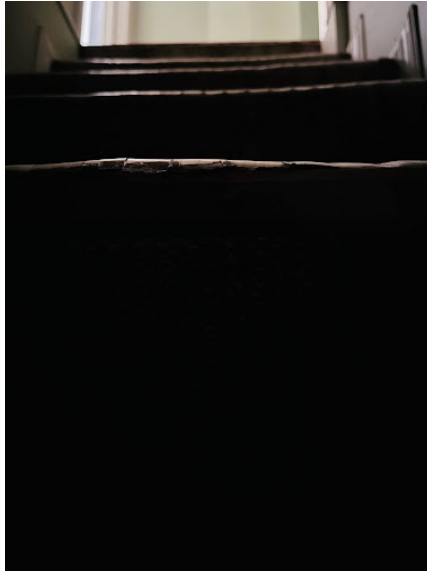
*A Set for a Ghost*  
Darkroom Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

I look up from my plate and I see it. An empty set on the dining room table. Confused, I glanced around before remembering why I placed one there. I placed one for my sister. But she's not here anymore. Though I swear I see her apparition dining on air. I share a soft chuckle to myself and clean it up. I tell my sister the story when she gets back from a sleepover, though a thought haunts me. If she were to ever die I'll probably still set it by accident, and feel very different about cleaning it back up.



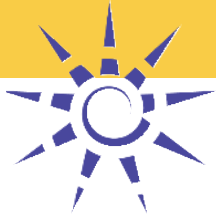
## Jacqueline Lee



*Eerie Feeling*  
Digital, 8" x 10"  
Syosset High School  
\$150

### **Artist Statement:**

The underlying message is about the sense of unease, a feeling many get. It's based on the common childhood fear of the dark, that feeling as you run up the stairs to make it to your room after shutting off the lights. This set of stairs was chosen to indicate how it may seem there is safety at the end of the stairs yet blindly following the light can lead you to a dead end.



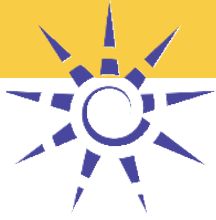
## Lucy Levitsky



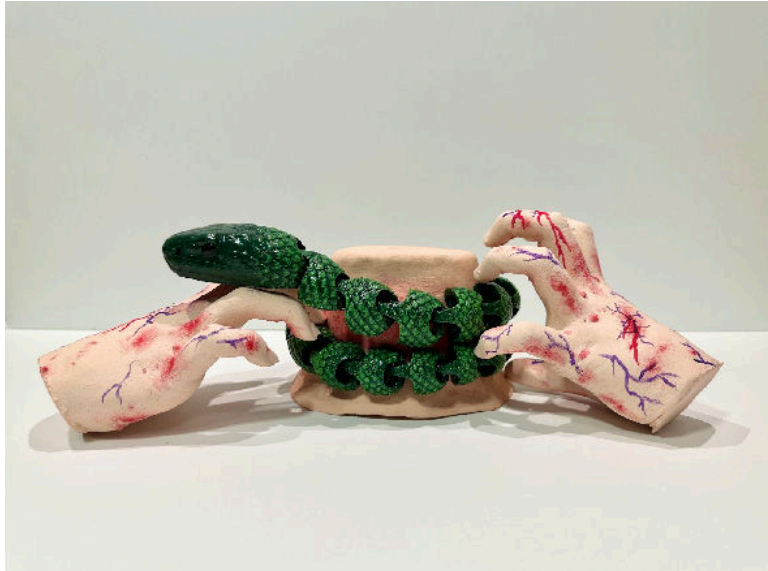
*Control*  
Pencil & Colored Pencil, 8 1/2" x 11"  
Stimson Middle School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My drawing is of a girl who is bolted together with nails and bolts. While she is fatigued and laying on the ground, a hand controls her. The hand symbolizes everything that is going on in her life and all of the rules she always gets told. She gets so controlled by everyone in the world that she doesn't even have her own thoughts. The darkness around her is everything she has been shown. For example, Social media and everything that could be disturbing or not for her age. The medium I used is pencil and colored pencil.



## Claire Lim



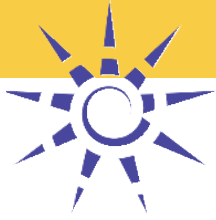
### *Ophidiophobia*

Mixed Media, 4.4" x 13" x 8"

Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece represents ophidiophobia, the fear of snakes. It depicts how a person afflicted by ophidiophobia might feel, whether it is the overwhelming anxiety of strangulation, the slimy feel of the scales, or the deadly venom. Overall, it represents the overwhelming sense of fear that one might experience from snakes. I chose this piece because, not only can many people relate to the adversity towards snakes, but also because it incorporates various mediums to bring together a cohesive piece, holding meaning that fear is built up of multiple components. Furthermore, I was inspired by the juror's statement that fear is like a shape-shifter that disguises itself as a nightmare. I think that this perfectly coincides with my concept of phobias, as snakes may seem ordinary to one person, but to a person with ophidiophobia, their fear could make snakes their worst nightmare. This inspired me to exaggerate the points that could make a person fearful of snakes, such as the slimy shine of the scales, the constriction around one's neck, and the bites and venom of the snake. These components were highlighted with vibrant and almost unnatural colors, such as neon green and purple, reflecting how fear heightens our perception, making everything seem scarier than reality.



## Andrew Lin



*The Star of Madness*  
Computer Art, 30" x 42"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

When I was making my piece, the idea I was going for was ditcher horror or cosmic horror. It's the idea that the "monster" is so big and powerful that it is beyond our comprehension. The reason I find this scary is because it leaves me asking, "What if we met something we don't understand?" If the very thing that gave us life, The Sun, betrayed us, what are we supposed to do? The story behind the piece is that one day, our sun has suddenly become a source of evil; instead of giving nutrients to plants and giving us light to see, it now burns crops and drives people crazy and blood-lust, prohibiting mankind of their sanity and normalcy. On Photoshop, I primarily used the bur tool to make everything difficult to see. I also used more brighter colors to make the light the monster.



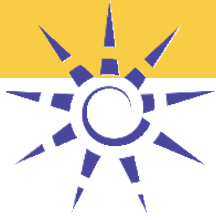
## Jillian Lyons



*Just Like You*  
Oil Pastels, 18" x 24"  
High School East  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

Sometimes horror bleeds over from the screen into reality and often times we use art to cope with said horrors. The concept of a wolf man or werewolf dates back to thousands of years ago. The concept of a person who can shift into a beastly, seemingly dangerous creature is terrifying, especially the idea that it can be spread. This, of course, was just a legend made by scared people who feared wolves attacking their livestock and needed people to scapegoat. While the stigma around wolves has since been at least partially removed, the same cannot be said about the practice of using people as scapegoats. This piece uses what can be inferred to be some kind of wolf or werewolf trick-or-treating with a group of children in wolf masks as a vessel to tell a story about isolation, alienation, and self consciousness. The wolf, too, is a trick-or-treater, holding a pumpkin baggie full of candy just like the rest of the children. The kids hold hands and dance around happily in the light of the streetlamp, all but the middle child preoccupied with their own business. The middle child sees the wolf, hanging back, just outside the light, their wolf mask in particular allowing them to make eye contact with the figure. This can be interpreted in a positive or negative light. The other children wear masks on Halloween, pretending to be odd and scary, but the wolf knows what that is like; for him, it isn't a mask.



## Kelly Madrid



### *Locked Box*

Pencil & Fine Point Sharpie, 9" x 12"

Walt Whitman High School

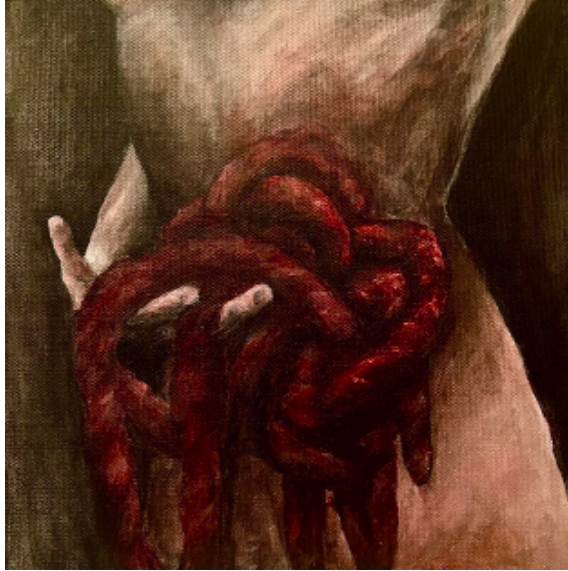
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My inspiration for this piece comes partly from a dream that I had and partly from my uncle. My uncle advocates for immigrant rights and spreads awareness as to laws concerning immigrants or ICE's whereabouts through social media. He spreads awareness his way and I'd like to spread awareness my way. I have had this reoccurring dream where there is a long hallway inside of an abandoned palace, with a locked box at the end of it. The person inside was of a tan complexion with dark hair and dark eyes. I could very easily tell they were from Latin American descent, just like me. I could also tell what the symbolism behind the dream was. It was about hard working immigrants being sent to prisons unfairly. My heart aches for anyone else who has to live with the fear of losing a friend or family member, because I also know what it is like to live with that fear.



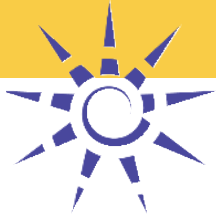
## Kaitlin Melling



*Guts Unspilled*  
Acrylic Paint, 10" x 10"  
Oyster Bay High School  
\$1,000

### **Artist Statement:**

I was feeling very caged in and unable to express anything when I made "Guts Unspilled." I wanted to visually show how it felt like I couldn't fit my insides into my body, because I felt so stuck. It's a concept that's unclear and doesn't make a lot of sense, because it goes against the typical "spilling guts" concept. That confusion represents the state of mind I was in at the time of creating it, unsure of anything, but wanting to get something out.



## Mason Miller



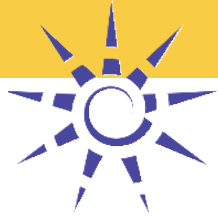
*Zombie vs. Haunted House*  
Sculpture, 17" x 7"  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

I made *Zombie vs. Haunted House* because I love creepy things and scary stories. I wanted to show how nightmares can feel way bigger than they are in real life. The zombie skeleton is huge, and it looks like it's taking over the little haunted house. That's how fear works sometimes—it feels giant, even if the thing you're afraid of is small.

I used a lot of different materials because I like building things with my hands. The skeleton is made with clay, yarn, old clothes, paint, and hot glue. That made it look rough and gross, like a real zombie. The haunted house was 3D printed, but I painted it and added pumpkins and moss so it would look haunted. I liked using both handmade and digital art together because that's the kind of art I enjoy doing.

The Juror's quote made me think about how art isn't just what you see, it's also about the feeling. That's why I made the zombie so much bigger than the house. It shows how fear can grow in your imagination, like in scary legends and folklore. My piece is about how nightmares and monsters live in our minds, and how fun it is to bring them to life with art.



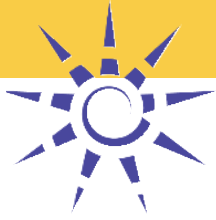
## Hayden Mui



*Apocalypse*  
Mixed Media, 9" X 12"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

You were at a park with your friends, your friend just left to go home, your friend is under the trees/ but somethings off.. The woods are moving...The woods are, alive. The ravens are monitoring you, remain at rest. You must act quick, there is something in the trees... The trees are shifting forward towards you.



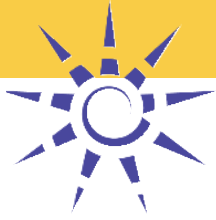
## Sophia Pane



*Death of the Innocence's*  
Digital, 32" x 32"  
High School East  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

Each one of my works strives to achieve something different. My second piece "death of the innocence's" wanted to demonstrate how society watches the killing of innocence and is almost entertained by the fact it happens. In the current political climate of the world I thought this piece was controversial but I believe art is a way of spreading opinions visually and beautifully. I choose to draw in digital art because it allows me to explore different aspects that would be more difficult to achieve on a canvas. For my quote inspiration it came from the line "fear is like a shape-shifter, disguising itself in the form of nightmares. Throughout history, mortals have used storytelling to craft haunting imagery." This line inspired me because it felt so true not only as a kid who was read stories that were centuries old but also as a teen who has seen evil outside the book and in people. Each piece was based off a part of this quote. My second piece "Death of the innocences" was based off the same line but I wanted to take a more political and real world horror. This piece shows that people watch and keep watching the brutal murder of those who have done no wrong. This work is inspired by wars that have led to the deaths of many.



## Juliette Poitrimol

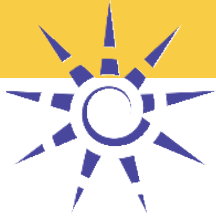


*Whispers Beneath the Tree*  
Painting, 10" x 10"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

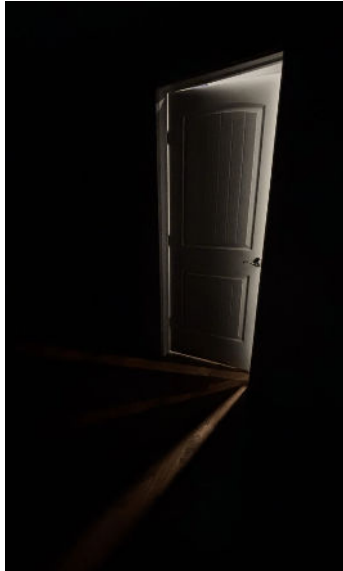
### **Artist Statement:**

There is always a darkness lurking... waiting. Sometimes that darkness reveals itself; other times, it hides within us. In "Whispers Beneath the Tree," at first your eyes find comfort in the serenity of a woman reading by the lake, untroubled... tranquil. If only life were that easy.

As a kid your reality is often filled with only light and hope. Only now as I get older, I see the cracks in that reality as the darkness peers through. Your eyes shoot back to the tree from which she emerges. Those hollowed out eyes of the waterlogged girl with hair hanging like strands of rot. Like the darkness, she doesn't move. She waits. She whispers to lure you in. It is your choice whether or not you listen and allow that darkness to consume you.



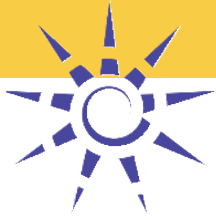
## Brandon Ramirez



*What Lurks Within*  
Digital Photography, 8" x 10"  
Syosset High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My first photo explores the concept of the unknown and the feeling that there is something larger waiting inside. The rest of the picture being surrounded by darkness helps add to the feeling that something lurks behind the door. The use of digital photography helps capture the light and detail unlike any other form.



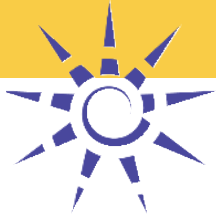
## Deanna Santos



*Fear of Isolation*  
Acrylic Paint on Canvas, 13" X 10"  
North Babylon High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

In this artwork I wanted to convey the theme of loneliness. I find that isolation is one of my biggest fears. When I created this artwork I wanted the viewer to feel scared and alone. I took inspiration from the jurors quote of, "when fear invades our brains with ethereal whispers and hellish wails, those melodies reveal the deepest parts of the self." Portrayed in the artwork shows a woman alone and scared in a dark room with nothing but candle light and old letters.



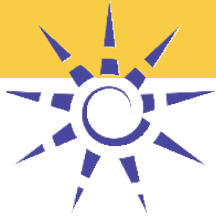
## Ben Segal



*Twisted Abyss*  
Darkroom Photography, 8" X 10"  
Syosset High School  
\$15

### **Artist Statement:**

The abandoned King's Park Psychiatric Ward provides an insight to Long Island history, showing us the horrors of the studies and patients admitted through 1885-1996. The once living nightmare inspired me through its worn down architecture, having pipes and rotting trash scattered all over the place (reminding me of A Nightmare on Elm Street's boiler room). The walls themselves remind me of the deceased and their intense urge to escape this prison, constrained by metal cages and bars, trapping them and their hellish wails in the purgatory that is the asylum. The mind shifts into a state of fear, reverting back to primal urges for a means of protection from the ghouls of the asylum, haunting figures and shape-shifting shadows encroach on the living, attempting to steal the soul of the living in a final endeavor for a chance to escape the eternal prison that is the asylum.



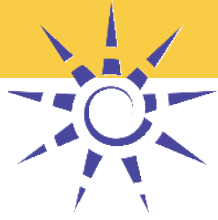
## Gianna Simo



*The Wolf in the Hood*  
Mixed Media, 14" X 24"  
North Babylon High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My artwork was inspired by the story of little red riding hood. Our prompt of stories inspired me to choose the little red riding hood story and the idea of the wolf being a scary character and also being little red riding hood was my idea. The wolf and the girl are meant to be the same person as they have the same colored hair and the same colored eyes. In my artwork little red riding hood is scared of the wolf that she becomes.



## Carly Snow



*Enter If You Dare*  
Photography, 16" X 20"  
Hills East High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

This image is a striking confrontation with fear, mortality, and the unknown. The crimson floods the scene with an atmosphere of danger and violence, as if the entire world has been consumed by fire or blood. The raised hand reads like both a warning and a greeting. An invitation into darkness. This piece feels like a meditation on thresholds. The passage between safety and danger; the known and the unknown; life and death. It asks: when confronted by darkness we fear most, do we step through the doorway, or do we retreat into the illusion of safety.



## Rebeca Sorto Alfaro



*Beneath the Fury*  
Charcoal, 12" X 18"  
Walt Whitman High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

My scary story is about traveling through the unknown, especially the deep ocean. The ocean is already mysterious, and no one truly knows what it hides. You could drown from fear, or literally drown, and never know what was around you. Bio-luminescent creatures could be much closer than you imagine, and the darkness swallows everything, even you.

The juror's prompt about telling a scary story made me think about how the ocean itself is one of the scariest places, because it's real and still unexplored. I wanted my piece to show that mix of fear and curiosity, where beauty and horror live together in the dark.



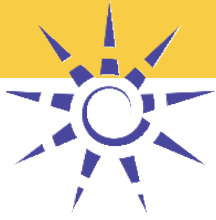
## Jennifer Sukhram



*Fear in Light*  
Colored Pencil, 6.5" X 9"  
Memorial Jr. High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

Art is a passion and a motivation in life. Art helps through stress but it definitely can create a mess. Art pieces always have meanings and they are true and deep. Colors cut deep into art and express them in a lot of ways. Art is true and divine if you put your heart in it.



## Madison Thomas

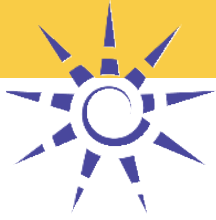


*The Misleading God*  
Digital Artwork, 13" X 19"  
Valley Stream North High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

The underlying message behind my artwork is that I wanted to show how the character, The face of truth is his name, represents the brutal truth and clarity. How it can be DREADING and terrifying because sometimes you don't want to know the truth. YOU'RE SCARED OF IT... It's as if you're being forced to look at something you don't want to see, he's supposed to be unsettling. His face is twisted to show that theme.

The quote: "The uncomfortable truth: In the end, you realize it's just you!"  
I wanted to use this quote because it is the realization of holding accountability and responsibility for something horrible that you did and nobody is coming to save YOU. Its forceful, you can't go pass it.



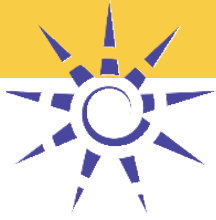
## Kaya Wagner



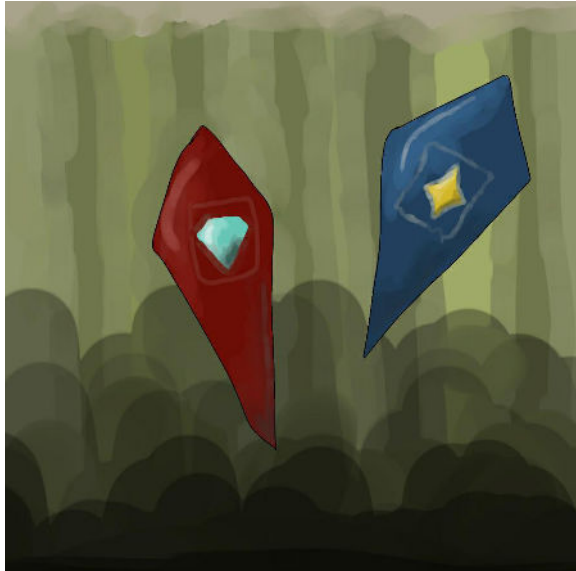
*Locked with Dead Love*  
Acrylic paint and colored pencil, 9" X 12"  
North Babylon High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

The reason I made this is because I was inspired by someone close to me. Ever since my uncles death his Fiance situation always stuck to me every time she get close to someone like engaged it doesn't end well, and well as you can tell by the artwork most of the time it results in death, It's almost like a curse. Knowing my uncle he would have wanted me to make art out of it, to help through the grief. He was a very "don't get emotional over me, make the best out of it". So to make him proud of me I wanted to make something somewhat inspired by his Fiance's story, of course I over told the story making it more scary then it is, cause in reality its sad, but i wanted to make the story out of that concept, showing fear and grief through art in my mind is extremely powerful.



## Mohib Waseem

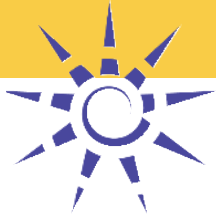


*Two Coffins for Two Rich Guys*  
Digital, 1000 px x 1000 px  
Valley Stream Memorial Junior High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

I drew two precious gems engraved into two large magic crystals inside an old, worn-down room. It looks like it's been a while since this room has been accessed, and the paint looks smudged.

I wanted to give off the feel of something being wrong. It's not scary in a conventional way - it's supposed to give off the feeling that something bad happened, or that something is wrong. It basically gives off the feeling that the passage of time is causing the whole room to warp.



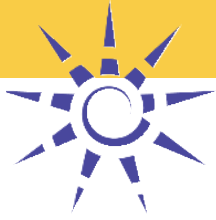
## Tommy Wasylyshyn



*It Must be Cut*  
Mixed Media, 13" x 12"  
Walt Whitman High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

"It Must be Cut" is inspired by The Three Fates (Alexander Rothaug). This piece uses symbolism to show death. The string represents one's life, which is cut by a pair of scissors, which represent death and how sudden it can be. I used charcoal and charcoal pencils to create my piece. I chose this medium because I wanted to try something new and step out of my comfort zone. I used white charcoal and vine/compressed charcoals to emphasize the lights and darks of the piece. The Juror's quote inspired me by giving me the idea of using "narrative art." I told the story of life and death in my piece to show the power and influence of true fear.



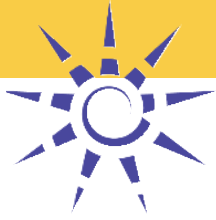
## Alice Wei



*Mosie*  
Gauche, 9" x 12"  
Cold Spring Harbor High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

"Mosie", named after what I named the mosasaurus skeleton in the piece, is meant to depict an irrational fear of something that does not have the capacity to actually deliver you any harm. This could be a fear of something that does not exist, like a fear of the paranormal, or a fear of something that does exist but is not inherently harmful, like meeting new people. "Mosie" depicts this by depicting the fear of a fossil, as a fossil has not had any capacity to cause harm whatsoever for a very long time.



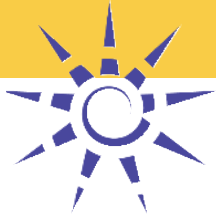
## Shannon Weisman



*Allergic to my Blood*  
Mixed Media, 10.5" x 8.5" x 1.75"  
Northport High School  
NFS

### **Artist Statement:**

Oftentimes, we imagine monsters as external creatures. However, I believe that the most frightening beings can be ourselves. In my piece, I depict a woman looking into her "reflection." The creature staring back at her is a vocalization of how inner monologue can impact self reflection. I used shades of red to symbolize danger and strong emotions. I also used a real mirror to immerse the viewer in the idea of looking back at something that doesn't remotely resemble what you expect to see. Furthermore, my title expresses the idea of feeling uneasy with oneself.



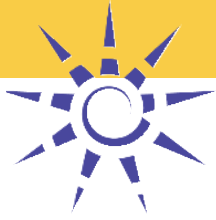
## Hailey Weisse



*Wear Your Retainer*  
Mixed Media, 13" x 9.5"  
North Babylon High School  
\$45

### **Artist Statement:**

AHHHHHH tooth fairies are taking my teeth out!!! I should've worn my retainer!!! This idea came to me when I was trying to put my retainer in and it kept popping out because I have not worn it in months so as punishment the tooth fairy sent her fairy friends to rip my teeth out because I took my nice straight teeth for granted. I am so scared of this happening and I think we all should be.



## Melanie Zhu



*Don't Speak*  
Ceramics, 7.625" × 5.375" × 0.375"  
Syosset High School  
\$100

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece takes inspiration from my own experiences in religion, a very heavy concept for most. I was tied to it by blood yet I was granted liberation. However, this constant tug between two sides often picked away at my identity, silencing my opinions and thought. Religion is typically viewed as safe, but it can also become a dangerous weapon. Ceramics was the best way to depict the actual feeling of suffocation and blindness of one's own identity. The Juror's quote; "...fear is like a shape-shifter, disguising itself in the form of nightmares" inspired me heavily. Usually, fear doesn't take form in reality. Instead, it takes root in minds, where they sink their claws in from the inside. This greatly impacted my idea of having "nightmares" to be the one damaging the person, portrayed by dark hands.