

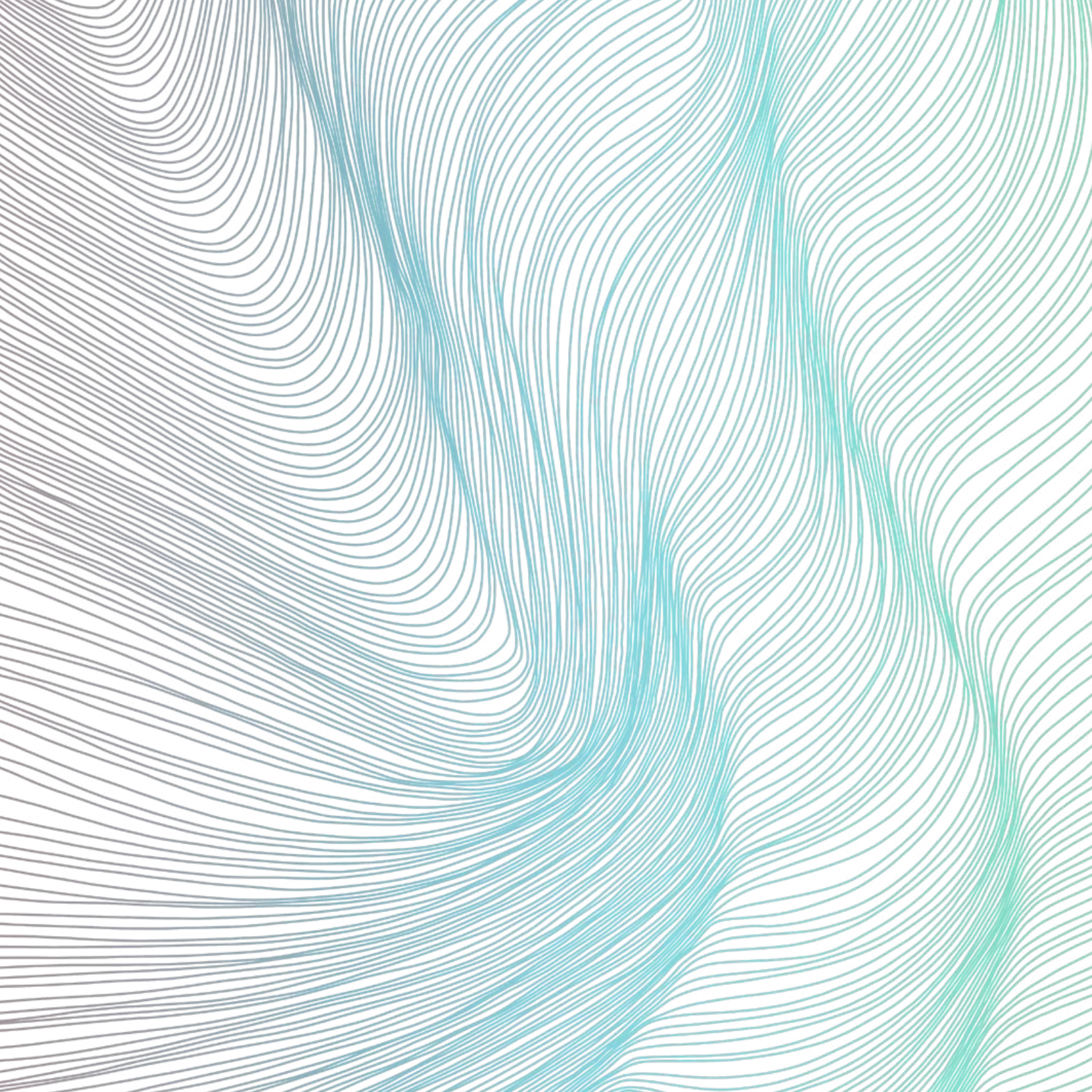


NUMU  
REPORT  
NOW

ANNUAL SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
JURIED HIGH SCHOOL EXHIBITION

**UNARMED TRUTH 2023**









# ARTNOW 2023: UNARMED TRUTH

12th Annual Santa Clara County  
Juried High School Art Exhibition  
March 31 - June 25, 2023

New Museum Los Gatos | NUMU  
106 E. Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030  
[numulosgatos.org](http://numulosgatos.org) | 408.354.2646 | EIN: 94-1619601

NUMU is a nonprofit art & history museum located in the Los Gatos Civic Center Plaza. NUMU's mission is to engage the community at the intersection of art, history, and education through innovative, locally connected, and globally relevant exhibits, programs, and experiences.



*ArtNow* exhibiting artists, Awards Ceremony, May 20, 2023



# THANK YOU FROM THE NUMU TEAM

Art can transform, empower, and bring us together. It provides space to actively listen and to speak freely without minimizing the perspectives of others. The truth can hurt, heal, and make way for genuine self-expression. This year New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU) invited Santa Clara County high school students to create an original work of art that reveals a personal or universal truth.

*"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."*

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech  
Oslo, Norway, 1964

We received 800 submissions from student artists representing 37 high schools across the County, the most students to ever submit to the program. This exhibition features work from 83 students from 23 high schools. Taking inspiration from personal experiences and social movements, these artists peeled back a layer for us all to delve deep and witness what's below their surface. Sharing themes of identity, dreams, spirituality, relationships, cultural heritage, and mental health, the artworks in this exhibition reveal unseen truths we all share.

*Unarmed Truth* marks 12 years of showcasing the powerful voices and unique experiences of high school students throughout Santa Clara County. For the first time, the exhibition theme was co-conceived by the *ArtNow* Teen Council, a group of passionate and creative interns – an exciting step forward in elevating the program to be more widely accessible and relevant to teenagers living across the county. Through this meaningful partnership with student artists, teens are not just the recipients of the *ArtNow* program but its architects.

We are so excited for what's to come for the *ArtNow* program as it continues to grow and reach more students, teachers and schools throughout the county. We hope that this powerful collection of artwork inspires you to speak your truth!

# UNARMED TRUTH

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] on paper

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] High School  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] often [REDACTED] displays  
our [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] secret  
[REDACTED] so [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the pains [REDACTED] being  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] of destruction. Oftentimes, [REDACTED] see  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] every layer [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
of myself stripped [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and unarmed [REDACTED]

...so we are made into cannibals  
burying hearts and forced to feed  
on ourselves to find our own God

It is why we tear through the small of our backs  
to break the expanse and attach wings to our tongues  
to taste how the world seasons its storied heavens  
in same way, we learn to find ourselves  
in the escape.



It is why silhouettes  
can never be alone  
as they are running  
from their light.

It is why the ocean  
workshops the sand into  
its own design and  
back again to itself.

It is why there is so much untouched desire  
that folds into our own devouring  
...So, I say  
if I am to be as black as the soul  
I think, they say,  
I am  
then, I want to pull the wish out of the break my shoulders  
created to swallow the hope stuck in its seams.  
To push till uncoupled, till we are together  
Breath and seraph in perfect contrast  
to the ache and vanquish.  
Till the inhale is sweetened  
from the melting lick of a body pulled from the soul.

As twin swans dueling against the hate of their bottomless mouths.  
I want every beautiful we claim to be a weightless shadow  
sitting in silence and waiting to see  
that it is our own reflections accepting that  
there is no where to go to heal unless  
back into the whole of ourselves

**Poem by Tshaka Campbell, Santa Clara County Poet Laureate**

## Teachers featured in this year's exhibition:

Pilar Agüero-Esparza  
Christine An  
Tracey Atkinson  
Kimberly Bartel  
Jon Bischofberger  
Amanda Borges  
Rachael Bradley  
Audrey Brown  
Brian Caponi  
Yoonsun Chai  
Brian Chow  
Emily Christie

Tyler Cripe  
Alex Czech  
Karen Dequine  
Meghan Engel  
Brandi Fabricius  
Jessica Hayes  
Virginia Ingelfinger  
Courtney Jasiulek  
Laurie Kirk  
Viviana Leila-Sysak  
Jongmin Lim  
Sandy Mahler

Augustina Matsui  
Eva Olsen  
Stacy Rapaport  
Brendon Reutebuch  
Matthew Reynolds  
Joel Tarbox  
Svetlana Teplova  
Deborah Trilling  
Mark Yanowsky  
Catherine Zweig

*"What we instill in our children will be the foundation  
upon which they build their future."*

Steve Maraboli



# A MESSAGE FOR TEACHERS

It takes an entire community to create something as incredible as *ArtNow*, and a key factor to this program's tremendous impact are the arts educators in Santa Clara County. Arts educators are doing truly miraculous work in California. The value of arts education is undeniable in increasing problem solving skills, critical thinking, creative expression, confidence, grades and the list goes on. In today's society, educators are faced with an array of challenges yet, these educators remain committed to guiding our youth to be the leaders and problem solvers of tomorrow. We are immensely grateful to have a community of talented educators who have incorporated *ArtNow* into their curriculum and who inspire their students to speak their truth through artistic expression.

From all of us at NUMU, we appreciate all your work in ushering the next generation of creative minds. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.



**Kimberly Snyder**, Interim Executive Director

*"The purpose of arts education is not to produce more artists, though that is a byproduct. The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society."*

Dana Gioia  
*Former California Poet Laureate  
and Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts*



Thank you to our wonderful Teen Council Members of the *ArtNow 2023* season!

**Nathan Chyu**, Archbishop Mitty High School, Grade 11 • **Dylan Crooks**, Notre Dame San Jose, Grade 10 • **Rachael Ding**, Monta Vista High School, Grade 11 • **Anuhya Gottam**, Valley Christian High School, Grade 10 • **Zoe Hammer**, Los Gatos High School, Grade 12 • **Liam Johnson**, Los Gatos High School, Grade 12 • **Gia Kalyani**, Los Altos High School, Grade 12 • **Arlie Lowe**, Leigh High School, Grade 12 • **Annie Marcelino**, Mountain View High School, Grade 11 • **Catharine Saechao**, Independence High School, Grade 12 • **Sneha Thayaparan**, Leland High School, Grade 9 • **Stella Walker**, Westmont High School, Grade 11 • **Tiffany Xu**, Homestead High School, Grade 11

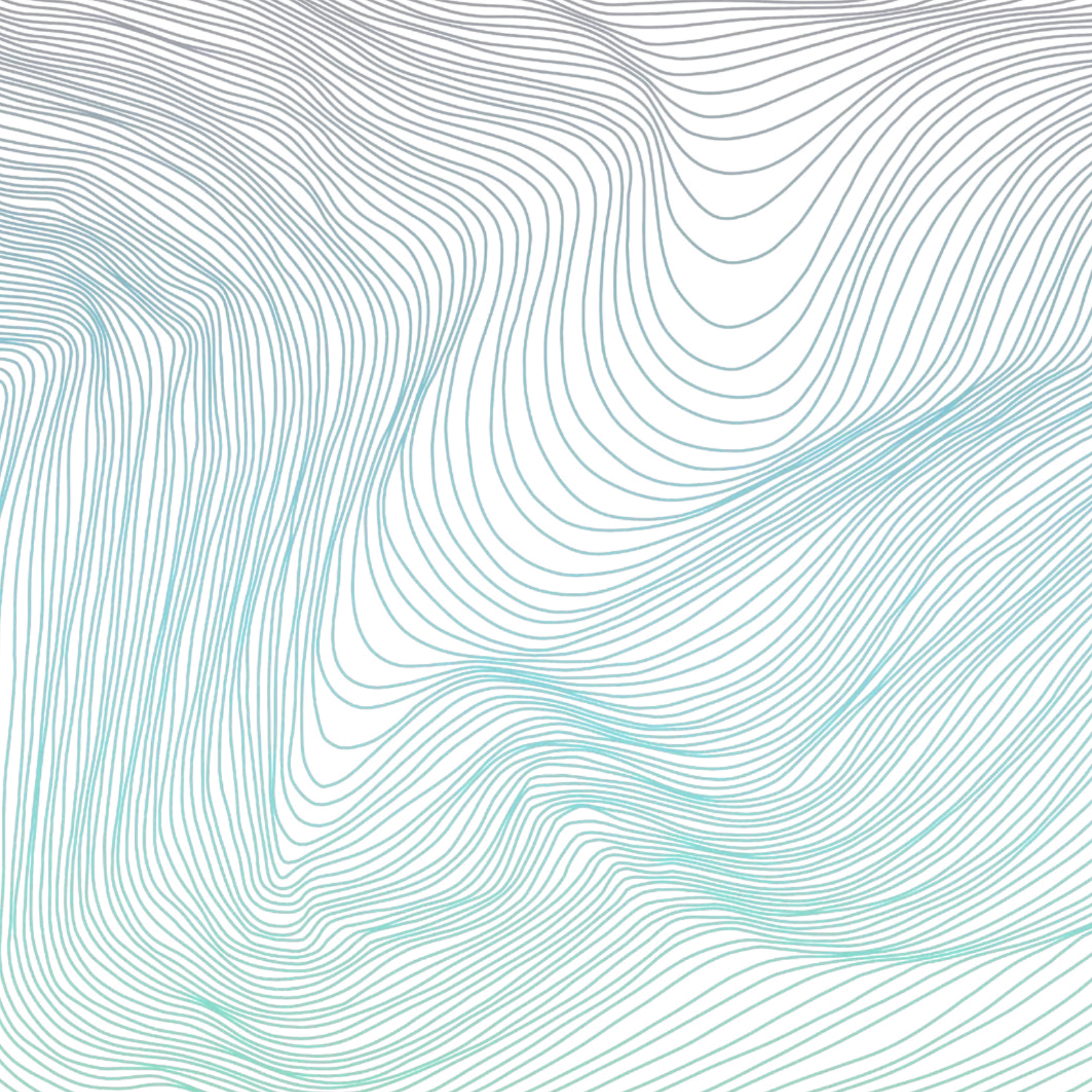


# ARTNOW TEEN COUNCIL

For the first time ever, NUMU has launched an *ArtNow* Teen Council composed of high school interns who helped to elevate the *ArtNow* program to be more widely accessible and relevant to teenagers living across Santa Clara County. In this season of *ArtNow*, our wonderful interns assisted with co-creating the exhibition theme *Unarmed Truth*, developed the first ever *ArtNow* education toolkit for students and teachers, arranged the artwork and selected quotes in the gallery, led public tours and helped with our biggest programs of the year including the *ArtNow* Award Ceremony. Through establishing the *ArtNow* Teen Council, NUMU hopes to build a stronger partnership with student artists so that they aren't just the recipients of the *ArtNow* program, but the architects. The dream is to establish this internship as a key feature of the *ArtNow* program. We received over 100 applications to the internship this year, and we look forward to being able to offer more professional development opportunities to teens across the county in the months and years to come.

"I've been dreaming about establishing the *ArtNow* Teen Council for over two years, and it's been an absolute blast to help it come to life. Our Teen Council Members are so thoughtful, creative and passionate about art. Their input helped elevate our theme selection process, and guided us to a theme that the NUMU team wouldn't have come up with on their own. It was a meaningful experience not only for me but the entire museum staff. I'm so excited for what's to come for the program and to see how each of these emerging leaders and artists forge their paths forward in the arts community!"

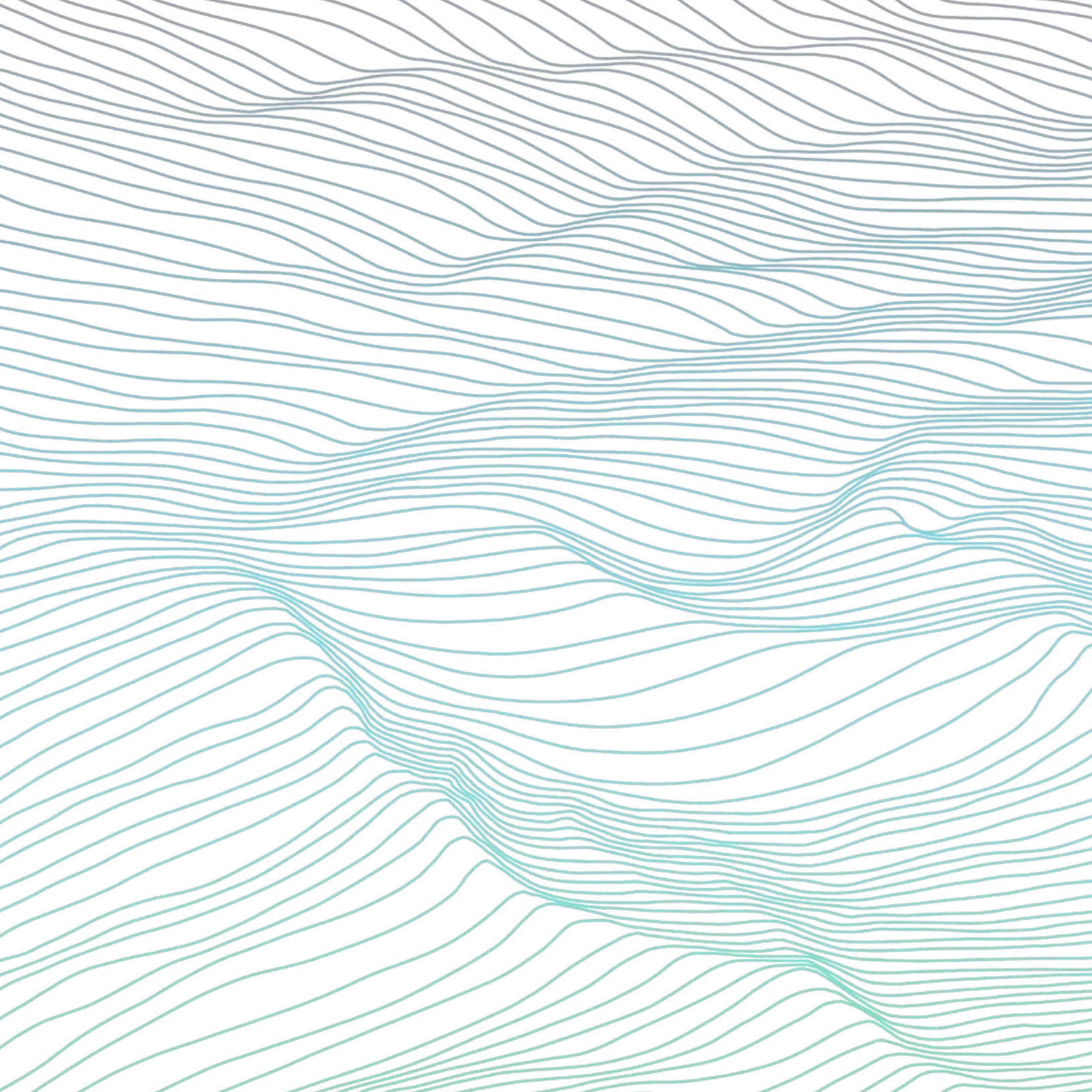
**Michèle Jubilee**, NUMU's Education Curator





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The background of the image consists of numerous thin, wavy, light blue lines that flow across the frame from top to bottom. The lines are closely spaced and create a sense of movement and depth, similar to a topographical map or a digital signal visualization. The overall color palette is a soft, pale blue against a white background.

**DIGITAL ART**



## Maya Cheshire

*Reverence*

Digital illustration

Grade 11

The Harker School

Instructor: Pilar Agüero-Esparza

In this piece, I explore divine truth and spirituality from multiple doctrines, primarily Hinduism and Christianity, with the statue of Shiva and the garden of Eden. I question what is true divinity and whether the form it takes matters. As a person of mixed heritage, Indian and British, I also tried to use symmetry to depict the internal conflict and reconciliation of a personal truth – that I am a blend of cultural traditions and experiences, and I do not need to commit to one side.





## Yokuyo Guo

*The Civilized Livestock*

Digital illustration

Grade 10

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An

We live in a world where rules are executed by violence. Military keeping the world at peace, police arresting criminals, and civilians having the right to own guns are all “armed” justice. Then, what are the “unarmed” forces that control the world? It is money. It is capitalism. It is the system where people earn money to control part of the world in order to be free from living as “civilized livestock”. But as we earn more money to enjoy attempting freedom from social constraints, we are actually being more tightly tied to the “unarmed truth”.

## Judges’ Recognition Digital Art

Award presented by Badger Meter, Inc.

## Ireen Jeang

*Systematical Fear Inside*

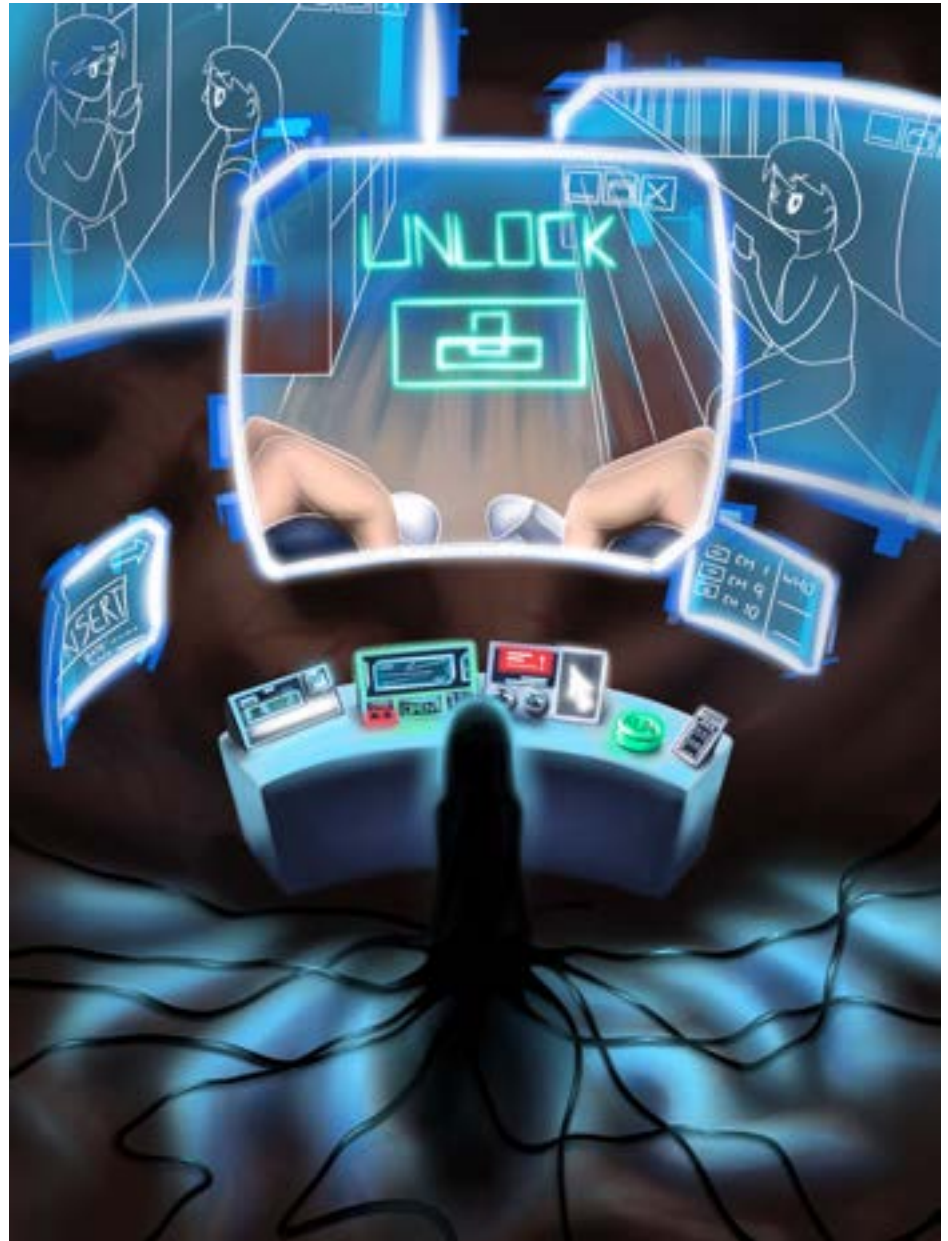
Digital illustration

Grade 12

Westmont High School

Instructor: Amanda Borges

Ever since I was little and moved to a foreign country, I have always overthought everything; people's views of me, my looks, my friends, my relationships, and my entire life. I always lived a life full of worry and doubts that everything around me will eventually dislike me and leave me. Being a quiet person, I never liked to be the center of attention, especially about something uncomfortable. Therefore, the overstimulating thoughts of having people look at me always are manipulated in my mind, no matter if I'm at school or at a coffee shop.







## Alexa Johnson

*Amalgam*

Digital illustration

Grade 12

Saint Francis High School

Instructor: Brendon Reutebuch

My unarmed truth is a personal one, in that I wanted to exhibit that many parts of who I am are a mix of influences from the world around me. I am a culmination of many mediums: the people I've met, the things I've experienced, and the media I consume. Things have been added on and taken off, and yet, in the center, my unfiltered essence remains. The title of my piece derives from the word amalgamation, meaning "the action, process, or result of combining or uniting."

## Tanvi Kanderi

*Aphrodite*

Digital illustration

Grade 12

Monta Vista High School

Instructor: Brian Chow

Beauty is subjective. However, our society strictly follows exclusionary beauty standards, and people who do not fit these narrow expectations are vilified as if their appearance is indicative of a moral failing. Body types fall in and out of trend at a dizzying rate, despite the fact that people with unconventional bodies are no less lovable and worthy of respect as everyone else. I represented this truth in my piece, inspired by the Greek Goddess of love and beauty being born from sea foam. I wanted to challenge the dominant narrative that fatness and beauty are mutually exclusive.





## Saanvi Kumar

*Pool of Time*

Digital illustration

Grade 12

Westmont High School

Instructor: Amanda Borges

The inevitable countdown of time is soul crushing, there is nothing you can really do to stop it. Climbing, clawing and crying won't keep the soft ticks of time slowly collapsing in on itself. My unarmed truth is that time is my biggest fear. Time brings change, time bring uncertainty, and most gut wrenching of all, time brings the end. I created this piece channeling all my negative feelings into this kaleidoscope of color and clocks, representing just how unpredictable time can be.

## 2nd Place Digital Art

Award presented by Badger Meter, Inc.



## Ava Monroe

*Enjoy Your Time*

Digital painting

Grade 11

Leigh High School

Instructor: Kimberly Bartel

Every life ends in death. People are often fearful of death and its randomness. The truth is, we need to enjoy life despite the knowledge of this harsh reality. I chose to use bright colors in a very typical "happy" scene – a fruit market with people interacting. The skull in the window is looming in the background, reminding viewers of their inevitable end. The people in the scene appear completely oblivious to any disruption to their daily life, representing the universal truth that in spite of the inevitability of death, we should enjoy every single moment we have.





## Lauren Ogden

*Trapped*

Digital painting

Grade 12

Leigh High School

Instructor: Kimberly Bartel

Domestic violence remains an undeniably prevalent issue. However, it often goes unseen – it is estimated that just half of all domestic abuse incidents are reported. In my piece, a girl's expression is defiant as the shadow of her mother's attacking hand covers her mouth, symbolizing her truth: her voice silenced, she fears the consequences of speaking out. Like many others, her family tries to mask their broken, abusive reality. They don delicate jewelry and take carefully posed portraits. Upon closer inspection, feelings of resentment peek through in deceptive framed pictures to reveal a violent truth.

## Diep Van Pham Nguyen

*Cons of Being a Wallflower*

Digital illustration

Grade 11

Independence High School

Instructor: Virginia Ingelfinger

The truth is, I feel like a chameleon. And it's cause I'm autistic. My art shows a lot of these similarities. We're both frigid, isolated, and camouflaging, but even then we just stick out. There's a sickening feeling realizing something is fundamentally different about you from others. Like ivy to a brick wall, I continue to cling onto things in some futile effort to feel normal. Chameleons are different from other lizards; they honestly creep me out. But truthfully, I'm not any better. Do I creep people out? Am I doing something wrong? Am I just a permanent wallflower?





## Catharine Saechao

*Dangers of Polarization*

Digital painting

Grade 12

Independence High School

Instructor: Virginia Ingelfinger

Sometimes I don't know how to feel about societal pressures, politics, and social justice. Media turns the world into black and white – right and wrong. To be young is to be vulnerable. Others try to use this to speak for me, or act for me. I wish to maintain my perceptions, belief systems, and judgments despite these dangerous, polarizing forces in society. I want to control my own truth.



## Miaki Thao

### *Cute Cover*

Digital illustration

Grade 12

Independence High School

Instructor: Brandi Fabricius

Breaking down “unarmed truth,” “unarmed” can mean feeling defenseless, and “truth” can mean anything. The truth can show something within the surface. Everyone loves cute things. Plushies, small animals, pastel colors, and femininity are cute. What they all have in common is showing an “unarmed” surface. Sometimes that cuteness can cover up something dark, the “truth.” Someone who displays a bubbly side publicly, can hide a dark and ugly inside. Looks can be deceiving, people are always hiding something. Be careful of what you say to others, you can trigger a painful memory hiding within someone.



I've always felt disconnected from my Chinese heritage and culture, and I'm always scared that one day I will realize that I'm "not Chinese enough." In this piece, I added bits of my life that relate to my Chinese background, such as a qipao, a calligraphy work that my aunt gifted to our family, and a stamp of my Chinese name that I made at one of my old Chinese schools. Someday, I hope I can reach past the smoke and connect to a me who embraces her family's culture.

## Cynthia Wang

*The Girl I Didn't Know*

Digital animation

Grade 11

Los Gatos High School

Instructor: Alex Czech



## 1st Place Digital Art

Award presented by Badger Meter, Inc.



## Willson Zeng

### *Moonlit Together*

Digital painting

Grade 12

Independence High School

Instructor: Virginia Ingelfinger

Wealth or material possessions are unnecessary in order to be happy. Instead the simple parts of life, such as meaningful relationships, are what matters. In my piece, two characters sit and chat together out in the cold. They find comfort in each other and need nothing more than their connection and presence with each other. I wanted to play with the idea of a comforting space, but in an uncomfortable situation, contrasting cold and warmth. This inspired me to use blue and orange to depict the scene and tender feelings.





## William Zeng

*Sustain*

Digital painting

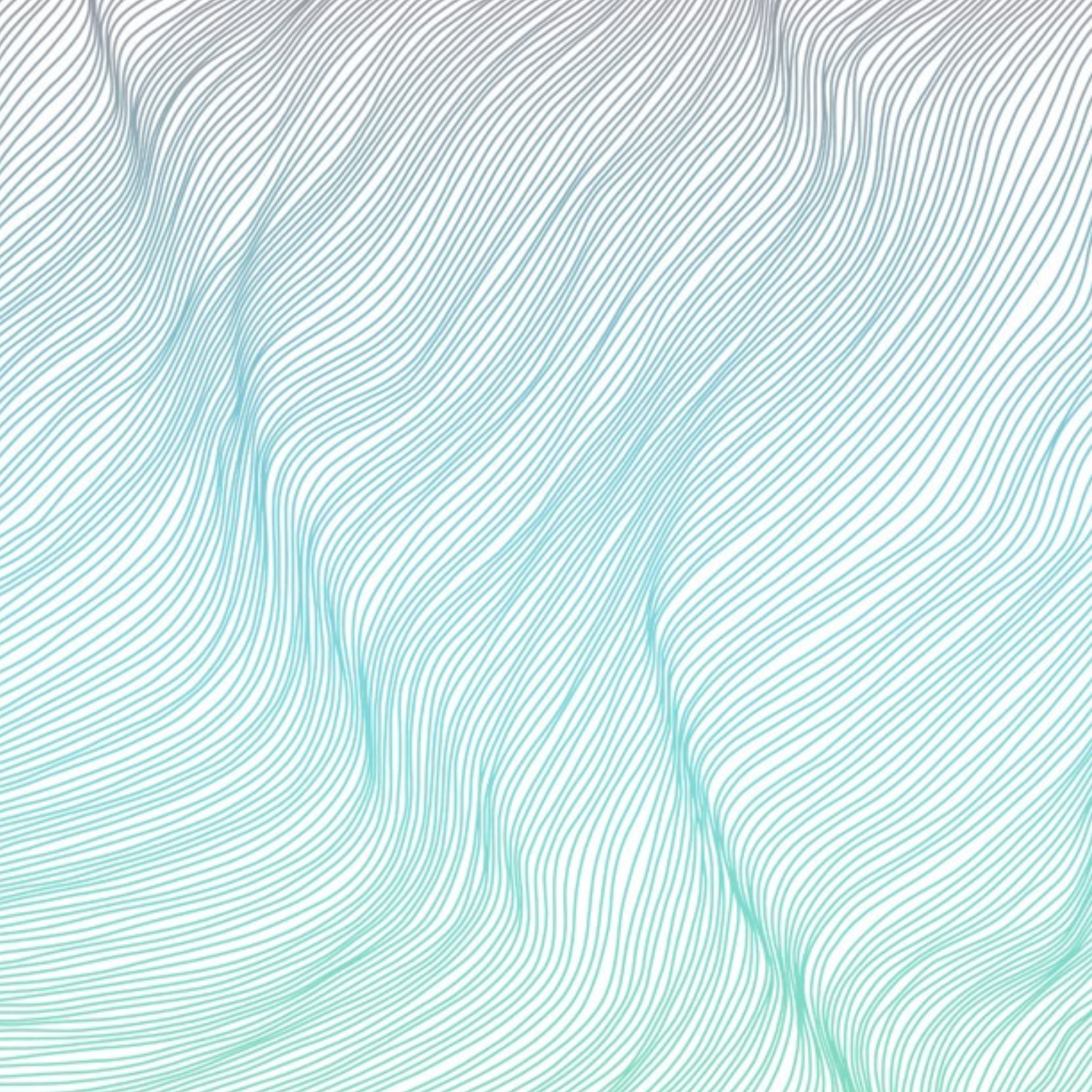
Grade 12

Independence High School

Instructor: Virginia Ingelfinger

In an era of rapid technological advancements and the increased importance of the internet as a whole, it's easy to forget that we ourselves are a piece of nature. I wanted to capture a connection to the natural world as well as recognize that taking care of humanity requires caring for our environment. Our identities are rooted in nature, taking a look back into the natural world offers guidance in finding and becoming at peace with who we are. For me, growing as a person was connecting to my own nature, appreciating myself and the world for what it is.







The background consists of a dense, intricate pattern of thin, wavy lines in various shades of teal and light blue. The lines flow and curve across the entire frame, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is reminiscent of a topographical map or a complex, organic texture.

**DRAWING**



## Liberty Evans

*Dreams About God*

Ink

Grade 9

Mountain View High School

Instructor: Meghan Engle

I chose to center my piece around the Ignatian saying, "God in all things." This saying teaches us that God is found everywhere, not just in churches, or the holy land, or in priests and religions, but in everything and everyone. God is in all creation, life, and death. God is joy, hope, and love. God is our conscience, the reason for right and wrong, the reason we inherently know right from wrong. God is so much a part of our lives, is our lives, and sometimes we forget that we do not need to look far for holy guidance.





## Sophie Filer

*Jackrabbit Underneath*

Charcoal and conté  
crayon on paper

Grade 10

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An

In my experience, it's often seen as a weakness to have or practice a religion. Religion is often seen as a meek, irrelevant, pedantic thing.

Though it is often considered something to be disregarded, it has a real power to it. Religion has the subtle strength to fend off the brutalities and viciousness of difficulties in life. It has been a protection and comfort for many, including myself, especially when it feels as if everything is descending upon oneself.



## Nishanth Joshi

### *Misrepresented*

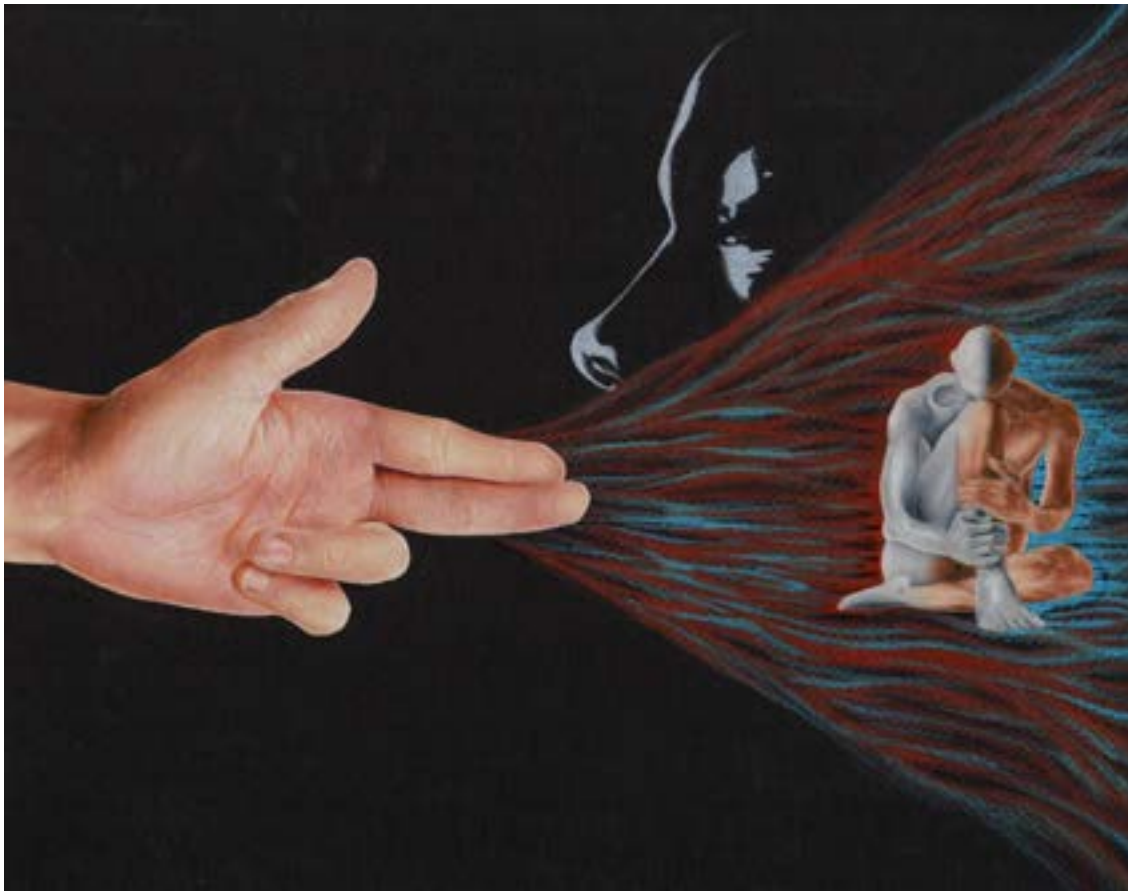
Prismacolor pencils

Grade 10

Monta Vista High School

Instructor: Eva Olsen

In this piece I wanted to represent how the media distorts reality, especially against minorities. This could be by not including all the facts, or even under-reporting certain incidents to push a narrative. The face in the background is a solid outline to highlight how distortion leads to the creation of stereotypes, making groups of people look one-dimensional. The man is half stone and without a face, being dehumanized by these harmful stereotypes. The hand shows how these stereotypes lead to further violence against minorities. This creates a circle of violence which end up only furthering stereotypes that have been created.





## Hannah Liaw

*Chaos*

Colored pencil

Grade 10

Lynbrook High School

Instructor: Matthew Reynolds

Through my artwork, I wanted to show the chaos and confusion that has filled the world in the past few years. All the problems have been overwhelming and the colors of the world have faded. The world is in disarray with shootings, viruses, and social injustice, and that's just the start. The places that we are supposed to feel safe in are now places that we tread in with fear. However, we can't let these fears prevent us from showing our voice and standing up for what is right.

## Allison Lin

### *Loose Threads*

Prismacolor pencil on paper

Grade 11

Lynbrook High School

Instructor: Eva Olsen

When people glance at me, I am undoubtedly Asian. What they don't realize is that I used to resent my own culture, as a Taiwanese American. I've always felt a disconnection similar to a piece of thread that's about to break, depicted by the strands of hair. The drawing shows people offering various cultural items, yet I still feel rather out of place, hence the hoodie. A deep feeling of embarrassment and self hatred always arises whenever someone mentions how "white-washed" I am. In truth, I'll never be Asian or American enough to feel like I belong in either place.



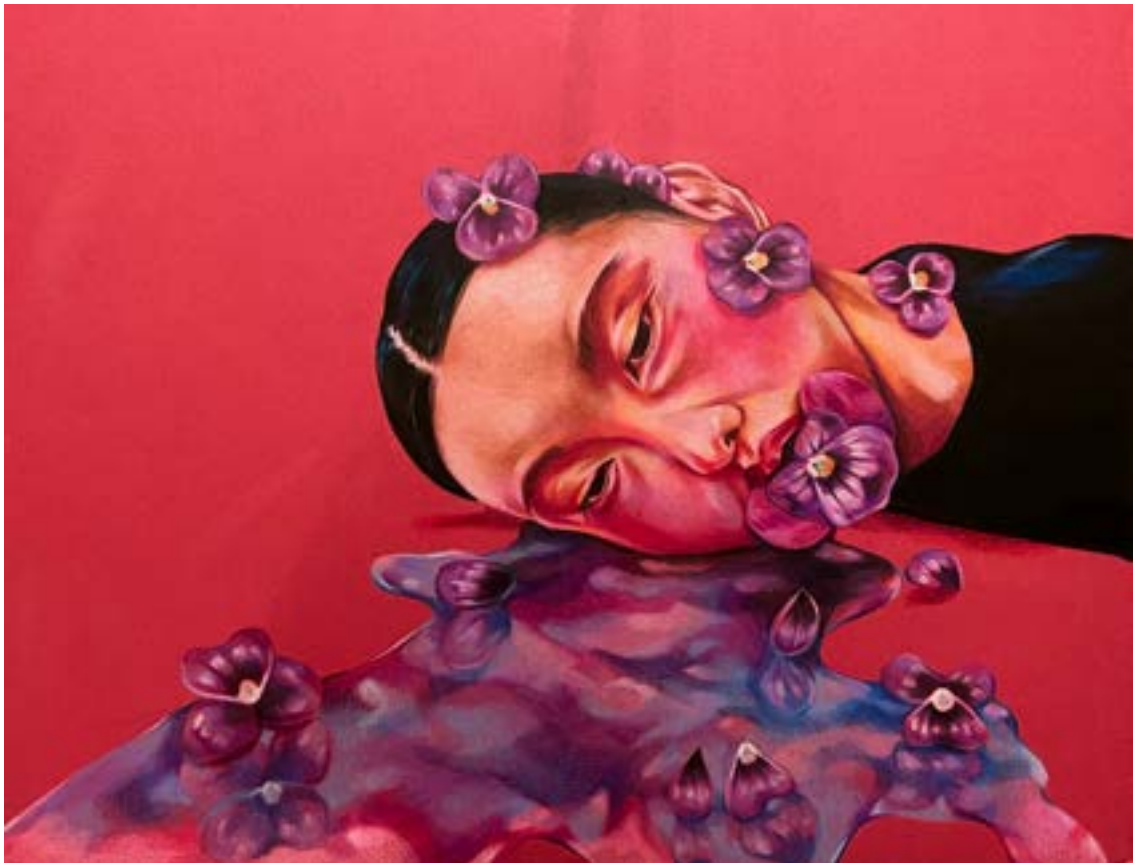


The Pansy Project plants pansies in places of homophobic events. This piece explains the detrimental effects of self-hatred and the inability to accept oneself. The subject suffers from internalized homophobia, so she begins to sprout pansies and eventually drowns in them. "Unarmed Truth" can manifest itself in many ways. This truth metastasizes in a fragile identity, and contaminates an otherwise happy life.

## Liam Matthiasson

*Sprouting Pansies*  
Colored pencil on  
mat board

Grade 12  
Los Gatos High School  
Instructor: Mark Yanowsky



1st Place Drawing

## Erica Tirva

### *Ghost*

Ink pen and ink wash on paper

Grade 10

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An

People tend to avoid the ghosts of their past in order to prevent distress, whether it be emotional or physical. However, it is when we acknowledge those ghosts that we can move on and truly live a life free of the burdens of our past.



## Judges' Recognition Drawing

What happens to innocence? As nostalgic truths of childhood are ravished by harsh realities, the human resolve gives way to anguish and desperation. This piece demonstrates the damage of naive experiences and childhood censorship eroding into situations of bleak truth. Meant to be viewed in three aspects – the naked eye, blue lighting, and red lighting – each isolates a layer of this investigation. Blue exhibits childlike, wistful events coupled with censoring squares obscuring painful imagery. Red illustrates how symbols of childhood twist into the true iniquity of the world. The naked eye expresses the agonizing thought conglomeration that sparked the harmful effect of the catalyst.

## Stella Walker

*I Just Wanted to Leave...*

Colored pencil

Grade 11

Westmont High School

Instructor: Amanda Borges



2nd Place Drawing



## Angie Zhang

*The Picnic*

Colored pencil and ink

Grade 11

Los Altos High School

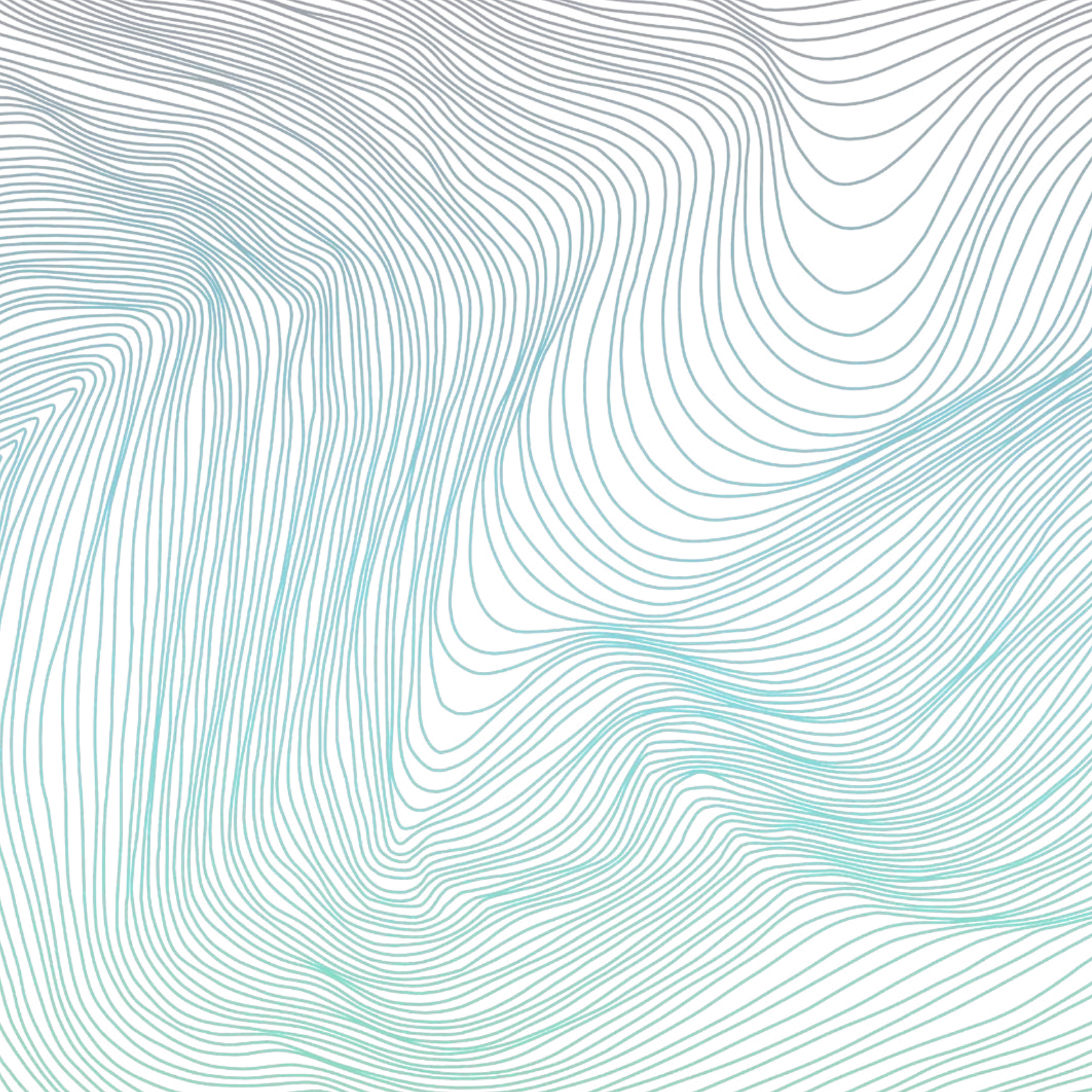
Instructor: Christine An

Selfishness and impulse will forever be a part of human nature. As easy as it is to give in and chase these fruitless highs, shame swiftly stains our consciousnesses.











The background consists of numerous thin, wavy lines that overlap and flow across the frame. The lines are primarily light blue and teal, with some darker teal lines interspersed. The overall effect is a sense of movement and depth, similar to a topographical map or a stylized fingerprint.

**MIXED MEDIA**



## Sarah Ang

*Heiress*

Acrylic on canvas, string,  
fabric

Grade 10

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An

At every family gathering, my grandma sits at the head of the table while I sit at her right. We call my grandma “婆婆” and respect is wholly angled toward her. The constant reminder that is nudged into my brain of “someday you will be like her” never ceases to escape me. The pressure of leading the next generation and holding that matriarchal position weighs heavily on my shoulders with everything I do; and sometimes it can be a lot, or even too much, for me to carry.



1st Place, Mixed Media



## Hana Bae

### *Ruin of Midas*

Watercolor and ink on paper

Grade 10

Henry M. Gunn High School

Instructor: Jongmin Lim

According to the Carbon Majors Database, 71% of the world's carbon emissions come from just one hundred of the countless companies on Earth. As carbon emissions grow, the consequences are far more dire than anyone could imagine; ice caps melt, ecosystems fall apart, oceans grow more acidic, and winds are thrown off kilter, causing more natural disasters than ever before. As of 2023, climate change can still be reversed – but the truth is, for change to be made, the greedy corporations that pollute this world for money must be stopped, and we must step up to make that possible.



## Lynn Choe

### *May the Ballroom Rest Eternal*

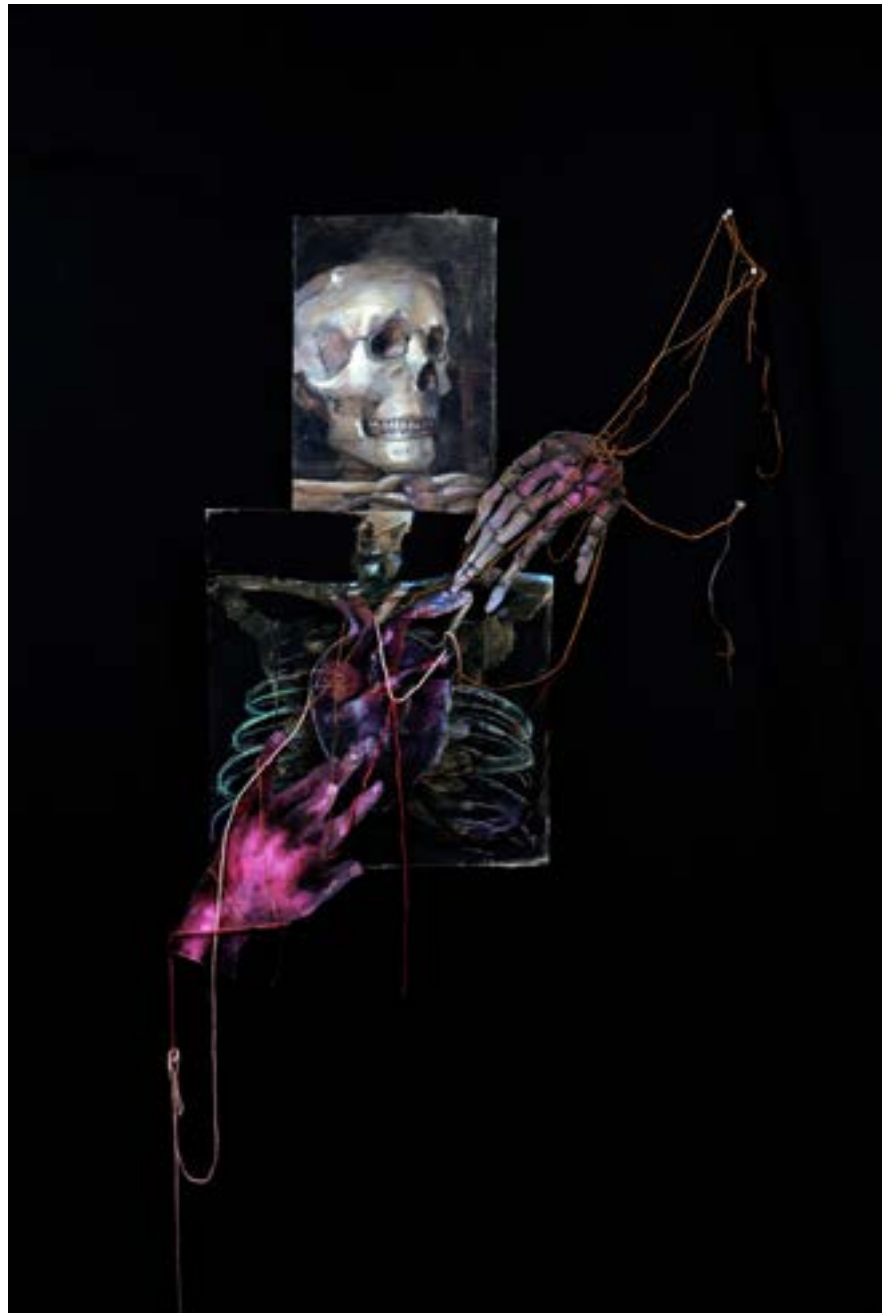
Cardboard, string, charcoal, gouache, acrylic, chalk pastel, oil pastel, watercolor, and hot-melt adhesive

Grade 10

Pioneer High School

Instructor: Laurie Kirk

Love overcomes every arbitrary boundary, division, or split that divides us as a society; it is timeless. It is what binds and unites us. It is the common ground we seek in harmony and strive for when we differ on major social and political issues. We want to witness the reality of global peace. Friendship, passion, and sexuality are represented by the pink and red tones of the heart and strings. The skeleton symbol represents how love transcends time and space.





## Zelines Doan Flores

*Scarlet Hands*

Pen and marker on paper

Grade 12

Westmont High School

Instructor: Amanda Borges

Coming out seems as simple as saying a few words and it's done.

The reality is you are killing the person you are perceived to be in order to make way for the person you truly are. Especially for family, who have seen you grow up from a small baby, it is a big change.

Despite the words they tell you, whether accepting or not, the way you are viewed completely changes, they will miss and mourn the past. There is no going back, the deed has been done, the old you is now dead.

## Tara Krishna

### *Mycelium*

Colored pencil, gouache  
and paper collage

Grade 10

Fremont High School

Instructor: Catherine Zweig

As a person with multiple learning disorders, the most prevalent being ADHD, I feel like I'm always in this state of high sensitivity to my surroundings. To articulate this vital part of my identity, *Mycelium* turns to organic forms. A face is distorted into a sea of colorful decay and abstract shapes, and we see this stream turn into a branch bearing rotten fruit. Nestled behind we see a human brain slowly being consumed by ruby-red bacteria. In short, this piece addresses the decadence and exhaustion of the world being too much.





My piece communicates the truths of my inward struggles towards my identity as a Chinese American child. Growing up, I have spent much of my life contemplating my cultural background, my ethnic and national identities often conflicting with one another. This conflict is represented in my art through the tearing of a red envelope, a representation of the unappreciation I regrettably show towards Chinese traditions as a result of my Western upbringing. Through this piece, I wish to show the challenge that it is to acknowledge, navigate, and come to terms with the self-perception I have of my own identity.

**Katie Lee**

*Split*

Acrylic paint, red string  
and patterned paper

Grade 11

Cupertino High School

Instructor: Eva Olsen



## Ellie Lin

### *Recluse*

Acrylic paint on canvas,  
recycled paper and plastic stars

Grade 12

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An

I am a recluse in my room, my emotional fortress. My room allows me to escape people, but my walls reveal that what I actually crave is an illusion of escape. In reality, I cannot live without sentimental chaos and overstayed souvenirs. I cannot live without constant reminders of the people I love but refuse to let come too close. As I smother my room with mementos, I am preparing for that inescapable moment when I find myself undeniably, and utterly alone.



## Best in Show & People's Choice Award

Best in Show Award presented by The Michael & Alyce Parsons Art Endowment



## Hannah Lin

### *Time and Space*

Colored pencil, gel pen  
and metallic paper

Grade 12

Lynbrook High School

Instructor: Eva Olsen

One universal truth is that humankind is connected through shared cultural and historical accomplishments. In this piece, I illustrated the passage of time through the past, present, and future. We humans and our accomplishments are constantly evolving while also connecting to one another. Each decision made in the past impacts the next, and all of time has lineage from the past. Through this piece, I want to encourage people to reflect inward on their own history, so I applied reflective paper in order for people to see themselves as part of this wider story.



## Arlie Lowe

### *The Sun*

Colored pencil and acrylic paint on paper with cut paper on foam platforms

Grade 12

Leigh High School

Instructor: Kimberly Bartel

Freedom, warmth, and optimism – these are all values The Sun tarot card represents. For the majority of its history, the dominant culture of the West has perceived homosexuality as something unnatural and perverted. This is my unarmed truth: like the love felt between a man and woman, gay relationships can be just as bright, innocent, and loving. After all, what could be more fun than two fairy girlfriends exploring a colorful, autumnal forest? In these troubled times, when the basic rights of many vulnerable groups are in jeopardy, I believe the world should take more inspiration from The Sun.



## 2nd Place Mixed Media



## Liana Peterson

*Road Map*

India ink, pen, push pins and red string on black paper

Grade 12

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An

It is a known – and often ignored – truth that all of us are collages of the women that have come before us. Bits and pieces of their memories and personalities have built who we are; our blood, sweat, and suffering have intertwined us all like a red string on an evidence map.



## Rose Shortland

### *Intersection*

Acrylic paint, acrylic ink, book pages, printed images and matte medium on canvas

Grade 12

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An

My truth is that contentment in my racial identity had to come from within, not through media images that are filtered through other people's perspectives. Growing up in California as a child of British and British-Chinese parents, I have always been curious about exploring the racial and national identities that comprise who I am. As a child, the differences seemed so clear between my parents and me, but as I grow older I also find interest in the ways these parts of my identity intersect. Exploring who I am is an innate process of growing up and accepting my identity.







## Arianna Tan

### *Burnt Out*

Acrylic paint on black board  
with cut up and burnt  
homework

Grade 12

Monta Vista High School

Instructor: Eva Olsen

This piece explores the feelings of student burnout. The toaster head is a metaphor for how the student is literally feeling “burned” out with the burned toast coming out of their head. I burned pieces of homework to further reiterate the idea that students might feel overworked. Being overworked is a bitter reality that many people face, especially when students graduate only to work a strenuous job, hours on end. Those who are overworked may feel as if society sees them as a robot rather than a human, which is the feeling I wanted to display in this work.

## Alina Wang

### *New Music*

Modeling paste, tape and acrylic paint on cardboard

Grade 11

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An

As technology continues to evolve, we often lose sight of how we use the tools and machines that surround us everyday. This piece is an exploration of the quiet marvel of technology, which brings the simple enjoyment of music into our homes. As we go forward, we cannot forget that technology is made to serve humanity, instead of harming it.



Judges' Recognition Mixed Media

One way I cope with pressure in my life is by not speaking out about it. Sometimes, I think that these pressures are meant to be my fate in life, but I never confront the consequences of believing that. I end up hiding between different facades: false happiness or a poker face. The more I do this, the more I end up feeling like a ghost of myself, struggling to deal with reality and stress.

**Iris Wu**

*Fates from Pressure*

Origami paper, colored pencil  
and oil pastel on paper

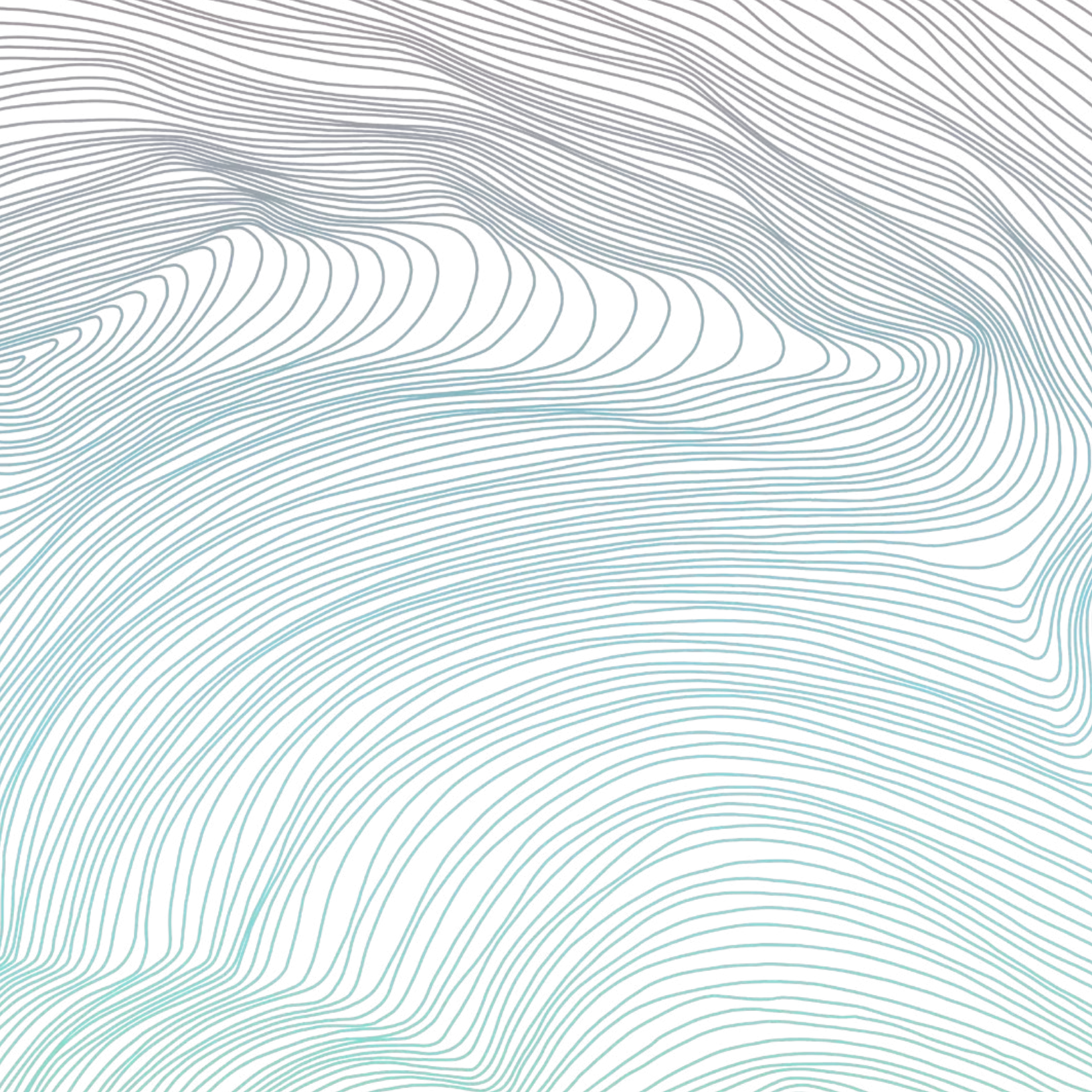
Grade 10

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An











**PAINTING**



## Gillian Birdsong

*By Design*

Acrylic on canvas

Grade 11

Lincoln High School

Instructor: Svetlana Teplova

Math is a universal truth of creation. Fractals are geometric figures that get infinitely more complex as you zoom in. The Koch snowflake, Mandelbrot set, oscillating graph, and other fractals construct the entirety of this piece. However, at the center of it all is the human person. Without us, who would be the one zooming in and discovering these concepts? Just as coastlines, treelines, and the very veins beneath our skin grow infinitely complex as you look closer, so does the lived experience of a person.





I wanted to accurately portray the aspects of my identity and the several roles I fill through depicting them in the symbol of Lotería or Spanish Bingo. Growing up close to my culture, family was always what we put first, and as the oldest child in a single parent household, I was always juggling my responsibilities from the ripe old age of 5. I've selected objects that relate to my daily life and who I am, and used Lotería to capture the fast-paced accumulation of different objects, signifying how quickly I had to take up roles in life.

## Matthew Brigido

*Lotería of Life*

Acrylic on canvas

Grade 12

Saint Francis High School

Instructor: Brendon Reutebuch



## Rachael Ding

*Portrait of a Deaf Woman*

Acrylic on paper

Grade 11

Monta Vista High School

Instructor: Brian Chow

I was born with an invisible disability. It encompasses how I look at the world. This piece is a semi self-portrait about my experience; To sit in silence as I am excluded and alone. This is a two-way street. For those with disabilities we cannot thrive without the help of the wider community. To raise awareness for this important part of our society, *Portrait of a Deaf Woman* aims to explore what cannot be easily said in spoken word, but what color and strokes can.







## Emma Foster

*Beyond The Veil*  
Acrylic on canvas

Grade 11  
Castilleja High School  
Instructor: Deborah Trilling

The theme of Unarmed Truth inspired me to take a look at personal truth, my family history, and the multiplicities of identity.

As a mixed-race artist, I have felt othered from people who have rich ethnographies due to the lack of written histories of African Americans during slavery. In order to claim a usable past, I have reached for connection through paintings centering African-American historical figures who were grounded in practices derived from African culture.

This painting depicts Vodun practitioner Marie Laveau, and includes West African symbols called adinkra that represent the power, divinity, and strength within shared history.



## Namita Hegde

### *Cultural Crossroads*

Watercolor and gel pen  
on paper

Grade 11

Pioneer High School

Instructor: Laurie Kirk

I often find myself trying to understand who I am as a person of mixed heritage and how I came to be. The best way for me to do this is to look to my past and the people who came before me. The culmination of family members, dead and alive, past and present, my childhood memories, and even my multicultural upbringing are what have made me who I am today. To me, there is nothing more raw and full of truth than recognizing your past in order to understand the present.



Dreams and nightmares are projections of subconscious truths that we are often oblivious to. I have vivid and eerie nightmares on a regular basis, but they reveal my deepest fears and emotions through their detailed storylines and jarring conclusions. I interpret them artistically as an extension of my imagination through diverse and inventive themes. This painting is a visual representation of one of my more significant dreams. Exploring my dreams is important to me because it helps me investigate the different ways my mind operates. This image speaks to the duality of both running from and running to something.

**Eleri Kane**

*Dreamscape*

Acrylic on canvas

Grade 11

Pioneer High School

Instructor: Laurie Kirk



**1st Place Painting**

Award presented by The Linda Smythe Young Artists Fund

## Abigail Kifle

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Watercolor and gouache

Grade 12

Pioneer High School

Instructor: Laurie Kirk

No one told me what racism was. It was something unspoken that made my majority white school an uncomfortable place, and it was simplified to something existing in the past. I couldn't understand when people said racist things to me, and it made me resent society for hiding the truth. The piece is a picture of me on a field trip after someone made a racist joke. The worst part was the feeling of shame. I didn't know the feeling at the time, but I can remember all my white classmates laughing at me knowing they knew something I didn't.



## Judges' Recognition Painting

Award presented by The Linda Smythe Young Artists Fund





## Sophia Lee

*Letting Go*

Acrylic on cardboard

Grade 11

Palo Alto High School

Instructor: Tracey Atkinson

Frida Kahlo once said, "I paint self-portraits because I am so often alone." For the first time in my life, I can resonate with that. Last year was challenging because I couldn't control what was happening around me. Now I understand that life is flowing art. No matter how much we try to control, life continues to be a moving wave, and we simply must learn to appreciate its fluidity. This is the truth that I learned through hard work, and one that I will hold close to me. I hope this acrylic on cardboard art piece resonates with you.

## Nancy Liu

### *Sensation*

Acrylic on canvas

Grade 12

Westmont High School

Instructor: Amanda Borges

Attending concerts nowadays appears to involve more than just taking in the music and the energy. Audiences are frequently in haste, racing to record every moment on their phones for future recollections, letting their cameras' lenses dictate. I intended to blend this modern occurrence with the concept of 'synesthesia' in the spirit of Wassily Kandinsky. Boldly contrasting how people no longer live in the present, no longer fully immersing themselves in the music and sensing the forms, colors, patterns, and artistic components. I tackled this approach with strong colors and shapes; collisions between pieces and parts further emphasized the distinctions.



The foundation of my piece is its fleshy pink underpainting. It is overlaid with white acrylic and two hands postured in reference to Michelangelo's iconic "The Creation of Adam." Ultimately, my piece is an exercise in irony. The hand with the gun takes the place of God, but its power is an evil one. The other blackened hand is subjugated by this unfair power, wrapped pointlessly with "thoughts and prayers." I wanted to criticize the inherent destructive power of guns and our response to gun violence, because we can only recognize the unarmed truth by disarming our biases.

**Thy Luong**

*The Execution of Adam*

Acrylic on canvas

Grade 11

Notre Dame High School

Instructor: Sandy Mahler





## Akemi Marcotte

*Quest*

Acrylic on canvas

Grade 12

Leland High School

Instructor: Stacy Rapoport

I believe the search for God is similar to the search for Bigfoot. Despite the lack of solid physical evidence, people still believe in such things. I was inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's painting "The Garden of Earthly Delights," which illustrates the Christian beliefs of Heaven, Earth, and Hell. I used recognizable aspects of Bosch's work and combined it with well known cryptids (an animal that is claimed to exist) from around the world. In my painting, I wanted to convey the message that people look for the truth in different ways.



## Cilker School of Art & Design Educational Scholarship Recipient

Presented by West Valley College

When the jackets are hung, shoes kicked off, and makeup gone after a busy day, who really are we? The truth is that beneath the glittering outer layers of the lives that we display to others, we all fall prey to the comforting, addicting drug of technology at the end of the day. This is the ugly, unglamorous side of life that no one else gets to see. This is my own unarmed truth.

**Olivia Moon**

*Saccharine*

Acrylic on paperboard

Grade 10

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An



**2nd Place Painting**

Award presented by The Linda Smythe Young Artists Fund

## Katie Moon

*Diagnosed*

Poster paint and graphite pencil

Grade 12

Westmont High School

Instructor: Amanda Borges

As a kid, I liked my vitiligo. The patches reminded me of rabbits, silly, pale, and innocent. But as I got older, and the vitiligo spread, I became ashamed. When the pandemic calmed in 2021, and everyone began leaving the masks at home, I realized my desperate attachment to my mask had more to do with my skin than sickness.





In this piece, I attempted to portray the feeling of relief, fatigue, and uncertainty felt in private as a result of presenting a false self to other people. The split of the character into three separate selves symbolize the absence of a need to hold herself together when she is alone; the faceless reflection in the mirror communicate her doubts and uncertainty about her true identity. Through the use of intensely saturated colors and contrasting warm and cool tones, I wanted to create the stifling and disorienting atmosphere the subject feels.

## Mingnah Ng

*Privacy's Solace*

Acrylic on canvas board

Grade 11

Westmont High School

Instructor: Amanda Borges



## Chris Nguyen

*Is that all? How Disappointing*  
Acrylic on canvas

Grade 12

Saint Francis High School

Instructor: Brendon Reutebuch

The subject is technically me, though perhaps I'll refer to them as merely a proxy to maintain some distance. They're visibly very distressed, while the reflection reveals a disgusted self-loathing, the result of their internal turmoil-fueled, overwhelmingly negative self-image (dysphoria and an inferiority complex, among other things). The disconnection is stark as they tear at their face – an unreflected reality. So what is their true self? Is it the reflection, not a hair out of place? Their physical body in disarray? It appears they aren't too sure themselves. No wonder they're so destructive. Really puts the "breaking" in "breaking point." Yikes.





## Maddie Tsang

*American Cockroach*  
Watercolor and acrylic  
on paper

Grade 11  
Castilleja High School  
Instructor: Deborah Trilling

To some Americans, Asian immigrants are cockroaches – detestable creatures that invade their homes. In reality, cockroaches are harmless, yet people are repulsed by their appearance. But these critters, like immigrants, are incredibly resilient. You can't drown them. You can't crush them. They fight to survive. Inscribed top-left is a poem from Angel Island that tells the unarmed truth of every immigrant: "Waves big as mountains often astonished this traveler. With laws harsh as tigers, I had a taste of all the barbarities. Do not forget this day when you land ashore. Push yourself ahead and do not be lazy or idle."



## Selina Wang

*Prototype #19*

Acrylic on canvas

Grade 10

Monta Vista High School

Instructor: Eva Olsen

Throughout history, we have always shunned each other for being different. My piece is a reminder that everyone is ultimately all the same – flesh, muscle, bones, veins, organs. I wanted to create a piece that depicted raw life and nothing more, and my painting shows a human, defined not by gender or age or race, but by the lungs that gives us breath, and the heart that gives us life. I have often been told that I am too young, too American, too Chinese, too old. My art states the forgotten; we are all human beings, regardless of the exterior.





## Annie Yao

*Furby with a Parasol*

Acrylic on canvas

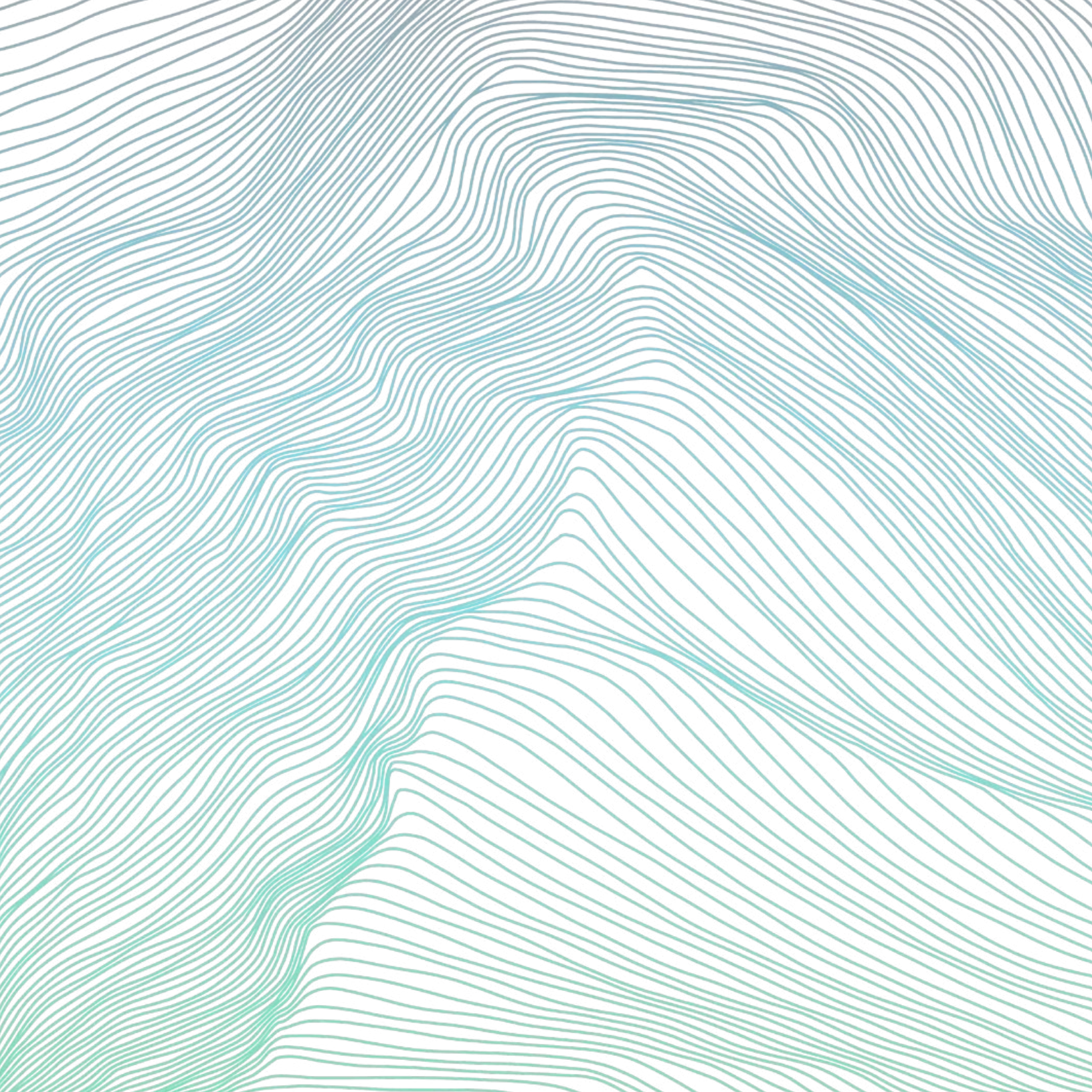
Grade 11

Lynbrook High School

Instructor: Eva Olsen

I used to walk around art exhibitions in San Francisco on the weekends with my mom, staring at the same, boring paintings for hours on end. It wasn't until I started painting myself that I began to have an appreciation for fine arts, and the otherworldly skill that went into each of the oil paintings on the gallery wall. Regrettably, high school life got in the way and I could no longer visit the exhibitions that once felt all too ordinary in my life. This piece is an homage to the fine arts and its close-knit relation to my childhood.









**PHOTOGRAPHY**

## Alena Angulo

*Uncontrollable Fate*

Digital photography and  
printed photos

Grade 12

Independence High School

Instructor: Jon Bischofberger

This photograph relates to Unarmed Truth as it relates to my truth of feeling behind everyone else, not knowing what I want to do with my life after high school. The process of making this art piece was taking a photo of my subject with a digital camera, printing out the images I selected, and cutting out the pieces I wanted to use. Distorted imagery is a symbol of mental health, I often feel out of place or "scattered" due to me not knowing what I want in my life, or comparing myself to my peers who have it all figured out.



## 2nd Place Photography



**Дандаа энхжиж үүрд мөнхөжнө** [Prosper and continue for eternity]. A third culture kid is raised in a culture other than their parents, and lives in a different environment growing up. My personal unarmed truth is the fact that my identity is placed in the middle of two, and I live with a synthesis culture. I will never be fully American enough or Mongolian enough to fit into one culture. Growing older I realize the importance this had on my character, connecting me to the people I know now. I'll grow with my identity as unique and conditional as it is.

## **Ankhil Enkhbayar**

*Red, Blue, and Yellow Silk*

Digital photography

Grade 10

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Jessica Hayes



**1st Place Photography**



## Amnah Jaafar

*Expressions*

Photography

Grade 12

Westmont High School

Instructor: Rachael Bradley

Inspired by the portraits of Andy Warhol, I created a collage of pictures based on gender expression, queer identity, and defying the binary. Unarmed truth to me is living in spite of the world against me. For LGBTQ+ individuals, like myself, unarmed truth is simply existing in a society that shuns them. I want to show that our ideas of what a "man" or "woman" should look like are outdated and individuals now should be able to experiment with their identity as they choose.



## Judges' Recognition Photography

My interpretation of "Unarmed Truth" is sharing a personal truth in sincerity. For me, that is my struggle with depression that I've been facing for years, and my purpose was to illustrate this with a photograph. This image represents my daily spar with myself, and while I realize I'm the only one getting hurt, I have no choice but to continue the cycle of punching and taking my own punches no matter how defeated I become. I communicated this idea by creating a photo with the same subject repeated twice in the composition, the fight between myself and myself.

## Hailey Knauss

*Feeling Okay?*

Digital photography

Grade 11

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Jessica Hayes



## Rachael Li

*Don't Puncture the Lemon*

Digital photography

Grade 9

Stratford Preparatory

Instructor: Viviana Leija-Sysak

A sprinkle of sour, A dash of sweet.  
A silky surface, what's beneath?

I sniff intently, eyes glistening beads.  
What's under the skin, I needed to see.

A watery pulp? Honeyed drops of dew?  
It had to be the best fruit, I knew!

I picked up the knife and slashed right  
through.  
My eyes went wide, I couldn't undo.

Darkness flowed out, like venom it spread.  
Right out the lemon and into my head.

Oh, what was this! Boo hoo!  
I knew it had looked too good to be true.





This is about a little girl who made her own light in the darkness. Her family was abusive and would belittle her, so she surrounded herself with stuffed animals to keep her company. Yet she comes back to the same isolation. Tired of waiting, she raised herself. In this image, the pink candle symbolizes self-love. The stuffed animals represent comfort. The lion hat is a symbol of childhood and strength.

## Rocky Rodriguez

*Birthday Dinner*

Digital photography

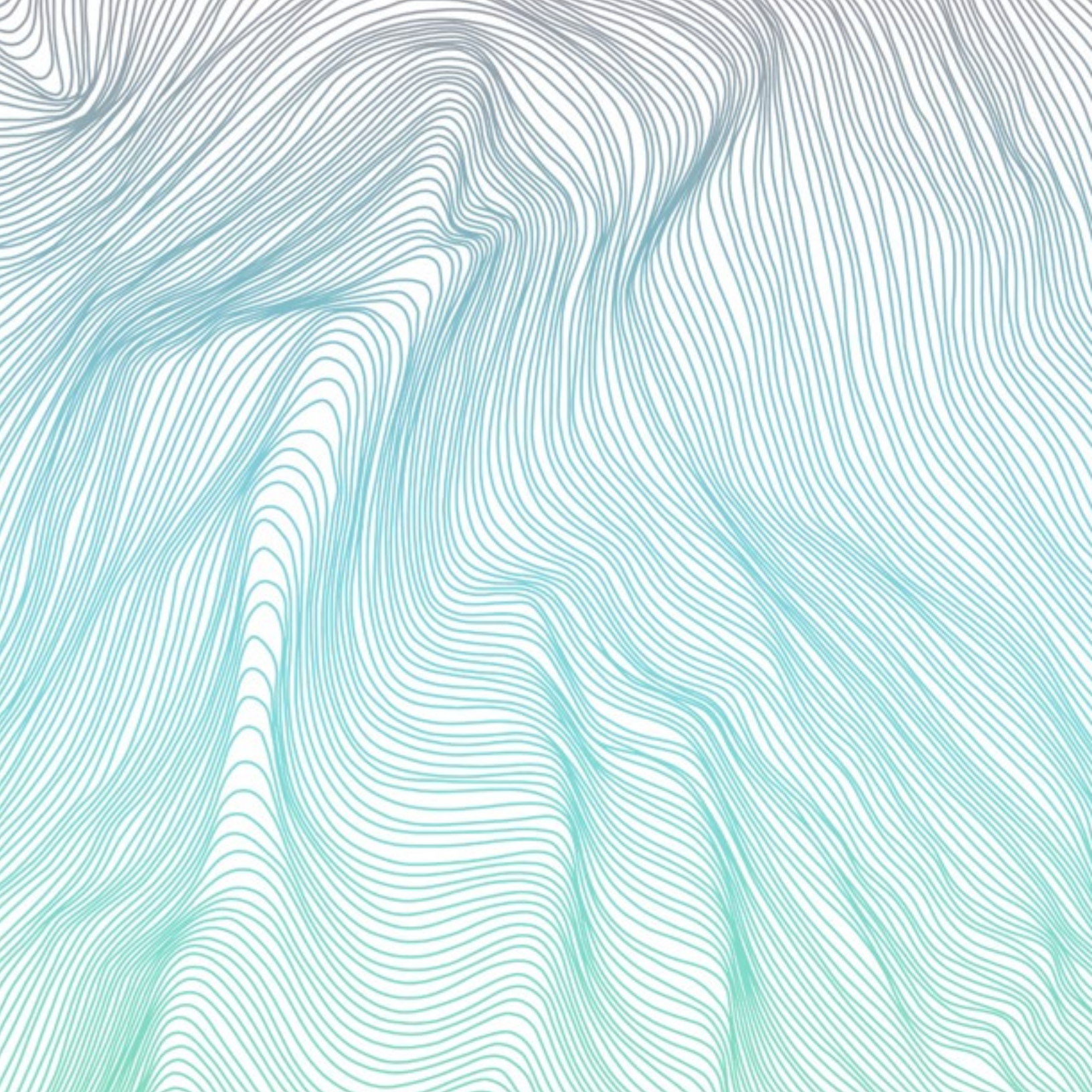
Grade 11

Los Gatos High School

Instructor: Emily Christie











**PRINTMAKING**



## Cindy Peng

*Full Disclosure*

Lino cut on paper

Grade 12

Leigh High School

Instructor: Kimberly Bartel

40 years ago, Vietnamese American Vincent Chin was beaten to death by two white men. In 1871, 500 people stormed into the Chinese quarter of Los Angeles, massacring them. Even as an Asian American myself, I was not aware of the deep-rooted Asian xenophobia until recently, so I wanted to uncover these crimes. Utilizing the golden ratio, I aimed to depict that despite the atrocity of the acts, they should unify us to fight against hate. The Chinese character in the middle translates to “prosperity,” creating an ironic statement that contrasts with the depictions of hate crimes that surround it.



## Markus Viduya

*Growing*

Lino cut on paper

Grade 10

Valley Christian High School

Instructor: Karen Dequine

The truth is something that, at times, can be hard to find. When starting this print, I wanted to create something that represented the truth within ourselves. As human beings, we constantly grow physically and mentally, and as time passes by we forget who we truly are. The constant noise from what people say influences our perspectives. It screams at us, telling us what we should or shouldn't be, what's right and wrong, what we can or can't do. We listen to the screaming, and lose who we are in order to continue growing.





## Desiree Vu-de Leon

### *Pulsating*

Lino cut on paper

Grade 12

Leland High School

Instructor: Stacy Rapoport

Despite the constant divide because of our many different skin tones, underneath, all our wounds share the same purples, reds, and blacks. We cope, mold, and hide ourselves in our pain, only to realize of how we all share the same desires to be loved and connected. Only once we expose ourselves and share our stories, we can share a common ground and build respect for others and ourselves. If we refuse our inner painfully but realistic truths, we can begin a cycle of trauma within our lives and the lives of people we influence.



## Judges' Recognition Printmaking

As technology advances, people become more aware of the truth, yet controversies continue to impact our society to the point of physical violence. On a planet where there are so many dangerous issues such as climate change, it is unclear what will become of this world. Many people are dependent on religion to show them how to react and remain hopeful for the future, while abandoning the reality of what is happening. Completely blind devotion to religion will prevent humanity from moving forward and taking the next step.

## Keane Wong

*Reach for the Truth*

Ink on paper

Grade 9

Valley Christian High School

Instructor: Karen Dequine





## Annabel Yeoh

*True or False?*

Lino cut on paper

Grade 10

Valley Christian High School

Instructor: Karen Dequine

In our bustling world today, where do you find your truth? Is it through what others say? Through what you hear? Through social media? Through superstitions? With all these different sources trying to persuade you that THEIR truth IS the truth, what will you believe? I believe that our role, especially as the generation of the future, is to find the truth out for ourselves amidst everything. To search out all perspectives, and to decide what the truth is for ourselves. Through the reduction process, I depicted symbols of the different sources from which people receive information today.



1st Place Printmaking

Sometimes in life, we just want to run from the world rather than deal with our problems. When I do, I realize there was really nowhere to run at all. Although I want to escape, in the end, I am forced to accept reality either way. I don't hate that though. Sometimes, if you give it some time, reality might seem a bit more beautiful than you expected.

**Audrey Zhao**

*Outgrown*

Linoleum block print on paper

Grade 11

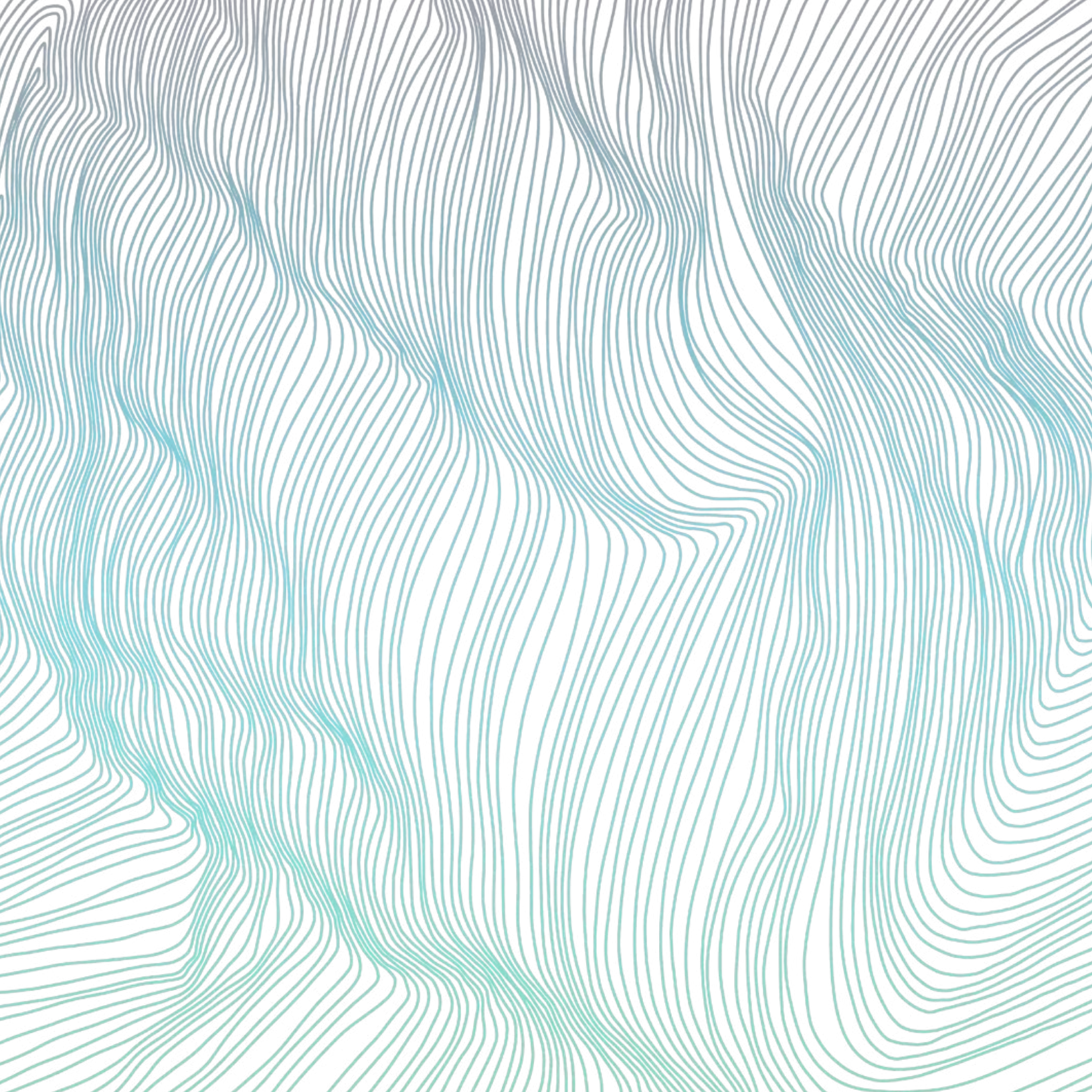
Los Altos High School

Instructor: Christine An



2nd Place Printmaking









**SCULPTURE**



# Anjieneth Alonzo

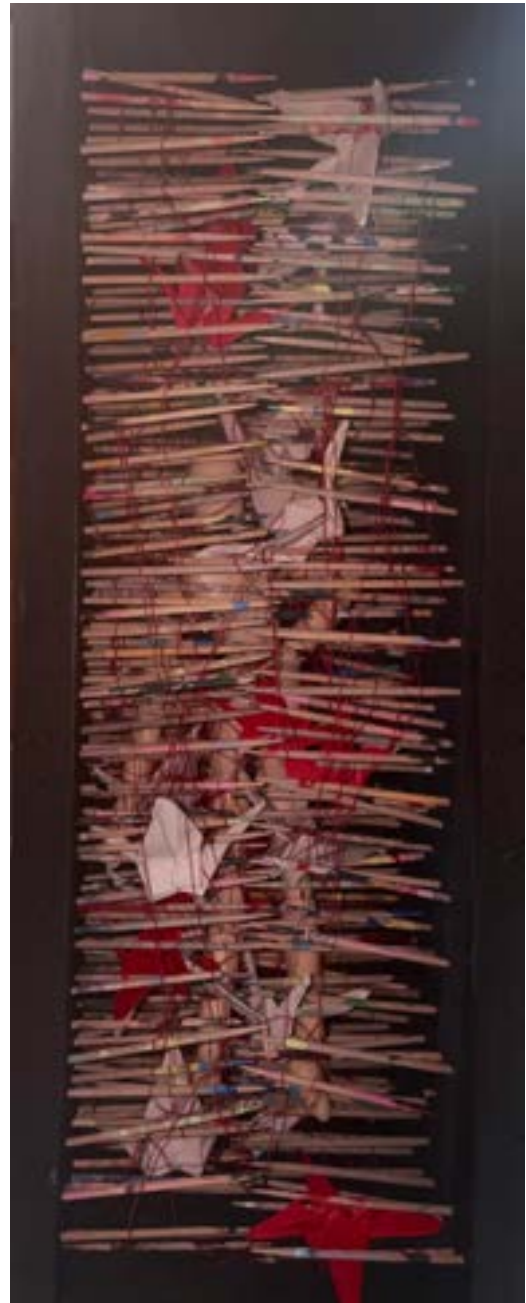
*Moira*

Grade 12

Independence High School

Instructor: Brandi Fabricius

My artwork explores the difficulties I still face in life. I include the moments from my past that most impacted me. These depictions tend to be negative and ambiguous at first glance. I make an effort to connect my artwork to metaphors or other meaningful concepts. I attempt to evoke a sense of melancholy and equanimity that makes the audience reflect on the implications of the piece. Art is my solace and I hope that my artwork may bring comfort to others as well.





## Emily Chang

*RoboCat*

Clay

Grade 12

Valley Christian High School

Instructor: Karen Dequine

This ceramic piece is reminiscent of the stuffed animals I collected as a child and loved until their “disintegration”. I wanted to capture and preserve an object from my childhood, but also show the simultaneous decay of my memory regarding it and my future self’s attempt to restructure it with technology. I feel that this piece shows a prominent lingering and specific emotion within my own childhood and many others. I hope that this piece can connect the viewers through their shared experiences within their youths.

## 1st Place Sculpture



## Ada Chu

*Anew*

Ceramics, chicken wire  
and yarn

Grade 11

Valley Christian High School

Instructor: Karen Dequine

Similar to how new life may grow out of dead trees, this piece depicts how I am growing into another person. In the past, I had a passion for STEM and academic achievement. But I lost that interest following a long episode of depression. Rather, I fell in love with art. The wire sculpture represents the current me, and how I am taking parts of my past (the ceramic sculpture), and growing into a new person from that. Although I do not want to admit that I am changing, it is the truth about my identity, and that's okay.



My artwork is displaying a classroom potluck involving many different textures and materials that involve different aspects of Mexican and American culture. The subject holds a lot of hidden significance exposing the reality of living in America as a person of a different ethnicity, specifically Mexican. Some elements most obvious of my work are the McDonald's straw table, the clay Mexican pottery, and the gun advertisement table cover. Most of the media from the Mexican table is handmade to represent the native aspect, whereas for the American table mostly everything is made of plastic to represent the waste aspect.

## Valeria Gomez

### *Multicultural Potluck at B-101*

Classroom styrofoam box, fabric, clay, popsicle sticks, found objects, paint, plastic, hot glue, foreign objects, paper, and wood

Grade 12

Independence High School

Instructor: Brandi Fabricius





## Claire Kampmeier

### *You and Me*

Burnt hair, linen and bracelets  
on stoneware

Grade 12

The Harker School

Instructor: Brian Caponi

You and Me is a representation of the delicate bonds that hold us together. While our relationships are fragile, we provide love and care to keep ourselves together. Even after children move away, people drift apart, or we fall out of love, we still have bits of our relationships burned into us. This is represented through burnt bits of my and my mother's hair, as well as my bracelets and her weavings. The fragility of the bonds that keep our relationships standing are represented by the bowls.



## Judges' Recognition Sculpture





## Tiffany Maguire

*Silenced*

Clay

Grade 12

Saint Francis High School

Instructor: Brendon Reutebuch

My piece is about how women's self expression is hindered by patriarchal society. The woman's hands are covering her breasts because of the orthodox notion that a woman's body is something to be judged and therefore ashamed of. The hand imprint that overlays her face conveys the silencing that occurs when liberties that inherently accompany femininity are taken away, and are rather dictated by male determination. The woman portrays the vulnerability, insecurity, and oppression that young girls feel when society negatively influences them into believing they should be ashamed for not fitting into the unattainable "ideal" mold.





## Cal Railo

*Sea Change*

Ceramic

Grade 12

Los Gatos High School

Instructor: Augustina Matsui

Unarmed truth to me means being genuine and honest about who you are and being sincere in your own identity. My artwork, "Sea Change", is inspired by my transgender identity, and the process of discovering that part of myself. I had to first admit to myself who I am before I could reveal it to anyone else.

This art piece represents the freeing feeling of laying bare an important part of who I am.



## Kathryn Wright

### *Funky Pants*

Ceramic

Grade 12

Los Gatos High School

Instructor: Augustina Matsui

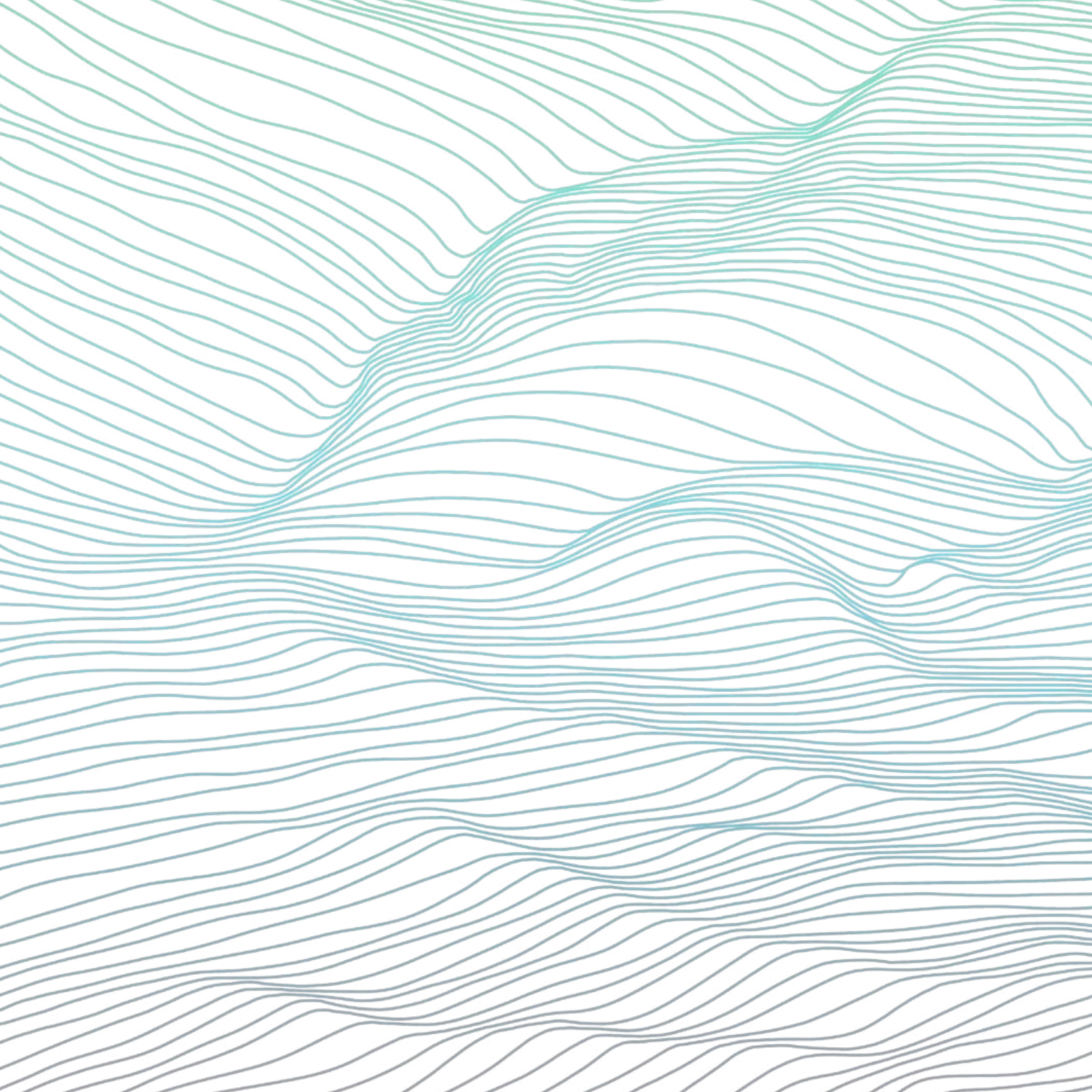
My unarmed truth is that the size of your clothing does not determine one's vibrancy. My piece called "funky pants" demonstrates this as the unique shape is covered in vivid colors and unconventional patterns. This parallels our lives as we are all blessed with individuality. It all comes together as one uniquely beautiful sculpture and exhibits what makes us unique, also makes us beautiful.



## 2nd Place Sculpture









The background of the image consists of numerous thin, wavy, teal-colored lines that flow across the frame from top to bottom. The lines are closely spaced and create a sense of movement and depth, resembling a topographical map or a stylized representation of water ripples. The overall effect is a dynamic and textured visual field.

**VIDEO/ANIMATION**

## Sydney Chandler

*Connection*

Digital animation

Grade 11

Los Gatos High School

Instructor: Mark Yanowsky

Sylvia Earle, a pioneering marine biologist, oceanographer, and explorer, once said that “We breathe because the ocean lives.” This quote is the basis for the entirety of this film. I was lucky enough to meet the influential woman years ago at an event, and her undying passion for the ocean continues to influence my life. This quote represents an unarmed truth in its purest, truest form to me; it is a fact, undeniable and inescapable. In this piece, I explore it from both a scientific and emotional perspective using Adobe Fresco.



## 1st Place Video/Animation



A silent but obvious truth among students my age is the lingering uncertainty regarding the future. Despite the hours poured into test prep and maintaining GPAs, many students are only following the motions to reach for a shapeless future, too vague to know if it's what they really want or if it is even possible to achieve. Yet, there remains a stigma around that uncertainty that suffocates the truth with guilt and shame. Uncertainty is weaponized into laziness and stubbornness, but it has to be accepted wholeheartedly as the bare truth. Otherwise, each day marches on towards an endless future.

**Helena Ho**

*An Endless Future*

Video and digital  
animation

Grade 10

Lynbrook High School



## Amy Pan

*LOST: Blossom in the Crescent*

Moon pop-up book with micron pens on bristol paper

Grade 10

Saratoga High School

Instructor: Joel Tarbox

This work aims to bring the audience through my journey from the feeling of panic and uncertainty stepping into high school to ultimately forgiving and accepting myself for being not okay. The title "Blossom in the Crescent Moon" contains the four letters that compose "LOST". The crescent moon in Greek Mythology symbolizes empowerment, implying my adventure of growth. The personal truth that I want to convey is that self-love is the only way through tough times.





Animated in Procreate at seven frames per second, this piece is about my relationship with my parents, who I have been through many difficult years with. Often, amidst the sounds of echoing voices and slamming doors, I escaped into my imagination, dreaming of what I thought to be an ideal family. Yet ultimately, I realized that my love for their real selves, in spite of the challenges we have faced, will always speak louder than a fantasy of perfection.

**Nicole Park**

*Idealism*

Digital animation

Grade 10

Los Altos High School

Instructor: Yoonsun Chai



**Judges' Recognition Video/Animation**

## Christine Ryu

### *Subway Spirits*

Digital animation

Grade 10

Castilleja High School

Instructor: Audrey Brown

One universal truth that should be discussed more often is teenage mental health. The world needs to raise awareness about this growing issue of teenage depression and mental illness, as this will not only impact future generations, but we will also lose so many lives that could have been saved had only one person noticed and reached out to a struggling friend. Society glamorizes those who look happy and healthy, however, everyone needs a trusted person to talk to in times of need; you never know what someone is truly going through.



## 2nd Place Video/Animation

Growing up Asian-American meant that I did not see a lot of people that looked like me in movies, books, and even the dolls I played with. Additionally, for much of my childhood, I attended a very white private school. I inevitably developed many insecurities regarding my physical features that set me apart from my white peers and the beautiful actresses and models I saw in media. "Prettier" reveals a universal truth that I deeply resonate with: a lack of representation for people of color creates insecurities and sparks racial self-hatred in children. We need more diversity in media.

## Abigail Song

*Prettier*

Digital animation

Grade 11

Homestead High School

Instructor: Tyler Cripe





## Alicia Xu

*Cold Air Warm Hands*

Acrylic on paper

Grade 12

Monta Vista High School

Instructor: Brian Chow

It is often said that art displays our souls. The ruination of this figure, and the reveal of the secret flame they cup so gently in their palms, exposes the pains of being vulnerable and how it can be an act of destruction. Oftentimes, I see bits of myself mirrored in my art: in the hair, in the skin, in every layer of paint. I believe my art is a reflection of myself stripped down to the very core, meaning my creations act as physical vessels for my own vulnerabilities and unarmed truths.







## OUR MISSION

Engaging the community at the intersection of art, history, and education through innovative, locally connected and globally relevant exhibits, programs, and experiences.

## OUR VISION

NUMU offers equal and equitable representation, opportunities, and services to all stakeholders through our operations, exhibitions, public programs, and permanent collection.

## OUR EQUITY STATEMENT

New Museum Los Gatos | NUMU was founded in 1965 as a public non-profit art and history museum. NUMU's mission is to engage the community at the intersection of art, history, and education through innovative, locally connected and globally relevant exhibitions, programs, and experiences. NUMU's vision is to offer equal and equitable representation, opportunities, and services to all stakeholders through our operations, exhibitions, public programs, and permanent collection. NUMU is committed to antiracism, diversity, equity, inclusion, and access because it is vital for a community institution to actively support underrepresented groups through art, design, and creativity. We specifically commit NUMU to expanding access for all, including BIPOC, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, and women content creators and audiences.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As members of the Los Gatos community, we acknowledge that we are guests on the ancestral and traditional land of the First People of this region, the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area historically Federally Recognized as the Verona Band of Alameda County. We support the restoration and sovereignty of this Chochenyo-Thámien-Ramaytush-Awáswas speaking BIA documented Ohlone Tribe, as well as all Indigenous Peoples.



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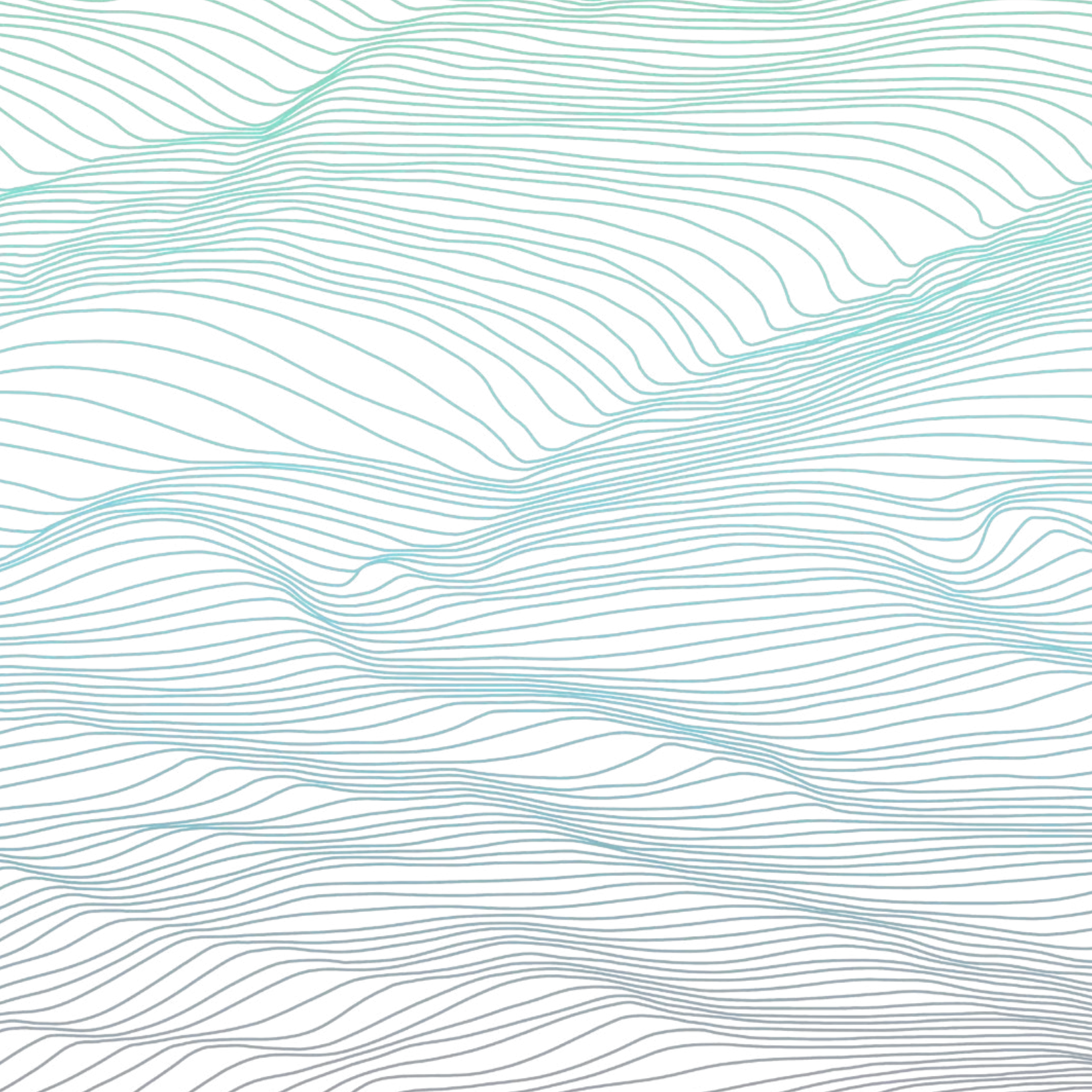
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2023 *ArtNow* Catalog and Exhibition Graphics designed by Keli Pharaoh



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## Celebrating ArtNow Advocates Los Gatos Morning Rotary



With a mission to support programs for youth in the humanities, sciences, music, and the arts, the Los Gatos Morning Rotary have been devoted stewards of the *ArtNow* exhibition since 2012. The Los Gatos Morning Rotary is a dedicated group of individuals who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

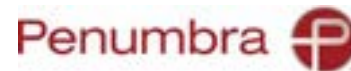


For over a decade, NUMU has been honored to be selected as a grant recipient for the *ArtNow* program. The rotary's infallible commitment to supporting arts education in Santa Clara County has been pivotal in ensuring that this program has served thousands of emerging high school artists from Palo Alto to Gilroy. *ArtNow* sends an important message to young emerging artists - that their voice and art matter, that their act of creation benefits not only themselves, but everyone they share it with. All of us at NUMU are immensely grateful for the rotary's belief in this long running program.

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