

debt

human rights

ensorship

youth

war

olence

sexuality

bullying

crime

discrimination



SOCIAL MATTERS

The First Annual Santa Clara
County-Wide High School
Art Exhibition

suicide

youth

violence

war

ensorship

crime

THE MUSEUMS *of* LOS GATOS

ART • HISTORY

debt

unemployment

The Art Museum of Los Gatos
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Los Gatos, CA 95030
Telephone: (408) 354-2646

www.museumsoflosgatos.org
www.facebook.com/pages/The-Museums-of-Los-Gatos/240641145985107

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About The Museums:

The Museums of Los Gatos is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated over the past 45 years to enhancing community life through the preservation, exhibition and interpretation of its regional history, and by fostering community appreciation of the fine arts. The Museums of Los Gatos operates two facilities: The Art Museum, located at the corner of Tait Avenue and West Main Street, and The History Museum at Forbes Mill, located at 75 Church Street. The Art Museum exhibits the works of outstanding painters, sculptors, designers and photographers from Los Gatos, the Bay Area, and worldwide.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a delight and what an opportunity for The Museums of Los Gatos to plan and host our first annual Santa Clara County-Wide High School Art Exhibition. In 2012, The Museums received over 300 entries from students at 23 county high schools. Three independent jurors selected 75 student submissions for display in the exhibition and 12 winners in seven categories took home professional development awards.

There is no question that another generation of students is ready to share their artistic talents. Included in the following pages are images and artist statements for many of the juried submissions and it will be apparent that you are witnessing not only the talents of the students, but the admirable dedication and support of their teachers as well.

The Museum and its staff are proud to have hosted this 2012 exhibit. Looking forward to 2013, we are confirmed in our belief that a program such as this offers exceptional opportunities for students to pursue continuing education and careers in the arts.

My sincere congratulations to both the students and the teachers that have supported them.

John C. Agg, Executive Director

A WORD ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

With immense gratitude, The Museums of Los Gatos thanks the sponsors of the first annual Museums of Los Gatos Santa Clara County-Wide High School Art Exhibition. Their generous support made professional development scholarships available to 12 young artists and enabled all of our entrants to participate in exhibiting their artworks in a professional environment.

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**SOCIAL MATTERS:
THE 2012 MUSEUMS OF LOS GATOS SANTA CLARA
COUNTY-WIDE HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION**

THE ART MUSEUM OF LOS GATOS
MAY 9 — MAY 13, 2012

THE MUSEUMS *of* LOS GATOS

ART • HISTORY

The Museums of Los Gatos congratulates the following individuals who exhibited in the 2012 Museums of Los Gatos Santa Clara County-Wide High School Art Exhibition but were unable to participate in the catalog:

KELVIN CALDERON, FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL

TESSA CHENG, LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

JULIE EATON, HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

*** ELLEN FIELD, LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL, *FIRST PLACE, MIXED MEDIA***

LIZA KOULIKOVA, LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

JOYCE KUNG, CUPERTINO HIGH SCHOOL

KELLY MEDINA, LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

MARINA RACINE, ANN SOBRATO HIGH SCHOOL

LIZ ROLLINS, LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL

*** JULIE TSENG, LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL, *FIRST PLACE, PAINTINGS***

NICOLE VENDELIN, LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

EVAN WALKER, LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL

LORRAINE WATKINS, LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

ANGEL ALAZORA ABBEY LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Monkey in Chain, 2012
Ink wash
11 x 14 in.

SOCIAL MATTERS:
THE MUSEUMS OF LOS GATOS 2012 HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

MITRA AHY LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Untitled, 2012
Photograph
16 x 20 in.

MARIYA ANDREYEVA PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL



Rette Mich, 2012
Photograph

Upon viewing my photograph, I do not know where your thoughts will take you. As a summary I want to say that my piece is about youth and pressure from society. But if you'd like to know how my own thoughts brought me to make this image, I have included my story. It is complicated, but it reflects all of the different layers of thoughts in my mind about this issue.

America prides herself in her roots of freedom, her doctrine of equality and acceptance. It is said that America, the glorious, is the land of liberty. Perhaps she may be, but it is difficult to uphold such a name in a place where freedom is feared.

Liberty is processed to become our favorite Coca Cola. Popular, accepted, delicious. It's part of pop culture. But brown, dirty with chemicals and secrets. We know it is bad, but it is good because everyone likes it. It tastes alright. Now, what I mean to say is, liberty has been filtered into a structure of society, two lists of in and out, and a law of standards (Coca Cola is an in). The standards of society-- they form one's frame of mind to follow the unwritten rules of going to church, going to school, going to college, starting a family, making money, dressing nicely, speaking of weather, practicing manners, and the list goes on.

They say, "Oh this Coca Cola is so good!" And it's not so bad, but its components are. And God forbid you don't like it, or else you are deemed weirdo automatically. Of course my little metaphor lacks the weight of the reality. For not liking the actual standards of society one is faced with many more troubles.

The reality is best seen by the youth. New to society, still letting free thoughts fill our minds. Though already being placed and told what's right and what's wrong. What is prestigious.

We see the hypocrisy of the land of freedom through its fears.

Somehow, your parents' greatest fear is you dropping out of school. Because what it symbolizes is you falling out of line of the path of processed liberty, the standards, you are no longer part of the CocaCola-lover cult. An outcast. No matter if you do it to volunteer, to travel the country, to help people, no matter if it is a more delicious and even healthy drink, it is not Coca Cola it is not the standards society has set. You are an outcast.

MARIYA ANDREYEVA



Thoughts of a Dying Atheist, 2012
Photograph

I take a leap and decide to volunteer for a non-profit organization instead of going college, then I am some drop-out unworthy of respect. So sure I have the ability to try to live freely, but I will never be free at mind for I will always be a traitor of society for not following it's standards.

Who made this up that an education is the most important thing about a person and that success is equivalent to careers and money and family? Don't get me wrong, education is very necessary and I would love to pursue a career. But why can't one simply have a good heart to be good enough and respected? Why can't a dropout who changes the world be as respected as much as the middle class man with a house and two kids? This pressure has already affected me to a point where I myself fear freedom. If I ever drop out of line, I will be judged, I know it, but I'm more afraid that I will not be respected as I deserve to be as a human being. So now I am applying to the best universities because of my "liberty" to do so. I must be "good".

The photograph, it represents a free spirit dropping her head as society glares at her, a traitor. And she, like most of us, will be pressured back into line. There is another possible level of this photograph that is more shallow, which depicts simply the dying atheist meeting her end with punishment and disdain for her "treason". The title is from a song. In the song, Matthew Bellamy sings, "It scares the hell out of me, and the end is all I can see". Simple words, but so accurate, though I am no atheist. Applying it to my point, the atheist is symbolic of the outcast, the free spirit, and because of what he is told by society to expect for not believing in God, he fears that he will come to an end. His own liberty, his own free choice scares him because of what is said about it. Of course components of natural fear of risk are also included, but societies standards play a major role.

And it keeps going because of the fear of freedom and its risks. Most of us, we continue drinking our Coca Cola even if we don't like it that much. But with time we settle into the habit and trick our own minds to believe that this is what we wanted. And so we teach children the "rules," and we let them fear freedom too. And it goes on.

This brings me to my personal location on the spectrum of in and out. I feel the pressure of these standards every living day. To go to school, to make it into the best university, to select a prestigious career and so on. Sure, I have the freedom to do what I want, but not really. Because if I choose to go to an average college, I will be told it's alright, but I will no longer be as good. Now hypothetically speaking, if

ARYAMITRA BAKE LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

My Acrylic painting “Caged” demonstrates the lack of freedoms teens face. This teen is behind bars that have kept her isolated but no matter how much she wants to break free, she can’t. The stairs demonstrate a way out and an escape to freedom but even though she sees them she cannot go past the bars and reach her “freedom”. Through all of this, she can see herself suffering within a mirror in front of her on the wall. She is in deep misery with no way out.

The angle of the painting gives it a psychotic feel. It demonstrates that the person is going crazy and cannot handle the way things are. This painting came from a photograph I took. I decided to paint it in a dense purple shade to set a more serious tone. The whole idea for the piece came to me because of conflicts I have been facing recently. This painting really demonstrates what I have been keeping within me for a while. It is also inspired by the pressures I see teens around me face. These problems are not always confronted because teens do not always talk to others about their conflicts. This puts them in a state of feeling helplessly stuck with no escape, a feeling of being “Caged”.



Caged, 2012
Acrylic on canvas
16 x 20 in.

SAM BAUMAN LEIGH HIGH SCHOOL



The bar code is a universal symbol of consumerism, it is seen on almost every item available for purchase. However, the same concept can be applied to the consumer, not just the product. People, like material goods, are readily available for purchase.

We All Have a Price, 2012
Charcoal
19.5 x 12 in.

SOCIAL MATTERS:
THE MUSEUMS OF LOS GATOS 2012 HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

SAM BAUMAN LEIGH HIGH SCHOOL



Wealth Divide, 2012
Graphite, colored pencil
15 x 19 in.

Big cities are commonly home to not only great wealth, but also impoverishment. This piece displays the line that exists between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.' When two extremes of the wealth divide are juxtaposed, items that may seem desirable and luxurious may start to be put into perspective as superfluous and inessential.

TESSA BEGLEY

LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL



Air, 2012
Acrylic, watercolor, rust, tea and paprika on paper
16 x 20 in.

ZACHARY CAMPBELL PROSPECT HIGH SCHOOL

An arboreal portrayal
of the interconnection
of the collective human
condition.



Tree of Unity, 2012
Plaster
36 x 12 in.

YAN CHAN LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Withering Woman, 2012
Ink pen
15 x 20 in.

The withering and dissipating woman depicts the issue of body image in society, which causes thousands of people to wither away.

EMILY CHENG

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Artificial Intelligence, 2012

Ink pen
12 x 12 in.

KACEY FANG THE HARKER SCHOOL

The butterfly scissors cutting out of its cocoon symbolizes the need for us to break out of societal norms or “comfort zones” in order to truly become an independent individual. The needle has woven a secure and protective cocoon out of experience and caution; the fibers build up the butterfly in its caterpillar stage. However, in order to be exquisite and really see the world as it is, the butterfly must release itself from its shell, much as we must exit our mental shell and enter the world as unique human beings ourselves.



Breaking Out, 2012
Acrylic on canvas
16 x 20 in.

LISA FERGUSON LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL

Within the police force there are many who want to better society. And within the police there is always the wolf in sheep's clothing who is there for the wrong reasons.



Sheep's Clothing, 2012
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 in.

LLUVIA GONZALES LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



A skeleton falls into a hole-pit, detached from its skin with hands that have sharp fingers. I wanted it to represent everyone who has lost something; a home, family, even hope. The background is only red, there isn't a real depiction of it. The wooden piece is a drawing of people trying to reach the money sign, representing that the civilization today all want or need money, but only one can have it. The top piece is of an ocean and a tree hovering and isn't really supposed to connect to the rest of my piece though, in my view, it has a curious feeling of adventure.

Surgical Pain, 2012

Watercolor, acrylic paint, oil pastel, pencil, pen, wood-burn
30 x 40 in.

MEGAN HANCK

LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL



Gluttony, 2012
Acrylic on canvas
16 x 20 in.

This painting portrays childhood obesity, a highly relevant social issue for America.

ABBEY HASTINGS LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL



We're Poor, 2012
Watercolor on paper

PAINTING SECOND PLACE

KELLY HEANEY

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Anonymous, 2012
Digital photography
11 x 15 in.



A Day in the Life, 2012
Digital photography
11 x 15 in.

ELISE HU

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Liberated, 2012
Acrylic, watercolor
22 x 30 in.

This is someone who has tried to change herself so that she will be liked by others. She is so tired of being who she is not and is finally becoming herself. The butterflies represent how she is now “free”. The blood and crippled body represent how she is overwhelmed and deprived of energy trying to be someone who she is not.

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

This is about someone who is not comfortable in their own skin. They put on a fake appearance just so they can blend in and be like everyone else. The hands on the bottom represent other people who are trying to get him to be himself and not worry about what he looks like on the outside, because it is what's inside that matters. He is angry at himself for not letting go of the desire to look "right" and what people around him have turned him into. There are hands coming out of his eyes that are trying to hold on to his skin. They are coming out of his eyes, because he is so insecure about his looks.



Inhibited, 2012
Acrylic, watercolor
16 x 20 in.

SOPHIA HUANG

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



The Derelict, 2012
Charcoal
16 x 20 in.

There are times in our lives when we feel abandoned, when we have lost hope in ourselves. Society makes us feel like we have to be somebody who we are not. In my drawing, I have depicted a character whose body is distorted. From the impact of society they have been transformed and modified. In the background, the tree of light, that still shines hope is not too far away. Sometimes, in our lives, we may stray away, and find ourselves standing on a rock, distant from hope. However, if we turn around and take a moment to look around us, can we then find the good in life.

YEREM STANBOULIAN PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL

I visited the Vietnam War Memorial in April 2011. Although I was not personally affected by the Vietnam War, I couldn't help being overwhelmed by the amount of names and the emotion of the memorial. This photograph reminds us of the eternal cost of war and how it still affects us today.



The Eternal Cost of War, 2011
Digital photography
8 x 10 in.

YEREM ISTANBOULIAN PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL



Preserving the Beauty of Nature, 2011
Digital photography
8 x 10.5 in.

I visited Yosemite Valley in November 2011. I was astonished by the beauty and the measures being taken to preserve it. It really made me develop a deeper level of appreciation for nature.

SALONIKAI KAI CASTILLEJA HIGH SCHOOL

BEST IN SHOW

La Sangre del Sueño, The Blood of the Dream, is an interpretation of the dream of becoming an American versus the reality of being an American. What has always drawn immigrants to the United States is the promise of the American dream, the dream of freedom, equality, and prosperity. However, in reality, the American Dream is one of blood, sweat, and tears. To be an American is to constantly be in a battle to prove oneself to society. Today more than ever, with the question of birthright citizenship hanging in the air, immigrants are under pressure to



prove themselves as worthy of belonging to the American society which claims to be centered around principles of justice and equal opportunity.

La Sangre del Sueño, 2011
Oil on canvas
30 x 30 in.

NIKKI KLEPPER

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

Part of a series on teenage smoking and its dangerous influence on the adolescents in our society



Influenced, 2012
Photograph
10 x 6.5 in.

LUCY OLASEHON LANGI HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL



Generation Disconnection, 2012
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 in.

LILLIAN LAU FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL



Hold Me Together, 2012
Ceramics
6 x 6.5 x 9 in.

ALEXIS JENNIE FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL

SECOND PLACE

SCULPTURE/
CERAMICS

This piece is a representation of the virtual glass ceiling between ourselves and our dreams. Within reach is the desperate pursuit of our hopes only to find that we are birds without wings. It is my wish that no person in this world ever loses faith in their dream. That no matter what we are given or not given in life, nothing is impossible. Even without arms it is still possible to touch the stars.



Within Reach, 2012
Ceramics
12 in. (h)

WEI ANGLI CUPERTINO HIGH SCHOOL

My artwork generally has a wide range of subjects. In my work, I try to present the subject as realistically and honestly as I can-but there's always room for fun! I have used many mediums, such as oil, watercolor, sketch, woodcut print, collage, clay sculpting, acrylic, and others.

I don't prefer any specific type of medium, I just use whatever fits my subject best. When drawing, I don't like to stick to exactness and complete precision, I prefer to have my work look messy close up but beautiful from far away.

I generally do not do series of artworks since I like to preserve the uniqueness of each individual piece.

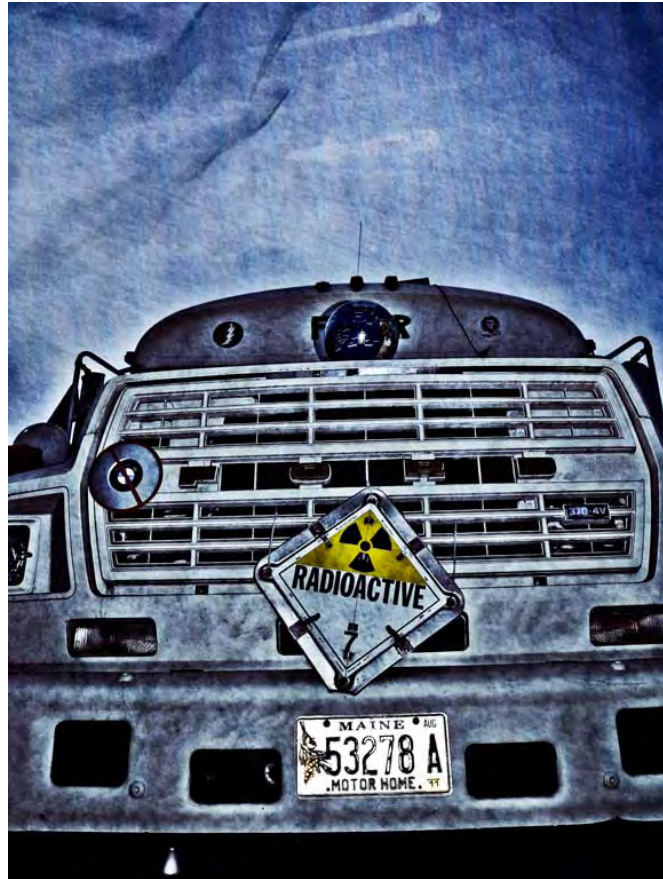


Black and White, 2012
Woodcut print
11 x 16.5 in.

JOSEPH MANN

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

I was taking photos for a school project when I came across this amazing van. I wanted to take a picture that portrayed what the owner had in mind when placing a radioactive plate on his car; that our current means of transportation are destroying the environment.



Poisonous Pollution, 2012
Digital photography
11 x 15

KEDRICK MCKENZIE GEORGE H. ROTH SCHOOL

Chocolate is one of my favorite desserts, from chocolate chip cookies to chocolate cheesecake, I absolutely love chocolate. My opinion of chocolate changed however when I learned that the majority of chocolate produced today contains traces of child slave labor. After researching this topic, I discovered that thousands of African children are kidnapped and taken to cocoa plantations in West Africa and forced to harvest cocoa beans.

Those beans become the chocolate bars that we buy in our supermarkets. This artwork is dedicated to the thousands of children trapped in the chocolate slave trade and are trying to escape. I hope this sculpture inspires you to stop supporting slave labor through your purchases and begin buying Fair Trade chocolate substitutes.



The Dark Side of Chocolate, 2012
Ceramics
15 x 11 x 11 in.

TIMNA NAIM FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL

To find a center can be a lesson to all teenagers and adults alike. However, the issue of not knowing one's self arises more at the teenage level than at any other age. To find your center is to find who you are. This teapot can be thought of as centered and at rest. It knows what it is. It is peaceful, centered beauty. And is lesson to all those looking for who they are.



Centered, 2012
Ceramics
5 x 5 x 8 in.

JESSICA OH CUPERTINO HIGH SCHOOL



Give Me Hope, 2012
Watercolor, pastel, prisma colors
15 x 22 in.

This piece explains how there are others affected by poverty, suicide and verbal abuse. This man is laying there hopeless, looking for hope and there are others looking for hope. The small people are looking for hope as they raise their hands for desperate times. The small people represent people around the world who are indicating their pain.

CIERA PASTURE

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Traveling the World, 2012
Photograph
9 x 12 in.

Books can open up a whole world of imagination and creativity. Learning allows children to explore new ideas and develop appreciation for other parts of the world.

CIERA PASTURE LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

In society today, many children and teenagers do not have access to books. Books allow youths to discover new ideas, become motivated, and develop a passion for learning. Knowledge is powerful and can open exciting realms of opportunities.



Reading Nook, 2012
Photograph
7 x 12 in.

RYAN REED

LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL

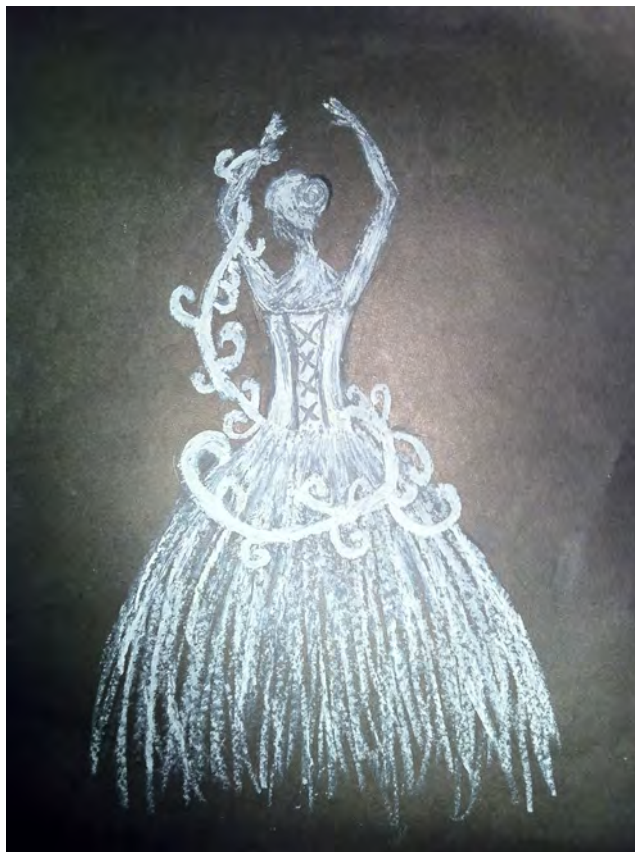


Out of the Darkness, 2012
Ceramics
25 x 17 x 13 in.

Into the darkness you shine
His love never fails
He is Full of Grace

TARA REZVANI

THE HARKER SCHOOL



Floating, 2011
Oil pastel
12 x 9 in.

More often than not, I sit down at my easel without a remote idea of what I want to create. I don't follow any specific rules, which is what gives each of my works its own character. I find that I create either extremely simplistic art, focusing on a candid subject expressed in basic colors, or extremely complex art, containing a medley of ideas and materials. My work is not supposed to portray one specific message or point, which is why I loathe putting titles on my work because it is impossible for me to summate what my work means to me in a couple of words.

My art is very personal, but I'm not a shy person so, I love it when people view how my thoughts manifest themselves onto a canvas. When people look at my work, I want them to relate to it on a personal level and capture the aura of it by reflecting on their own experiences.

Every time I glance at one of my pieces, I get something new from it depending on what my mood is that day and I want my viewers to do the same. I don't want my viewers to think about what the work means to me, but instead what it means to them.

MATTHEW RUEHLE

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

A photo of a green apple burning (with a hefty dose of firestarter). Minor digital re-touching was performed. The aim was to showcase the relationship between different resources, as well as both benefits and issues with biofuel (e.g. that it promotes deforestation and uses food crops, despite rising poverty and hunger). Somewhat counterproductively, an apple will not burn by itself.



Feed and Fuel, 2012
Photograph
10 x 7.5 in.

AMY SHANNON

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

In the world of ballet, many dancers struggle with body image and eating disorders. Through my series I am trying to convey this to the world and show how problematic it can be. This photo portrays how many ballerina's lives and careers start to fade as their disorders progress.



Ashamed, 2012
Digital photography
8 x 10 in.

AUDEY SHEN

HENRY M. GUNN HIGH SCHOOL



Lavender Girl, 2011
Digital photography
13 x 9 in.

Nowadays, people are too focused on technology. The younger generations life is based on the Internet, iPhone, and video games. They don't have time to enjoy the freshness of the Earth. Following this girl in the picture, sense the nature! I took this picture in a lavender field near Mt. Shasta.

HARPREET SINGH

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Zombie Hands I, 2012
Digital photography
16 x 20 in.

All of these images are connected with the nightmares I get everyday. Often times, I think about how the world will end. Could it be us humans

killing each other because we look different? My images, *Zombie Apocalypse*, *Zombie Hands 1*,

Zombie Hands 2, represent humans with different skin color harming others. It's almost like they're mindless zombies who only want their own race to survive and eliminate others. I simply, displayed my nightmares of people killing each other into images by coloring my fingers with a different color. After that, I also used PhotoShop to make them look even more haunting.

HARPREET SINGH

LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL



Zombie Hands II, 2012
Digital photography
16 x 20 in.

Zombie Apocalypse, 2012
Digital photography
16 x 20 in.

TAYLOR SMITH-HAMS PINWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



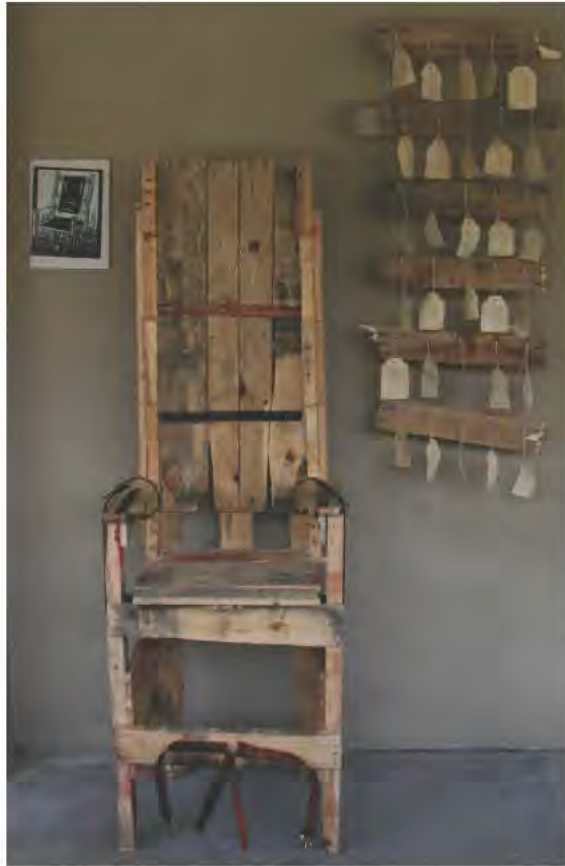
The Two Mitts, 2012
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 24 in.

Art history plays a significant role in my creative process; I am constantly researching existing pieces to enrich those I am creating today. Occasionally, this practice results in appropriation. I looked to Frida Kahlo's "The Two Fridas" as a model for this piece. The original painting was meant to express Kahlo's

dual personalities. Because of Mitt Romney's reputation as a flip-flopper, I recreated Kahlo's masterpiece to

exhibit his unstable stances—his dual personalities.

COLE SOLINGER LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL



Restraint, 2012
Wood, metal, leather, string, paper, ink, tea
93 x 72 x 30 in.

My piece displays the difficult topic of the death penalty, by grouping three pieces together. I built a replica electric chair out of old wooden pallets, by modeling it after an authentic electric chair. By adding the old recycled belts as restraints, it makes the chair seem alive and frightening.

The second piece I have created is a hanging piece that holds the stories of the men and women who have been sentenced to death. I handmade cadaver toe-tags which include the names, sex, race, and date of sentencing on one side; while the opposite side includes the crime which they had been sentenced to death for.

The third piece is an 8 x 10 linoleum cut that hangs along the left side of the chair. The print depicts an electric chair modeled after my handmade electric chair which is sitting alongside it.

RONI STOK

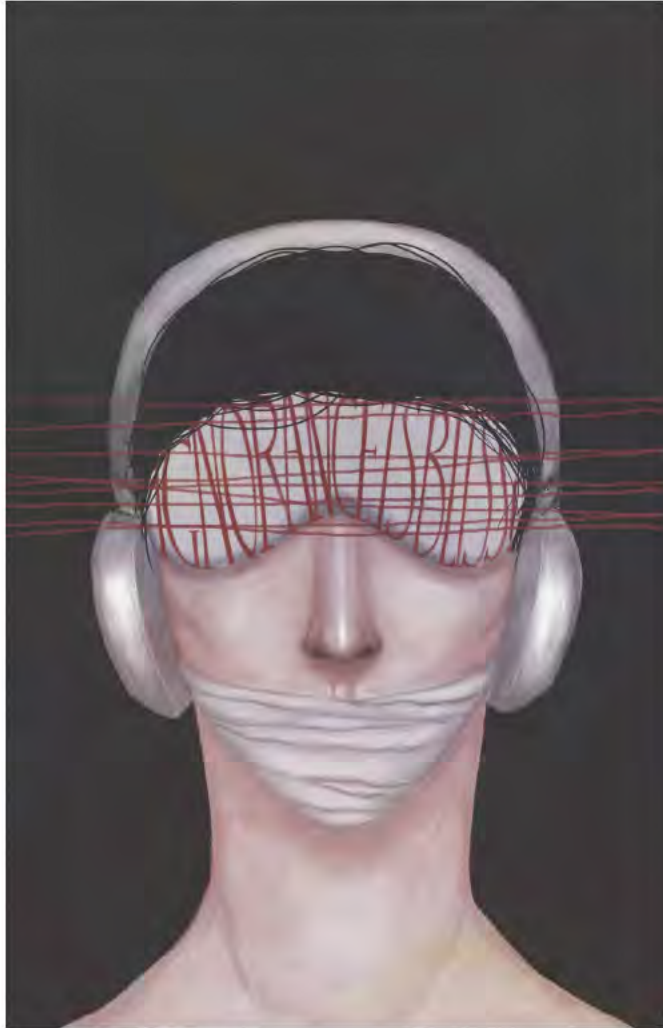
HOMESTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

This image illustrates parental over-protection. The mother figure shields her children of the night, and does not allow them to feel the blowing wind. Raising children in an environment which does not allow them to make mistakes or experience difficulties might hurt them in the long run by leaving them unprepared to face life on their own. Sometimes a wind is just a breeze, and a night is just a night.



Overprotection, 2012
Woodcut print
11 x 8.5 in.

ASHLEY TSAI CUPERTINO HIGH SCHOOL



Ignorance Is Bliss? 2012
Mixed media
9 x 4 in.

The government censors things in the media to keep us ignorant and docile. Most of the time it's said to be for our own good. But then we must ask ourselves, is ignorance really bliss?

MIXED MEDIA SECOND PLACE

NATASHA VAKIL

MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

This photo portrays a flower known as the Nasturtium that is similar to a hidden gem. The pure yellow flower accents the big green circular leaves, which adds a bit of freshness to the season of summer. The reason why I appreciate this piece of art is because it's carefree just like how we should be.



Floating Water Lilies, 2012
Photograph
8 x 12 in.

DANNY VALENCIA

ANDREW P. HIGH SCHOOL

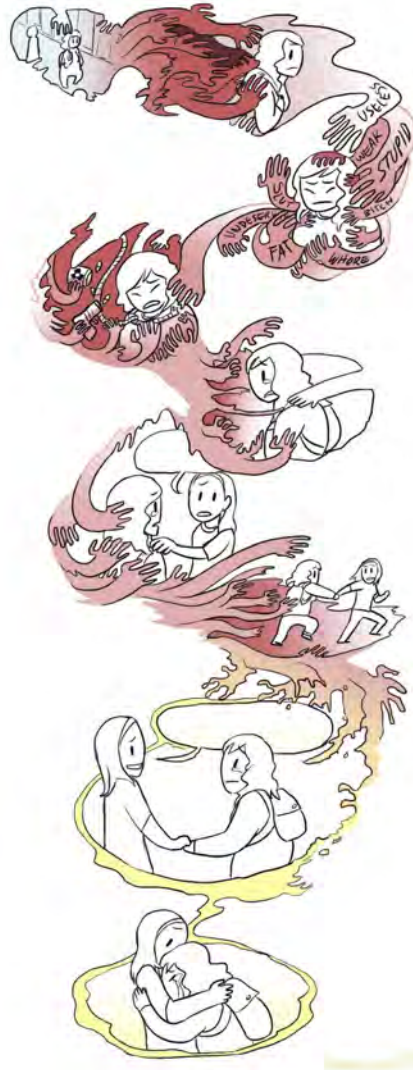


Isolated, 2012
Photograph
12 x 18 in.

This photo was shot in the oldest building at my school. I had just walked out of a room and I was going in to the darkroom when I saw this boy eating lunch on his own.

DONNA VU NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

When the depression
creeps up onto one's
shoulder, it only requires
one person to help pull
them through to save a
life.



The Pressure, 2012
Mixed media
9.5 x 12 in.

EMILY WANG

MONTA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

We always try,
And we always reach way up high
Waiting for the day to satisfy
those who walk on by.

We pour our hearts out, and our
souls—they shout
Pleading for the demise of this
endless doubt.

You and me,
In the end, we all want to be
Released from the strings
So we can finally understand the
word: free.



Never Good Enough, 2012
Conté, charcoal, graphite
18 x 24 in.

EMILY WANG

MONTA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

The idea behind this piece is that judgmental labels are hard to make, because there is no true “better” or “worse”. What you see through your own eyes, may not be the same as what someone else sees. It is really all about perspective, because what might seem “better” to one person may be “worse” to another. There is always a story behind each and every individual, and it is up to us as human beings to respect each other and learn that story.



Look At Me, What Do You See?, 2012
Oil pastel
18 x 24 in.

KAREN WANG

THE HARKER SCHOOL



Freedom, 2011
Mixed media
20 x 15 in.

My concentration focuses on the ideas of freedom and escape. What is freedom and how do I communicate my perception of it? I embark on a journey to evaluate my emotions. Although it is a vague and often used term, freedom represents so much past the colloquial and by definition, it is the power to determine action without restraint. In this piece involving traffic, I wanted to highlight the isolation and dependence society has on individual cars and how this traffic slowly eats away at our culture.

ELISE WITHAM LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

Overloaded teenagers. Teenagers have no free time in between scheduling time for homework, sports, worry about college visits, sleeping, and trying to keep some semblance of a social life. It's hard to balance all these different aspects to have a "happy and successful" life.



Schedule, 2012
Photograph
11 x 17 in.

ANTOINETTE YBARRA ANN SOBRATOS HIGH SCHOOL



The Healing Hand, 2011
Cut paper
24 x 32 in.

The hand represents the healing of the wounds of souls that have been crushed and they are healing all the bad things that have happened in their past.

XUFEI YU PALO ALTO HIGH SCHOOL

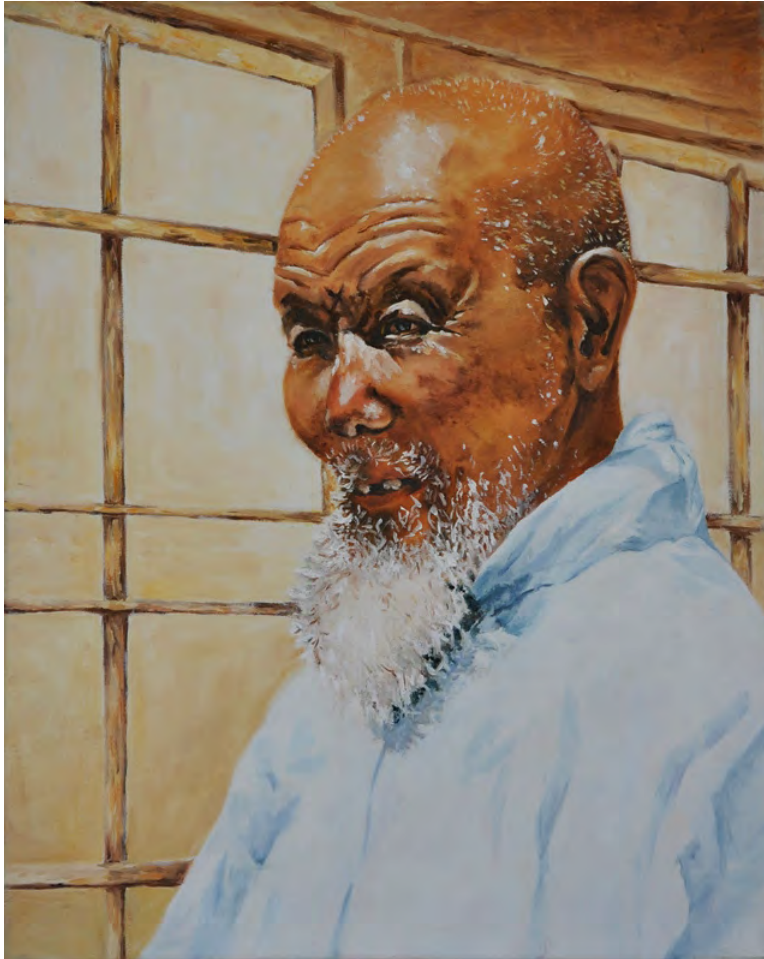


Silence, 2012
Charcoal, graphite on paper
18 x 24 in.

A mysterious man stares straight ahead with a burning telephone booth in the background.

ANNIE ZHANG

ARCHBISHOP MITTY HIGH SCHOOL



Waiting, 2010
Oil on canvas
16 x 20 in.

Waiting portrays an old man, whose face is lined with burden and creased by experience. In his eyes, glimmers a spark of anxiety and a touch of disquiet as if he is waiting for something that might not come. In our lives, the value of patience is often overlooked, but in the end only patience will bring understanding.

ANNIE ZHANG

ARCHBISHOP MITTY HIGH SCHOOL

The people of China's native Miao tribe are known for their elaborate embroidery designs, intricate traditional silver jewelry, and their rugged lifestyle of living on the YunGui Plateau. The Miao girl depicted in *Miao Merriment* illustrates the traditions and culture of her tribe along with her unrestrained exuberance and the pride she carries in her heart. She embraces the unique culture to which she belongs, and action of complete acceptance of self and her cultural roots.



Miao Merriment, 2011
Oil on canvas
18 x 24 in.