

Young 2026
TN Artists

SELECTIONS FROM ADVANCED
STUDIO ART PROGRAMS





**J. D.
Abernathy**
Clear, 2026

Digital photograph
Montgomery Bell
Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati
Swieca-Brockman



Luisa Benitez
Sobremesa, 2026

Digital print on paper
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Martha Profitt-Streuli

Artist's Statement

Sobremesa: An after-meal tradition in Latin America. The time after a meal is spent in deep conversation, connection, and laughter.

The Bible is full of dinner scenes: the Last Supper, Passover, Breakfast on the Beach, etc. I believe that dinner with my family is one of the times when heaven and earth overlap. It's a preview of future feasts in the Kingdom of heaven.

**Sarah
Alkabsh**
Correlation,
2026

Acrylic on canvas
Kingsbury High
School, Memphis
Teacher: Marcus
Watson





Saaliha Clark
Autumn, 2025

Charcoal on paper
White Station High School, Memphis
Teacher: James Dycus

Artist's Statement
I made this work to capture the feeling of autumn.

Silas Cowell
Mouthpiece, 2025

Hand-pressed paper, cardstock, and rice paper
Farragut High School, Knoxville
Teacher: Angie McCarter

Artist's Statement
Mouthpiece: A derogatory term for someone who only says what another person tells them or someone who "takes over" your narrative. Inspired by Victorian silhouette portraits, this triptych showcases the struggles of speaking up and having your emotions or feelings ignored. I cut silhouettes of myself and layered them between pieces of paper before adding them to hand-pressed sheets of paper.



Ellyse Cox
Glimpse of Her, 2025

Paint marker on paper
Morristown-Hamblen High School East, Morristown
Teacher: Jennifer Stoneking-Stewart

Artist's Statement
This artwork shows my face in vibrant, stippled colors and my mom's face in plain white linework to convey that people will still see my mom and her condition and ask about her instead of me when they see me, no matter how bright I shine.



Grace Diao
Bright Steps, 2026

Charcoal and chalk pastel on paper
White Station High School, Memphis
Teacher: James Dycus

Artist's Statement

I drew this piece to represent how figure skating has impacted me. I drew myself looking up at a skate, representing reflection on figure skating. I used chalk pastel to represent the emotions that I feel upon reflecting. The main color is yellow, representing happiness and sunshine, with bits of pink, purple, green, and blue mixed in. These represent love, compassion, growth, and hope within my journey.

Palmer Elzen
Wheels in Blue, 2025

Silkscreen print on paper
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

Artist's Statement

I wanted to create an interesting work highlighting the distinct values of a car. I took different images of cars from many angles to find important values and made this artwork using Photoshop and screenprinting.



Meiming Feng
Happy Thoughts, 2026

Pastel and charcoal on paper
White Station High School, Memphis
Teacher: James Dycus

Artist's Statement

I'm surrounded by flowers and butterflies because I am remembering all the good memories with my friends.

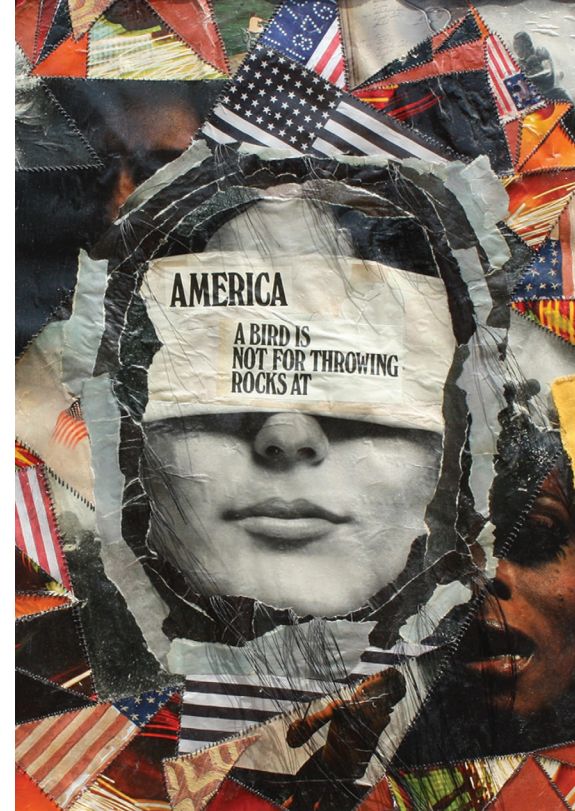


Leo Froio
Self-Determination, 2025

Oil, graphite, and gel pen on wood
Battle Ground Academy, Franklin
Teacher: Wendi Parker

Artist's Statement

This piece represents the drive I have to push my limits and become a better athlete in golf. This piece exhibits me holding myself accountable while, in the background, the colorful trees represent a golf course.



Emory Galbreath
America, A Bird is Not for Throwing Rocks At, 2025

Mixed media on paper
Morristown-Hamblen High School East,
Morristown
Teacher: Jennifer Stoneking-Stewart

Artist's Statement

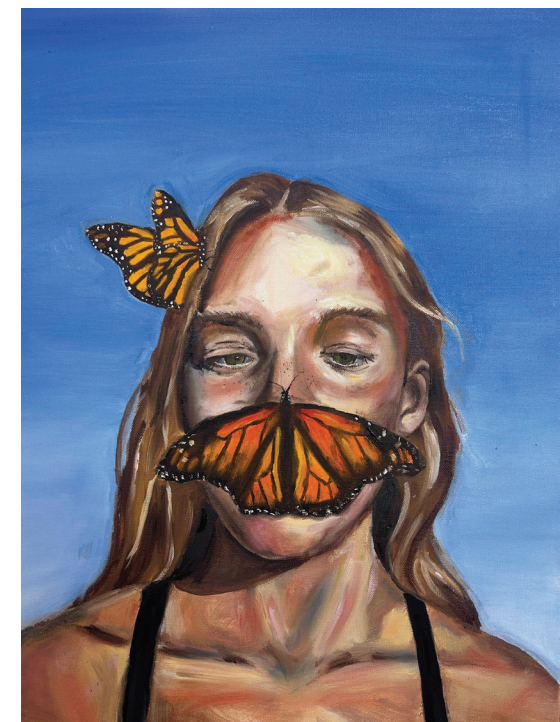
This piece addresses the obstacles and violence African Americans face in their pursuit of an equal standing in America. The shape, arrangement, and stitching of the images greatly resembles a quilt. The ripped and frayed additions to the piece further emphasize harm against Afro-Americans and their goals of equality. The blindfolded lady acts as a blind justice. The message on the blindfold contributes to the connection between America, justice, and racial prejudice.

Madeline Graf
Three Friends, 2025

Oil on canvas
Harpeth Hall School, Nashville
Teacher: Susie Elder

Artist's Statement

This work is inspired by a moment when my late cousin's family was visiting from out of town. For a moment, we were surrounded by monarch butterflies. I knew that my cousin, who passed away at age sixteen, and my grandmother were with me. The subject is my sister, who was especially close with him, and I added the butterflies to her face later. This second of beauty reflected the legacy that he left us with in this world. His life was made up of so many of these, and the hopefulness of this piece reflects that.



Addison Hardy
Cerberus, 2025

Oil on board
Harpeth Hall School, Nashville
Teacher: Susie Elder

Artist's Statement

This artwork is inspired by the myth of Cerberus, the three-headed dog of Greek mythology.



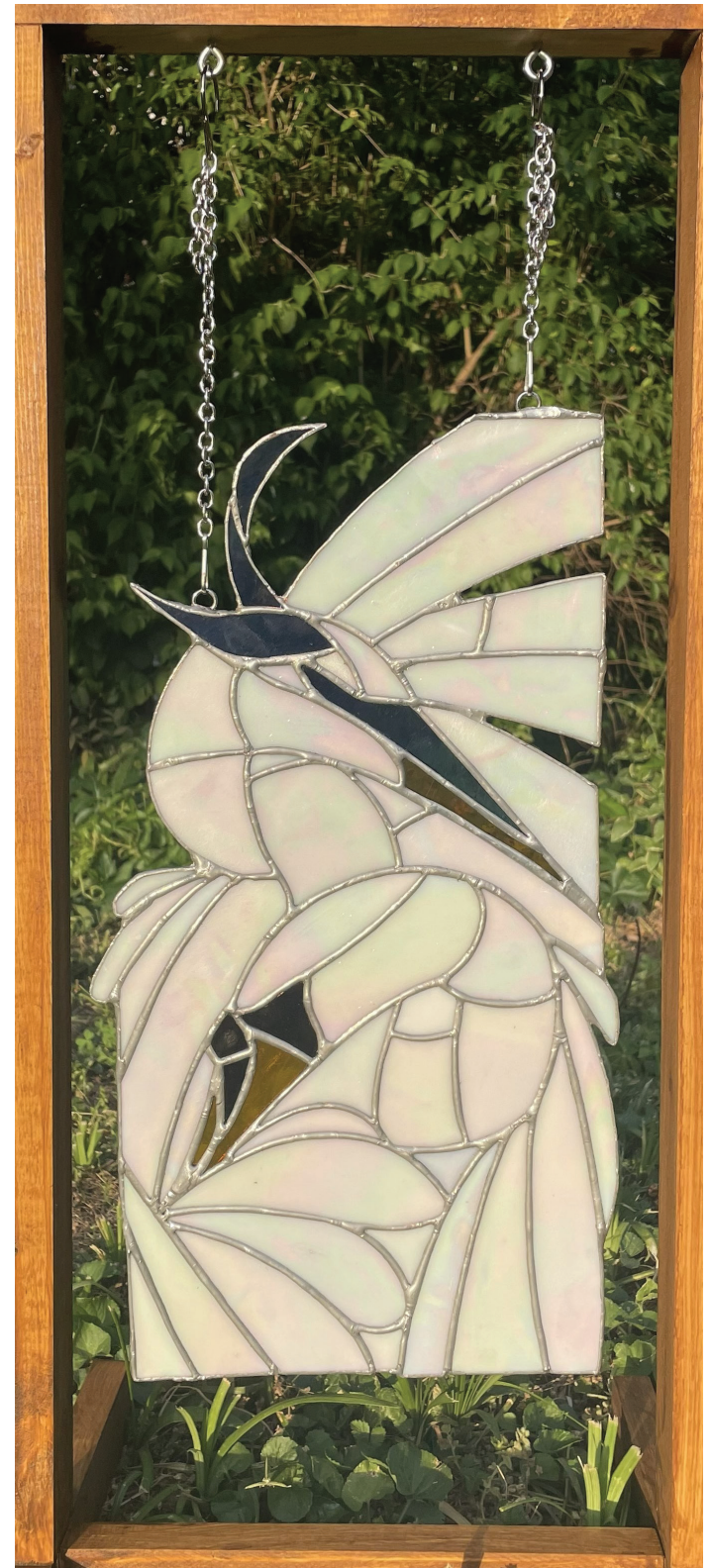
Noe Ise

The Heron and the Swan, 2026

Stained glass
Hume-Fogg High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Sniderr

Artist's Statement

This is a stained-glass piece that synthesizes the stories of Swan Lake and a Japanese Kabuki play, Saji Musume, or Heron Maiden. The white birds are soldered together, intertwined, as the stories are, in heartbreak and loss of identity. This piece has hooks and can be hung on a wall.



Diana Hernandez Calmo
The Light, 2025

Watercolor on paper
White Station High School, Memphis
Teacher: James Dycus

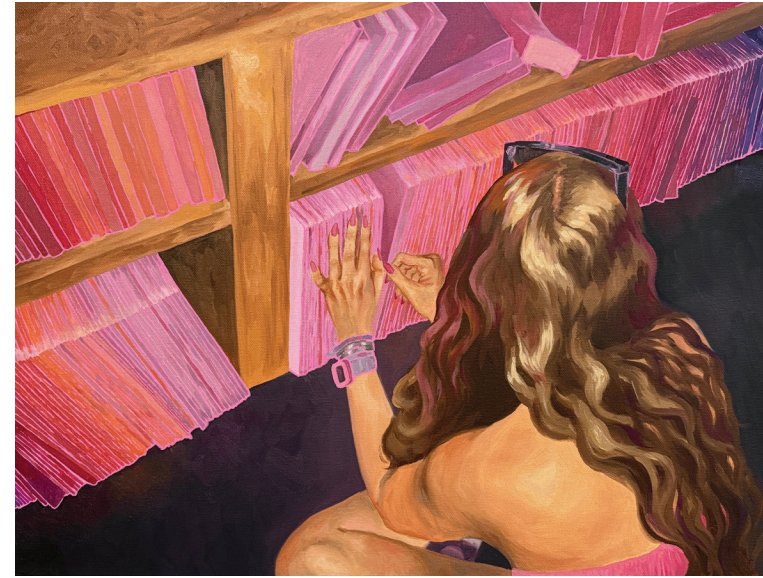
Artist's Statement

The background color is chosen to contrast the violin's color and to emphasize light. The girl's expression shows a peaceful mood. The light over the violin represents a new hope in music.



Avery Jacobson
Tropics, 2025

Spray-paint and multi-ply
paper on canvas
Montgomery Bell
Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-
Brockman



Suki Junge
Over the Shoulder, 2025

Oil on canvas
Harpeth Hall School, Nashville
Teacher: Susie Elder

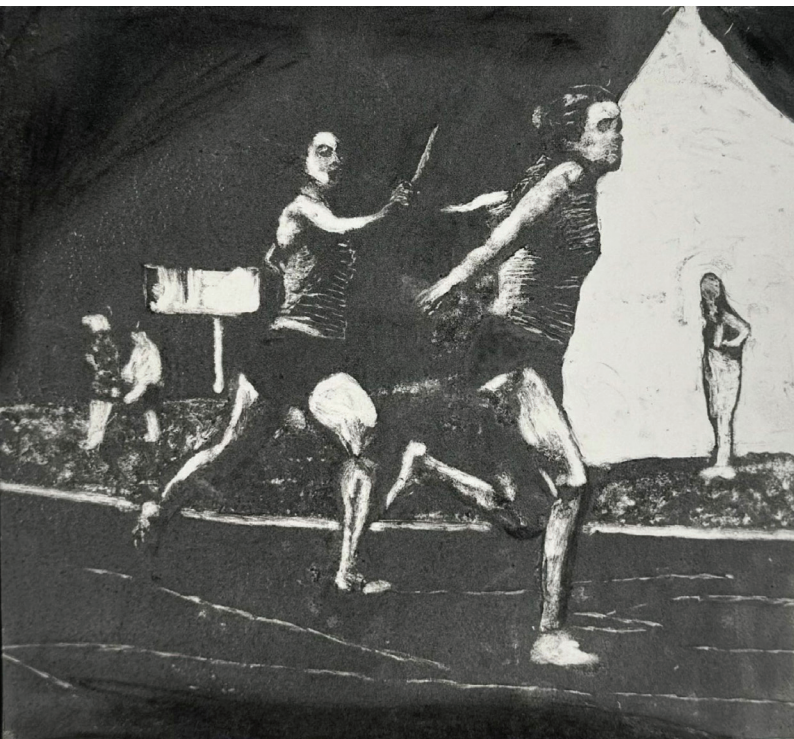
Artist's Statement
In this piece, my goal was to depict female friendship as well as individuality. I tried to show female connection, despite there only being one person in the piece, by having her looking over her shoulder while she still explores her own interests—as represented by the records.

Kayla Lam
Ethereal Unity, 2026

Gouache on paper
White Station High School, Memphis
Teacher: James Dycus

Artist's Statement
In this work, I softly blended the subjects with shadows and hair, merging me with my memories and creating a dreamy and tranquil atmosphere with memories, orchids, clouds, and a rainbow. This connects all I love.





Jaya Lewis
Handoff, 2025

Monotype print on paper
Harpeth Hall School, Nashville
Teacher: Carolyn Fraser

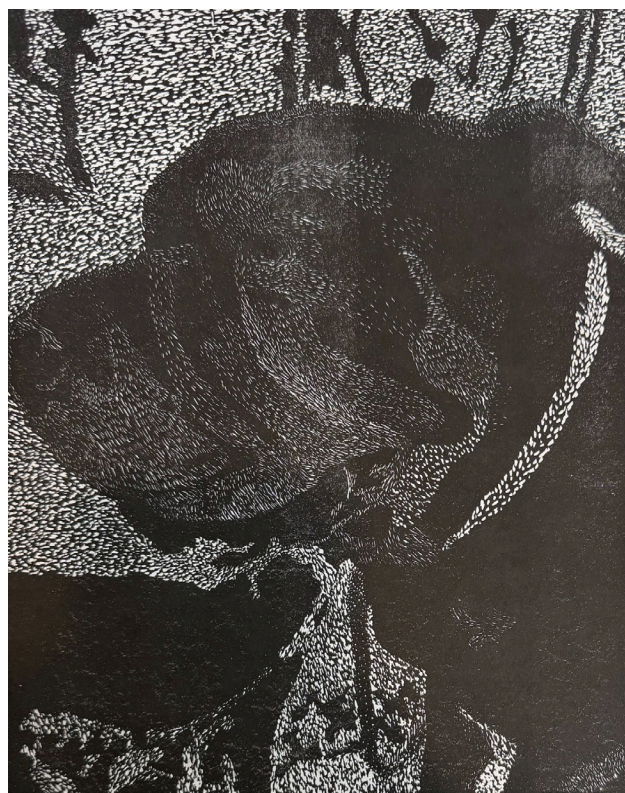


Jaslyn Macon
Blossoming Youth, 2025

Charcoal and chalk pastel on paper
White Station High School, Memphis
Teacher: James Dycus

Artist's Statement

The growing flowers represent transformation and how people face transformation and growth in their life through skills such as art.



Max Loudenslager
Dog Days, 2026

Linoleum print on paper
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

Artist's Statement

I made this linoleum print to highlight my love for animals and also represent patterning in an artificial way.

Lucy Maris
Clean Your Room!, 2025

Oil on wood panel
Battle Ground Academy, Franklin
Teacher: Wendi Parker



Lily Michael
Roots, 2025

Mixed media on paper
Battle Ground Academy, Franklin
Teacher: Wendi Parker

Artist's Statement

I put together three images of me in the traditional dress of the countries I've lived in. I am graphite—stagnant—and all the things around me are colorful. I am surrounded by the native plants of each country, showing my roots.



Erika Medrano
Lack of Motivation, 2026

Digital print on paper
Morristown-Hamblen High School East, Morristown
Teacher: Jennifer Stoneking-Stewart

Artist's Statement

Healing as an artist isn't always easy. Lacking motivation and energy to create makes it harder to make the things you enjoy.



Emerson Naramore
Perilous Journey, 2025

Digital print on paper
Morristown-Hamblen High School East, Morristown
Teacher: Jennifer Stoneking-Stewart

Artist's Statement

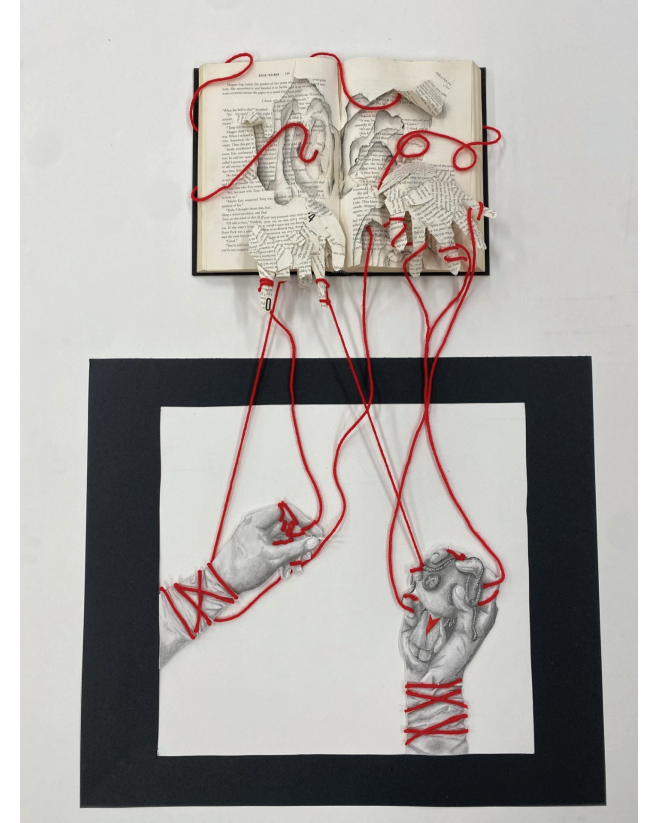
This work shows a view into different kinds of mechs and how they adapt to their niche: cargo transportation. Cargo tradesmen look back at the safety of day, coming to terms with the dangerous journey ahead of them—their transports are specifically built to withstand long migrations but are still vulnerable. Warm colors transition to cold, representing descent from safety and a more alien feeling as night progresses. Rubble, debris, and blue staining indicate violence in enemy territories and extreme storms.

Teagan Nelson
Influence, 2026

Graphite, charcoal, and string on paper
with book
Farragut High School, Knoxville
Teacher: Angie McCarter

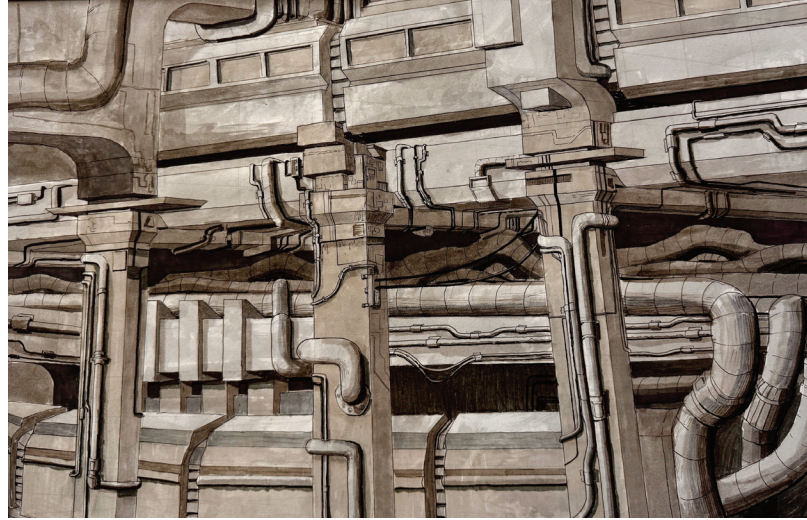
Artist's Statement

This artwork represents how media, specifically of the horror genre, has influenced the actions of the consumer.



Amyah Rice
Comfort and Security, 2025

Graphite on paper
White Station High School, Memphis
Teacher: James Dycus



Jack Ross
Dermis, 2026

Ink and alcohol marker on paper
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

Artist's Statement

The piece is part of a larger body of work that answers the question, "what happens when a city experiences unencumbered growth and evolution?" The piece addresses the infrastructural facet of cities, especially the support systems beneath the surface. I emphasized winding cables, weaving metro lines, and pipes.



Cheona Shively
Rigidity, 2026

Ink on paper
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Martha Profitt-Streuli

Artist's Statement

Within the contemporary world, women are constantly looked down upon, especially in comparison to men. The result of rigid societal expectations can often lead to a lack of comfort and confidence when women are trying to express themselves; only 35 percent of women view themselves as "highly feminine." It is important that we celebrate and encourage gender expression in ways that push beyond the rigidity of today's male-oriented world. This piece features two young girls who have pushed past the limits of gender-related societal pressures and are allowing themselves to express their femininity in a way that feels comfortable and unique to them.



Owen Rouse
Paparazzi, 2026

Screenprint on paper
Montgomery Bell Academy,
Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

Artist's Statement

This demonstrates the retro feel of the streets of Paris through a retro-looking medium in greyscale. I captured a paparazzi-style photograph through value and linework to display depth and texture.



Spencer Simmons
Memories in Blue, 2025

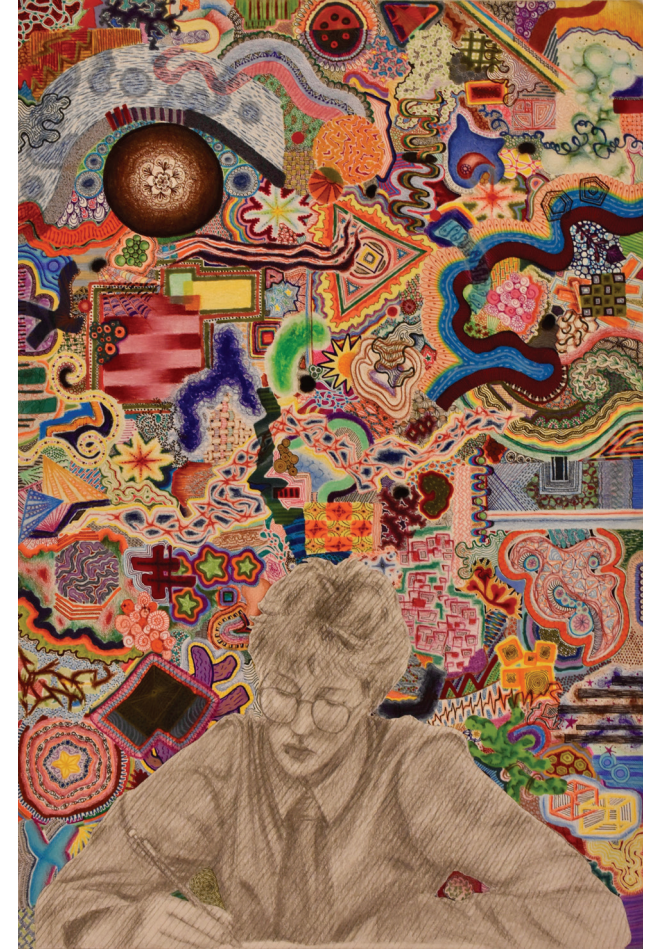
Screenprint on paper
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

Artist's Statement
I used an image of my friend to screenprint in monochromatic blue to visualize value changes through this piece.

Ireland Sullenberger
Self-Portrait, 2025

Graphite, ink, and paper on foam board
Hillsboro High School, Nashville
Teacher: Sara Hyatt

Artist's Statement
Self-Portrait is an outer reflection of my inner state of being. The graphite self-portrait is layered on top of the colorful, dynamic background, which represents consciousness, emotion, and thought in its raw, abstract form. The sheer contrast between the grayscale, orderly image of myself and the vibrant, constantly shifting plane behind demonstrates both the difference in one's outward presentation and one's internal conditions, and the ever-present underlying thread of chaos in the mind. The work is inspired by Wassily Kandinsky's technical style used in his compositions blending form, shape, color, and movement to create expressive scenes.



Cole Thrasher
Waiting, 2025

Digital print on paper
Morristown-Hamblen High School East, Morristown
Teacher: Jennifer Stoneking-Stewart

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Conte Community Arts Gallery
August 28, 2026–March 28, 2027
Organized by the Frist Art Museum

Supported in part by
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