The Frist Art Museum’s eighth biennial Young Tennessee Artists exhibition showcases some of the finest artwork by high school students across the state. Students in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) studio art programs during the 2019–20 academic year were invited to submit their work to this exhibition. After reviewing more than three hundred entries from students in private and public schools, the jurors selected works by thirty-six students.

Upper-level studio art courses make it possible for highly motivated students to build and refine their portfolios through ongoing investigation, practice, and reflection. The dedicated teachers in AP and IB programs challenge their students’ artistic perceptions and encourage them to develop aesthetic methods, both conceptually and in execution. At the end of the school year, each student’s portfolio is reviewed by AP or IB examiners. Students may subsequently receive college course credit or other recognition of their accomplishments. This year, the end of the school year and the art submission deadline occurred in the midst of a global pandemic, adding extra challenges for the students.

This exhibition illuminates their skillful synthesis of form, technique, and content. The array and quality of work demonstrate the growing sophistication and diversity of experiences within the AP and IB studio art programs across Tennessee.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the selection committee:
Beizar Aradini, artist, Nashville
Trinita Kennedy, curator, Frist Art Museum
Paul Lee, professor of photography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Carl Moore, artist, Memphis

Advanced Placement is a registered trademark of the College Board. International Baccalaureate is a registered trademark of the IB Organization. The institutions were not involved in the production of and do not endorse this exhibition.

All works appear courtesy of the artists.

The views expressed by the artists do not necessarily reflect those of the Frist Art Museum.
Tiana Aldroubi
Lazy Lulu
2019
Oil on canvas
11 x 14 in.
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider

“This is a painting of me and my cat.”

Parker Bowling
Man
2019–20
Watercolor and ink on paper
14 x 10 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“My sustained investigation was based on the creation of abstract patterning and symbols to portray humans’ relationship with nature. The patterning on the piece is representative of the human race itself, with the darker colors almost pollutive looking, and the man being a stand-in figure for the human race.”

Luke Boyer
Grass
2020
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 30 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“I was building form from patterns found in the environment to connect an individual to nature.”

Belinda Brooks
The Sum
2020
Linocut and serigraph on paper
27 x 19 in.
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider

“This work is a combination of all the parts of my AP portfolio. It uses the blocks and a serigraph from each work in the collection. This is a representation of all of the work that went into my portfolio this year, as well as my personal growth and achievements.”

Walker Byrd
Self-Portrait as “The Lamentation”
2019
Oil on canvas
18 x 24 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“This is a self-portrait compositionally rendered in the likeness of Andrea Mantegna’s The Lamentation of Christ. I wanted to create a piece where I could combine foreshortening with my love of art history. It was also an exercise in rendering fabric as well as skin.”

Grace Clement
Detox Daydreams
2018
Sepia pencil and charcoal on paper
14 x 18 in.
Hutchison School, Memphis
Teacher: Jeanette Leake

“I wanted to experiment with sepia pencil and focus on highlights with white charcoal.”
Hayley Collins
Taking Time To Yourself
2019
Digital drawing
5 x 7 in.
Rossview High School, Clarksville
Teacher: Erin Wardell

“This piece is part of a series focused on coping mechanisms. This was done in Procreate on the Apple iPad.”

Ike Cravens
A Few Minutes After Sunset
2020
Oil on canvas
24 x 36 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“In this work, I highlighted the moment of illumination when an old fisherman chooses to work into the night. The light from the lantern is strong and casts bold shadows on the folds of his clothes, the back of his hand, and his hat to give the impression of a flash of light. This work is meant to show the beauty of a lifetime of dedication and commitment.”

Nadine Duessler
Secrets
2019
Oil on canvas
8 x 10 in.
Rossview High School, Clarksville
Teacher: Erin Wardell

“I photographed my model. On a canvas panel, I color-blocked, layered on the skin tone, and did detail work on facial features. Then, I added hair, shirt, background, locket, and tear. This work represents one’s struggle with the secrets of his/her past or identity, as shown by the locket.”

Rebekah Dumont
A Happy Grandma
2020
Yarn on wood
31 x 17 x 15 in.
Hillsboro High School, Nashville
Teacher: Sara Hyatt

“This is an old wooden chair from my art room that I yarn bombed. I made all the granny squares and sewed them together onto the chair. I wanted this piece to represent the personality of a person through the works they crocheted without the person being there physically.”

Madison Eddins
Surroundings
2020
Oil on board
9 x 12 in.
Nashville School of the Arts
Teacher: Marti Profitt-Streuli

“This piece is meant to convey the feeling of falling asleep in unconventional places, such as school or the library. These places may not be unconventional, but the act of sleeping in them certainly is. It can definitely leave one disoriented afterwards.”

Caroline Frederiksen
Stitches
2019
Archival inkjet print
7 x 11 in.
Harpeth Hall School, Nashville
Teacher: Susie Elder

“I am interested in the contrast between perceptions of strength/weakness and vulnerability, specifically in cancer patients.”
Kayla Gore
Goblin
2020
Digital art
11 x 8 1/2 in.
Rossview High School, Clarksville
Teacher: Erin Wardell

“When my transgender peers described how gender dysphoria feels like a monster looming over them, I received descriptors such as ‘trapped’ and ‘greasy.’ A feeling of being trapped, however, is not exclusive to trans people—it extends to anyone who has been limited by their own or others’ perceptions or actions. My intention with this piece was not only to depict the feeling of the transgender experience for trans people, but also to extend an olive branch to many who want the ability to understand the experience of their family, friends, coworkers, and favorite celebrities who are transgender.”

John Graham
Accommodating Hill Building
2019–20
Digital architectural drawings
11 x 17 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“I was experimenting with continuity with nature. This building derives its form from the slope of the hill.”

Amelia Hausmann
Après-Midi Paisible
2019
Watercolor on paper
16 x 22 in.
Hutchison School, Memphis
Teacher: Jeanette Leake

“This watercolor painting captures the relationship between light and fabric and was inspired by nostalgic childhood memories.”

Madeline Kerr
Half and half
2020
Fabric, thread, and buttons
22 x 18 in.
Hillsboro High School, Nashville
Teacher: Sara Hyatt

“I wanted to create this work because it represents how I interact with people. Part of my identity is with family and friends. Sometimes when I am with my friends, I show my family values or morals that I have been taught. When I am with my family, I follow those values.”

Fletcher Lance
Mixed Flowers
2020
Digital photograph
13 x 20 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“Paired together, the differing colors and stem placements lead to eye movement through the piece.”

Mylan Le
Veins and Arteries
2020
Acrylic on acetate film, paper, and marker
11 x 15 in.
Ensworth High School, Nashville
Teacher: Cati Blitz

“Inspired by CT scans, veins, and arteries, this piece was made with clear acetate film, black paper, acrylic paint, and marker to have some characteristics of CT scans. It depicts unity in layers of clear film, and patterns create dynamic line variety.”
Enzo Lederer-Morihisa
Night
2019
Pen and ink on paper
18 x 24 in.
Nashville School of the Arts
Teacher: Marti Profitt-Streuli

Ellie Meyers
Framed
2019
Graphite on paper
16 x 11 in.
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider

“I used a variety of pencils to render this piece. It is inspired by the way that physical interaction can frame relationships.”

Rachel Mikkola
Hold It Together
2019
Mixed media
19 1/2 x 25 1/2 in.
Briarcrest Christian School, Memphis
Teacher: Jenna Fergus

“Holding myself together with colorful, confident supporting layers. Communicated with an impassive expression.”

Bella Orozco
Padre
2020
Mixed media on paper
22 x 18 in.
Nashville School of the Arts
Teacher: Marti Profitt-Streuli

“I used oil paint and magazine clippings on paper to paint a portrait of my best friend, my father. I wanted to capture him not only in the face, but in subtle ways in the background as well.”

William Payne
Radiating Luke
2019
Intaglio ink on paper
10 x 8 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“This piece was done with a zinc etching plate. I first etched with a hard ground, added details with drypoint and aquatinting, and used a patterned string doily to put in the background with a soft ground process. I wanted to create an angry portrait of a friend with pattern and line. I was inspired by Lucian Freud’s etchings.”
Maya Risch
Invisible
2018
Colored pencil on paper
20 x 15 in.
Hutchison School, Memphis
Teacher: Jeanette Leake

“Here I used a white colored pencil to illustrate the reflections and light that make glass visible.”

Eden Sekwat
Attention
2019
Digital photograph
20 x 14 in.
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider

“This piece explores the idea of attention and whether or not it is wanted. I focused on contrast, value, and light to bring attention to the subject in the way a spotlight would.”

Madelyn Simcoe
Bag of Peaches
2019
Colored pencil on paper
14 x 11 in.
Hutchison School, Memphis
Teacher: Jeanette Leake

“The focal point of this piece is the plastic bag that the peaches came in. I personally struggled with transferring the warmer colors of the peaches onto the black paper, so I tried to go for a slightly more abstract look, rather than realistic.”

Sarah Katherine Steen
You Need Your Protein
2019
Mixed media
12 x 12 1/2 in.
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider

“This piece explores my relationship with my mother and incorporates found objects of significance to that relationship, such as Band-Aids, old receipts, buttons, fabric, etc. It is an encaustic piece with oil paint, created by layering different scenes and snippets of phrases from my memories surrounding her.”
Ashton Terrell
Don’t Shoot
2019
Charcoal and soft pastel on paper
12 x 17 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“This piece was made to address the issue of police brutality in the African American community.”

Anna Rose Thomas
Goober and Wonder Bread
2019
Colored pencil on paper
12 x 17 in.
Hutchison School, Memphis
Teacher: Jeanette Leake

“What could be more American than a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? My grandmother always used Goober, so I wanted to incorporate it into this piece. Making the plastic wrapping look crumpled was hard to do, and I also had to pull many colors out of it: it was not just white but actually very light pink in places. After I photographed the objects, I made sandwiches that I passed out to people in need. This piece was very emotional for me because it made me think of my childhood.”

Quinn Trabue
Waiting Game
2019
Photograph
11 x 8 1/2 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“This is a candid shot at a track meet.”

Austin Vaughan
Edgar Allan Faux
2020
Pen and graphite on paper
8 x 12 in.
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Kati Swieca-Brockman

“I used pen and graphite to create a raven perched near a pathway. This work is meant to show a sense of depth and create a type of story that one can imagine. The inspiration came from Edgar Allan Poe and his style of poetry, especially from his poem ‘The Raven.’”

Breanna Webb
Unsure
2020
Mixed media on paper
7 x 5 in.
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider

“For materials I used pencils, Micron markers, alcohol markers, acrylic paint, and a white gel pen. My inspiration for this piece came from the thought of how we depict memories of people. People tend to remember certain details but it’s always unclear. The process of this piece was long. I first drew the girl and then left it awhile. Then I began to add different media to it.”
Alyssa Williams
The Watchman
2019
Ink and watercolor on paper
16 x 20 in.
Briarcrest Christian School, Memphis
Teacher: Jenna Fergus

"The inspiration behind the piece is my grandfather’s ability to watch and capture my family through photography. The background is composed of a translucent picture of my family overlaid with a page from a photography book describing the functions of cameras. The etched print is of my grandfather and his camera."

Clay Williams
Elephant
2019
Pen and paper
12 x 21 1/4 in.
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider

"The mediums I used were cut-out colored paper, sketchbook paper, and Microns. My inspiration came from President Trump and his administration’s decision to severely weaken the Endangered Species Act. In this piece, I imagined a clone of an extinct Asian elephant spitting out gears and metal parts from its trunk. I also added several spots on the animal where the skin was ripped off, revealing the robot."

Riyung Yun
Woosung Apartment
2019
Photographs, scanned digital images, and Photoshop
20 7/8 x 27 7/8 in.
Rossview High School, Clarksville
Teacher: Erin Wardell

"This image mixes memories of Woosung Apartments, where I lived during my early childhood. Two separate restored and scanned pictures were arranged on the same frame, like collage, and digitally cut into several sharp-edged pieces."

Justin Zhu
Monster de Modern-Ancient
2020
Magazine pieces, acrylic, markers, rubber cement, and woolen yarn
16 x 20 in.
Webb School, Bell Buckle
Teacher: Michael Quinn

"In this work, I synthesize and juxtapose the past and present with the architecture that may exist in the future. I use collage to superimpose the architecture of NYC, Petra, and Beijing, highlighting the hierarchy."
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