



YOUNG TENNESSEE ARTISTS

2024 SELECTIONS FROM ADVANCED
STUDIO ART PROGRAMS



Abbie Ahlbrandt
Self-Portrait, 2023

Gouache on poster board
Arlington High School, Arlington
Teacher: Melanie Anderson

Artist Statement

I made this piece to describe the feeling of aging while making art and growing with it. As I progress in age, my skill also improves and provides a timeline of my development. It is a look into the past, and this piece shows the active motion of creating the next piece in the timeline.

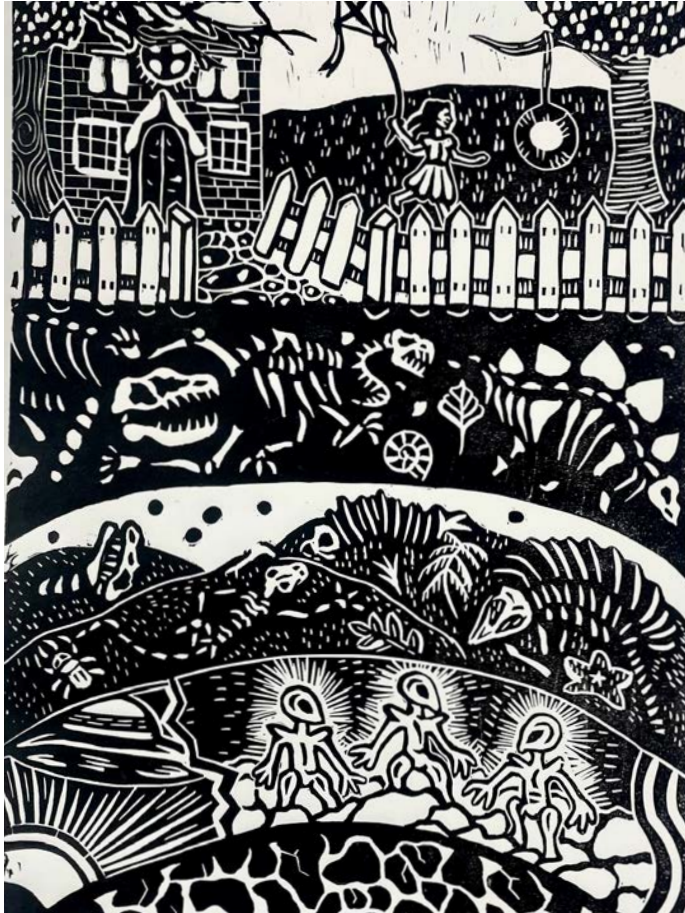


Dasha Apruda
Mourning, 2022

Acrylic on canvas
Martin Luther King Jr.
Magnet High School,
Nashville
Teacher: Joseph Graham

Artist Statement

I wanted to portray the meaning of the black rose through scenery and background and the grief of someone mourning for their loved one.



Olivia Ashurst
Earth, 2024

Linoleum block print
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Marti Profitt

Artist Statement

I depicted different layers of the earth, each level having a different theme or idea.



Safiya Margarete Austria
Suppression, 2023

Charcoal on paper
James Lawson High School, Nashville
Teacher: Briena Harmening

Artist Statement

The feeling of loss after my father's passing is what motivated me. The blindfold represents hiding from reality while the pencil signifies an artist's death: loss of passion for art, although temporary. The hair makes it seem like I'm resting in bed, which expresses my feeling of emotional exhaustion.

Elise Bainbridge
Rules of Cats, 2024

Digital print
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Marti Profitt

Artist Statement

This self-portrait is laid out like a grandfather clock, with the rat hanging like a pendulum, showing how nature is the most constant force in our lives. Nothing can persuade it to stop mass destruction; it will do as it pleases. In this case, the cats represent the power of nature, and the rat references its victims (us).





Ruby Barton
Truly Me, 2023

Oil on canvas paper
Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School,
Nashville
Teacher: Joseph Graham

Artist Statement

This Renaissance-inspired painting shows the confidence in womanhood. It is my final self-portrait in a self-portrait series where I have stepped beyond my comfort zone to view and depict myself from unique perspectives in order to overcome insecurities.

Haley Baskette
Sucky Sucky, 2024

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



Artist Statement

This piece about desire—the leeching, overwhelming feeling of desire. There are power dynamics at play in this piece; it is about the large desire tainting the small, pure self.



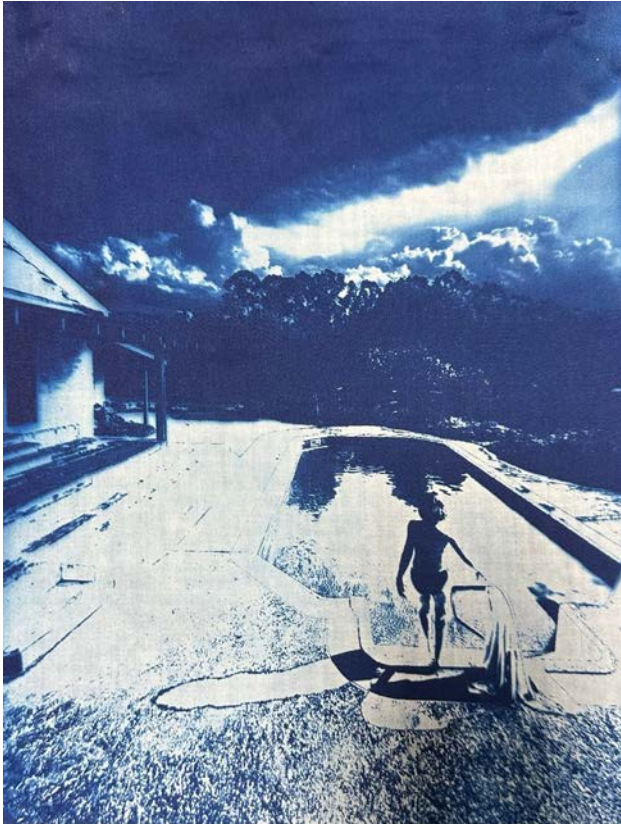
Shae Camardo

Leaving Home, 2023

Photograph
Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School, Nashville
Teacher: Joseph Graham

Artist Statement

This piece narrates a story of a relationship's fleeting moments unfolding, from an argument to an empty house. The intention of this series is to employ a sequence of images to convey a storyline. Even in the absence of people in the final photograph, which features a lamp and an empty chair, the image is attempting to encapsulate the essence of the relationship's decline, serving as a portrait of absence. The narrative articulates the complex emotions of coldness and abandonment, using each portrait as a distinct chapter in the story.



Maxwell Caplenor

Blue Storm on the Farm, 2023

Cyanotype on fabric
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Marti Proffitt

Artist Statement

I used manual settings on my digital camera to capture the sky. I developed this cyanotype using a negative I printed from my computer in the sun outside. I was inspired by the beauty the sky holds in contrast to the danger a storm brings. I wanted the sky to be the focal point of the work.



Lillian Cashen
Losing My
Marbles, 2023

Ink and colored pencil
on paper
Harpeth Hall School,
Nashville
Teacher: Susie Elder

Artist Statement

I wanted to combine the English idiom “Losing my marbles” with my own Korean game pieces, gonggi. My work shows the connections between English and Korean cultures through language and art.



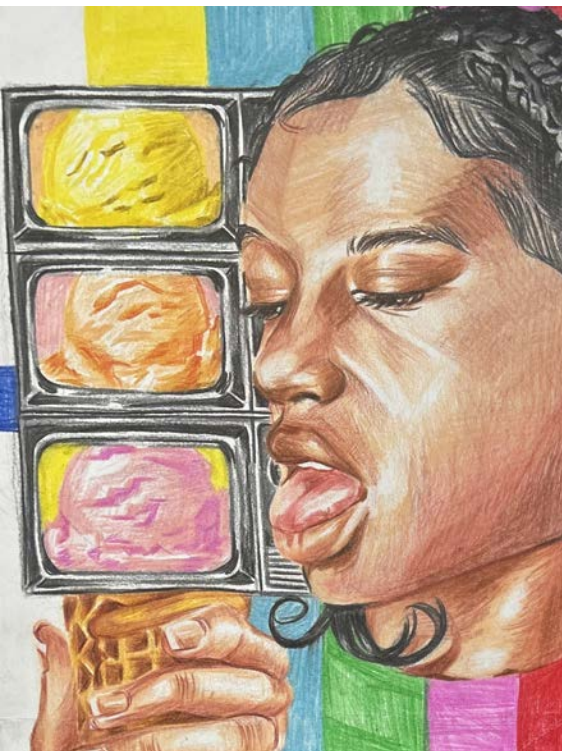
Ibtihal Cheko

Locs, 2023

Digital print
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider

Artist Statement

My sustained investigation was about hair and the ways that it impacts self-identity and outside perception. In this piece, I wanted to show how hair color can express self-identity while highlighting how differently others view you when you have locs or other Black hairstyles, particularly with how gender and masculinity are viewed in relation to Black hair and Black culture.



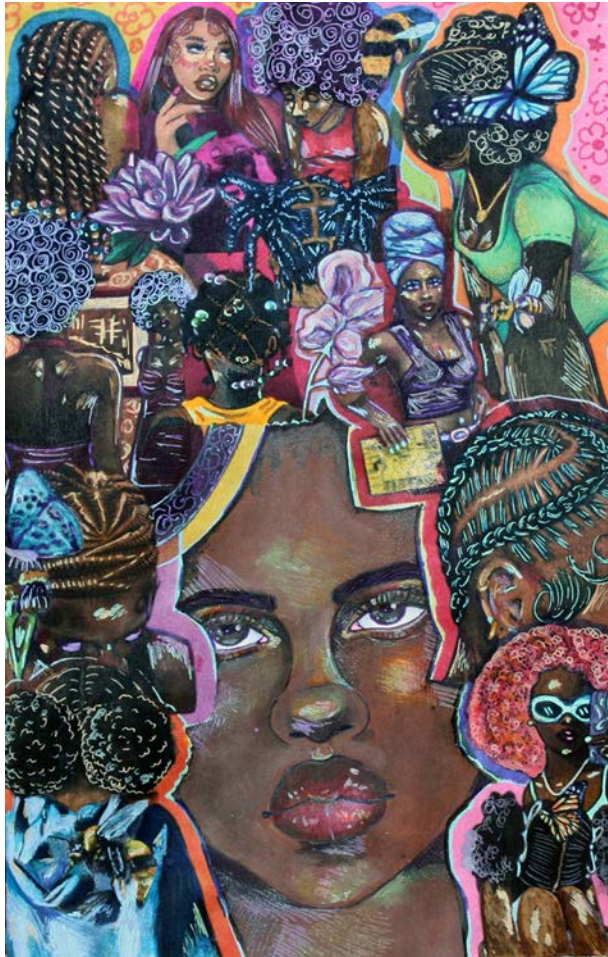
Destinie Cosby

Yummy, 2024

Colored pencil
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Marti Proffitt

Artist Statement

This piece represents the excess amount of media consumption in our current culture.



Ellyse Cox
Hair-itage, 2024

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

Artist Statement

A Black woman is centered with various “ghetto” hairstyles around her, embracing many styles of hair that are looked down upon.



Shelby Franklin
Scrap Book, 2023

Acrylic on canvas
Franklin Road Academy, Brentwood
Teacher: Cindy Thornton

Artist Statement

My concentration was on my grandmother's life with Alzheimer's seen through photos and memories. In this painting, I wanted to introduce the youthful, photography-loving side of my grandma. The reference for this piece was a picture of my grandma from her scrapbook. I believe she was in her 20s when this photo was taken of her.

Alex Hu

A Mind of Its Own, 2024

Watercolor, pencil,
and colored pencil on
illustration board
Harpeth Hall School,
Nashville
Teacher: Susie Elder

Artist Statement

Many of my artworks depict the intertwining of human features and parts of wildlife. In this piece, I wanted to show a link between humans and nature by connecting an intelligent animal with the human mind.





Beville Innis

An Alligator with Sunglasses, 2023

Colored pencil and gel pen on paper
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Marti Proffitt

Artist Statement

My sister and I shared goofy moments during our summer in Fairhope, Alabama. We both share a love for alligators and a love for Fairhope—the town our mom grew up in. She features in many of my Fairhope portfolio pieces because she was a large part of my experience there.

Jes Johnson

Michelle Drumgold, 2021

Linoleum block print
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Katherine Swieca-Brockman

Artist Statement

This group of works depicts my Aunt Michelle. The intention for this piece was to eventually be able to have an entire series of my close family members. This piece shows one of the most important people to me outside of my immediate family.



Emma Kerr

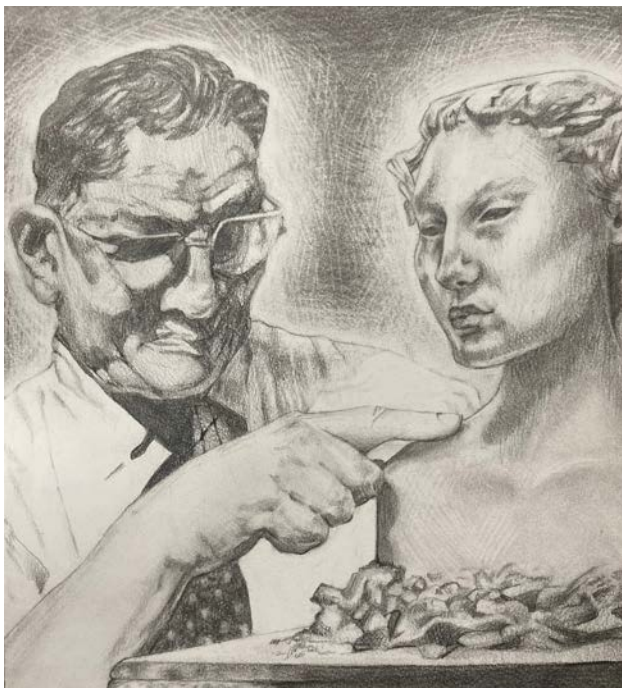
The Bucket and the Glass,
2024

Charcoal on toned paper
Lausanne Collegiate School, Memphis
Teacher: Kathryn Manzo

Artist Statement

I researched Pierre-Paul Prud'hon and mimicked his process of using both white chalk and black charcoal simultaneously. Additionally, the drawing was done by referring to a still-life model that I set up in class.





Cecilia Knaphus

Shaping a Generation, 2023

Graphite on paper
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Marti Proffitt

Artist Statement

This drawing represents the way past generations shape current ones. It depicts my great-great-grandfather Torleif Knaphus, who was a painter and sculptor, sculpting my face out of clay.

Michael Kong
Kernels of Happiness, 2023

Colored pencil on paper
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Katherine Swieca-Brockman

Artist Statement

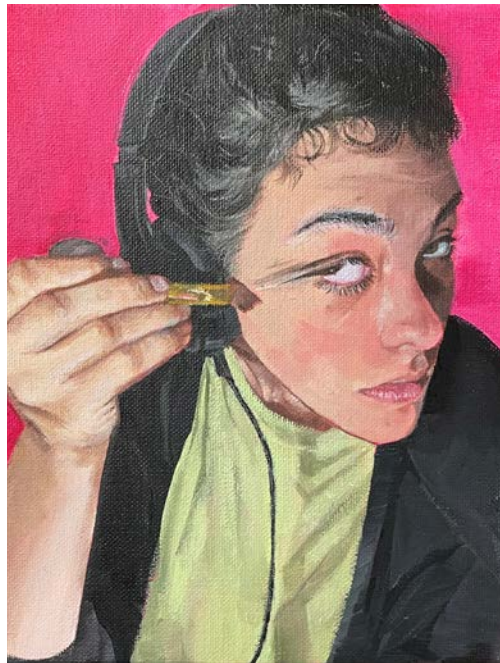
I explored portraiture by layering colors in the face and incorporating repetition in the shirt and corn.





Alejandro Lachica
Hope, Rising, 2024

Mixed media on paper
Lausanne Collegiate
School, Memphis
Teacher: Kathryn Manzo



Sasha Martin
Self-Portrait, 2024

Acrylic on canvas
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Marti Proffitt

Anna McDowell

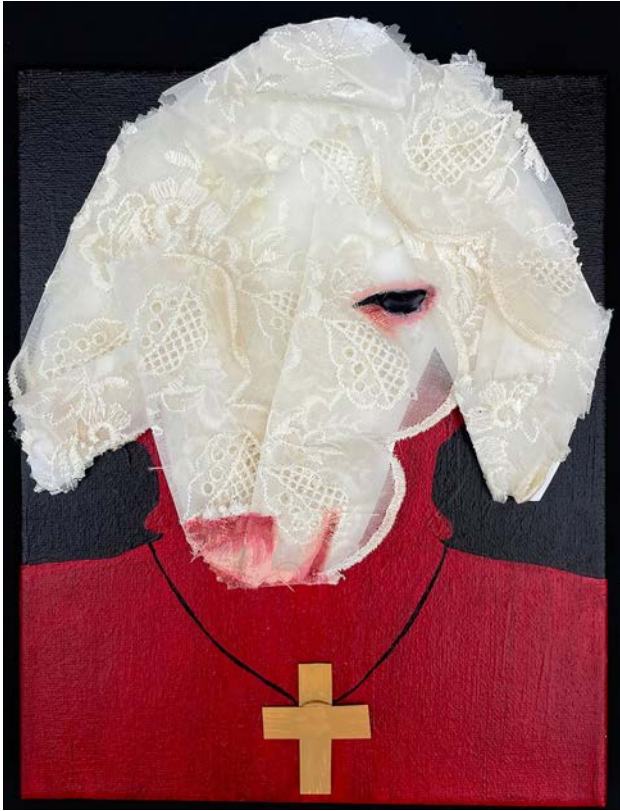
The Price You Pay, 2023

Mixed media on canvas
Hendersonville High School, Hendersonville
Teacher: Hanna Hale

Artist Statement

I created this piece to point out the injustice of child labor by portraying a shopper and worker handling the same product at the same time.





Rin Nichols

Un Sacrificial, 2024

Mixed media on canvas
Girls Preparatory School, Chattanooga
Teacher: Diane Yu

Artist Statement

I use religious imagery and the concept of a “sacrificial lamb” as a metaphor for existing as a pure being that is harmed for a greater purpose, as well as a representation of struggling with religious identity and internal shame.



Sirius Oxendine
Shadowed by Religion, 2024

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

Artist Statement

I am being shadowed (judged) by people that follow religion.



Knight Pineda
Pulang Kamay, 2024

Ink, alcohol marker, and colored pencil
Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville
Teacher: Shayna Snider



Artist Statement

This work is inspired by the anxieties of the everyday workplace.



Alexander Reddy
Strength in Family, 2023

Digital print
Montgomery Bell Academy, Nashville
Teacher: Katherine Swieca-Brockman

Artist Statement

A boy in the Dominican Republic took me to his home, where I observed his living conditions and familial struggles.



Blair Rodzewicz

Rosa, 2023

Colored pencil on illustration board
Harpeth Hall School, Nashville
Teacher: Susie Elder

Artist Statement

This work depicts a woman made of the same thing she longs to be, infatuated by its beauty.



Elena Ruiz
***Sacrificial*, 2024**

Oil on canvas
Nashville School of the Arts, Nashville
Teacher: Marti Profitt

Artist Statement

This imagery represents not only one story or feeling, but a mixture of being overwhelmed, inadequacy, self-sacrifice, and the inability to escape.

Presley Schick
Stacked, 2023

Mixed media on paper
Harpeth Hall School,
Nashville
Teacher: Susie Elder

Artist Statement

This work celebrates embracing the things that you love and letting your individuality show. This is part of my sustained investigation about self-expression and the adolescent experience.





Maribel Velazquez-Meza
Trapped Faze, 2024

Digital print
Morristown Hamblen High School East,
Morristown
Teacher: Jennifer Stonking-Stewart

Artist Statement

This digital collage was inspired by my memory of wanting to be trapped. In the vase, the little me in the dress represents innocence and hope. I was happy with the bouquet of cempasúchil. The outer me in red admires and tries to protect the innocent me. The owls and crows are metaphors for bad things trying to get to me.

Olivia Whitley
Two-Faced, 2024

Graphite on paper
Battle Ground Academy, Franklin
Teacher: Wendi Parker



Artist Statement

This is a representation of the disconnect from oneself, feeling duplicitous toward one's own identity.

Rosie Yang
Steps, 2024

Marker and colored pencil on illustration board
Father Ryan High School, Nashville
Teacher: John Durand

Artist Statement

Every weekend I shop for groceries.
From spring to winter, the steps
home are the steps of my growth.



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September 6, 2024–March 16, 2025

Organized by the Frist Art Museum

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