



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Criteria for Judging Art Exhibits

Neill Slaughter

2021

Given this extraordinary year of coping with the pandemic, I realize many of these students are probably having to work at home and or sporadically attending classes in school. In any case, it is one more complication that must be faced as you educate these young artists who are participating in this year's exhibition, currently hanging in the Parrish Art Museum. Having reviewed all the artwork this past week, I am cognizant of what is entailed in the creative endeavors I saw at the museum and want to compliment not only the students' efforts but also all the teachers who rose to the challenge admirably, teaching the students as best they could under these trying circumstances.

There are certain judging criteria, which I would like to share with those artists who are participating in this particular exhibit. As a practicing artist and professor for a full four decades, I feel strongly that creating art is intrinsically linked to interpretation. All visual artists become inspired by something, which is generally motivated by visual stimuli, and then interpreted as well as communicated visually. Regardless of the medium or whether the art is abstract or representational realist in its approach, I try to be as objective as possible while judging an exhibition. Certainly, I value skill and technique, however, ultimately, I look for honesty and truth in the artwork. During a careful analysis, in the best art there is a transcendence, whereby the viewer is emotionally moved or taken to another place by the artist's interpretation. I think it is important that the artist's intention is communicated as well. If we as viewers sense or recognize an inconsistency in intent or approach then the work suffers. Sometimes the artist's idea is better than the execution because of lack of skill or technique. Other times the skill is visually apparent, but there is no transcendence beyond merely copying a photograph or even photographing something that doesn't transcend the obvious, while still other times the end result is cliché or mimics other artists and there is nothing original in the

interpretation. Recognizing that in this particular exhibition there are artists with more years of practice and or education than others, and as seniors some will be singled out, worthy of recognition in a variety of categories ranging from drawing, painting, mixed media, digital photography, printmaking and 3-D sculpture. Even though the majority being recognized are seniors, I have decided to also recognize other artists who are younger and not yet seniors, but warrant recognition as being considered in a category I call "Ones to Watch".

Those art teachers and others who have attended the Suffolk County High School art exhibitions at the Parrish Art Museum, which I have juried over the years, know that in addition to selecting a number of talented Seniors who are worthy of recognition, I also like to acknowledge a number of equally talented young artists who have not yet reached "senior status." These artists are the "Ones to Watch". This particular year I got a bit carried away by the flourishing talent of so many underclassmen/women that I shall not be able to spend much time with writing long commentary, although it's only fair to write a comment about each of those creative endeavors shown below. I wish to commend not only these young student artists, but also their high school teachers who have done a magnificent job inspiring these artists to create what we all see in this year's "Ones to Watch". Sincerely, Neill Slaughter, Professor Emeritus, Long Island University

2021 Student Exhibition Honorees
Senior Awards for Excellence

Drawing/Illustration

Ava Engstrom, East Hampton
Ana Iniguez, Bellport
Olivia Luce, Westhampton Beach
Mims McNeil, William Floyd
Lucy Oldener, Westhampton Beach
Lauren Roberts, Eastport South Manor
Emma Rocchetta, Eastport South Manor
Isabella Saso, Westhampton Beach
Lilia Schaefer, East Hampton
Grace Schmelzer, Westhampton Beach

Mixed Media/Collage

Jade Jackey, Westhampton Beach
Kayla Jimenez, Westhampton Beach
Campbell Kast, Westhampton Beach
Amanda Krahe, East Hampton
Gaia Unaldi, Gary D. Bixhorn
Samantha McNamera, Mattituck
Brielle Ohlsen, Eastport South Manor
Nayeli Sinchi, Hampton Bays
Mia Seitles, Westhampton Beach

Painting

Aroldo Pantaleon Castro, Shelter Island
Anika Griffing, Eastport South Manor
Erin Lewendoski, Southampton
Cythina Lin, Southampton
Fallyn McKenna, Eastport South Manor
Wacha-Waste Win McNeil, William Floyd
Yusra Rashidzada, Shoreham Wading River
Julia Scheiber, Shoreham Wading River
Dream Smith, Bellport

Photography

Isabella Dicorrado, Gary D. Bixhorn

Lauren Gabbard, East Hampton

Tinatin Gabunia, Ross

Alexander Garcia, Gary D. Bixhorn

Alyson Idler, Eastport South Manor

Brenden Jung, Miller Place

Katelyn Morretta, Gary D. Bixhorn

Lily Valteau-Lowney, East Hampton

Graphic Design/Digital Media

Andrea Aponte, Southampton

Olivia Bugala, Gary D. Bixhorn

Cameron Kerr-Smith, Bellport

Jenniffer Muller, Southampton

Olivia Nicoletti, Shoreham Wading River

Kyle Tobias, William Floyd

3-D

Cassius Lubber, Ross

Hudson Musnicki, East Hampton

"ONES TO WATCH"

Arianna Adamo, Eastport South Manor

Elyse Beavers, Ross

Michael Bellavia, Gary D. Bixhorn

Alexia Benjamin, Bellport

Kimberly Bermeo, East Hampton High School

Keira Bree, Eastport South Manor

Kathleen Connelly, Eastport South Manor

Sara Cornacchiulo, Bellport

Emilio Rocha Fuentes, Ross

Olivia Glass, Ross

Ella Glover, Mattituck

Daniela Gonzalez, Hampton Bays

Samantha Hildesheim, Mattituck

Lukas Hommert, Ross

Robert Iannaccone, Eastport South Manor

Jadyn Kass, Gary D. Bixhorn

Gavin Meltcher, Shoreham

Kaelyn Metz, Shoreham

Leonardo Mignola, Bellport

Claire Nemschick, Mattituck

Simoneta Peon, Ross

Mya Del Percio, East Hampton High School

Lia Pires, Eastport South Manor

Sarah Spanburgh, Southampton

Alexis Starvinos, Mattituck

Emelia Winter, Ross

2021 Student Exhibition Honorees By School

Gallery 2

Shoreham Wading River High School

Teachers: Samantha Shepard, Nicole Massaro, Jason Andria

Julia Scheiber, gr. 12, Untitled, Acrylic

This small painting was so subtle hanging among all the other art on the wall, initially it did not stand out, however upon closer inspection it revealed an unusual amount of subtle blending of colors within any given part. What each part means is pure speculation, although it must surely be a very personal story; still as it is "untitled" only the artist knows for certain what is meant by the wide array of imaginative imagery full of mystery. There is clearly more here than meets the eye. Does it matter what those 'teeth' are chattering on about and what is behind those doors? It's a thought provoking painting!



Olivia Nicoletti, gr. 12, Untitled, Digital

This small B&W digital drawing stands out primarily because of the subtle shift in value creating a convincing sense of volume. Its imaginative approach makes this a good illustration.



Yusra Rashidzada, gr. 12, Untitled, Oil paint

One can almost feel the heat pulsating in this painting and there is an exotic presence to the person portrayed who appears to perhaps be from a tropical climate. Upon closer inspection one notices how imaginative both the delicate handling of the garment with its closely aligned painterly stripes and the exotic headdress as it morphs into a steamy jungle...making this image even more surreal.



Gallery 2

Gary D. Bixhorn Technical Center

Teachers: Elizabeth Grafer, Talia Mochi Cliffe

Alexander Garcia, gr. 12, *Water Drop*, Photograph

How apropos to take a photo of a water drop creating an iconic image of a single droplet, capturing that nearly perfect symmetry, which appears sculptural, almost like a water fountain. Even the title could be interpreted two ways, literally or figuratively as there has been a drop in water around the world as climate change manifests itself.



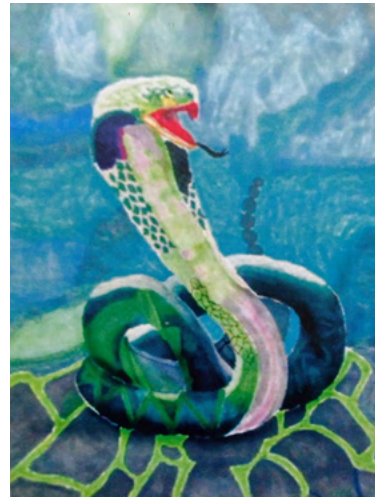
Isabella DiCorrado, gr. 12, *Withering In Waste*, Digitally manipulated photograph

An arresting image evoking a surreal sense of sinking into a digital dream, although it is unclear whether one would see it as "Withering in Waste" as the title indicates.



Gaia Unaldi, gr. 12, *Untitled*, Marker and photoshop

A competent manipulation using colored markers mixed with photoshop creating a harmonious color scheme that is rather dreamlike...instead of nightmarish.



Katelyn Morretta, gr. 12, *The Forgotten*, Digitally manipulated photograph

The camouflaged face creates an overall abstract pattern making this photo anything but forgettable, although ironically the artist wants the viewer to see that this particular face is someone "forgotten."



Olivia Bugala, gr. 12, *The Prey*, Digital illustration

This illustration is masterful at creating very convincing depth in this digital forest full of multiple layers of immense subtlety in value.



Gallery 2

East Hampton High School

Teachers: Sheila Batiste, Amanda Cappabianca, Heather Evans, Margaret Zubarrain

Lilia Schaefer, gr. 12, Reaching Out, Pastel on paper

That hypnotic stare coupled with the strange yet harmonious color creates a sort of surreal sensation in this pastel.



Lily Valleau-Lowney, gr. 12, Crashing Waves, Digital print

What an appropriate title as one can feel the powerful turbulence of the sea in this large scale photo showing the ebb and flow of waves captured in a wide range of values that only adds to the dynamism.



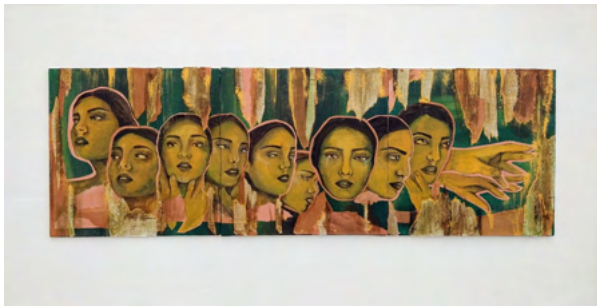
Lauren Gabbard, gr. 12, Adventures in Nature, Digital print

There is a captivating depth of field beginning with that crisp detail of bark on the front tree moving back into space following the path meandering through the leafless trees, which also makes this soothing to the soul.



Amanda Krahe, gr. 12, *Moving Through Time*, Mixed media on canvas

An unusual long horizontal compositional format coupled with a handsome harmonious personal palette adds to the overall atmosphere found within the continual overlay of painted heads rotating or “Moving Through Time” among the mysterious newspaper collage in the background.



Ava Engstrom, gr. 12, *Outback*, Watercolor and ink on illustration board

It would appear this artist’s intent was not to portray a realistic scene but rather to present an abstract configuration with a multiple array of different marks creating an abstract pattern within the four horizontal bands counterbalanced by three vertical poles and two diagonal stripes across the path. There is also a nice balance between textural marks, not wholly unlike Australian Aboriginal art juxtaposed to the smooth application of watercolor.



Hudson Musnicki, gr. 12, *Quaestio Pier*, 3D mixed media

In creating this wonderfully crafted 3-D model paying close attention to detail, this artist is clearly inspired by architectural and landscape design and his design even exhibits a bit of whimsy as its shape appears as a question mark when viewed from above.



Gallery 2

William Floyd High School

Teacher: Theresa Bianco

Kyle Tobias, gr. 12, The Triangle, Digital print

Technically this is a very proficient digital illustration with superb dynamic perspective indicating the artist not only knows how to draw really well, but also knows how to utilize the computer to create such a masterful illustration. What is even more astounding is that this illustration is the artist's invention and not a copy...very professional for someone still in high school.



Wahca-Waste Win McNeil, gr. 12, For Mom, Acrylic on wood

This painting stands out in part because the large scale is rather ambitious, however the artist also appears to have self-imposed a rather strict discipline in how she has handled the application of paint, limiting herself to painting all areas using flat patches of paint without the customary blending that indicates shading to describe the illusion of volume. Perhaps as a consequence of this disciplined approach, the overall painting is cohesive in conception and abstract in design. Viewed from afar it appears totally abstract although there is a stylized figure in the brown veiled area. Quite a tribute to the artist's mother.



Mims McNeil, gr. 12, Desperate from a Different Angle, Charcoal

The existential title and idea of this mixed media charcoal drawing appears to be somewhat more captivating than the rendering of the figure, although those simulated eyes sewn together with red beaded string coupled with the beckoning hand packs a powerful psychological punch to the viewer.



Gallery 2

Hampton Bays High School

Teachers: Keegan Bishop, Regina Papile

Nayeli Sinchi, gr. 12, Emphasis, Mixed media

Although a somewhat simplified mixture of line drawing and colored crayon, the result is rather satisfying, reminiscent of a greeting card bringing the bearer joy.



Gallery 2

Eastport South Manor Junior Senior High School
Teachers: Joseph Bridgwood, Allisyn Massimo

Anika Griffing, gr. 12, Vanilla Rooibos, Acrylic

This birds eye view composition suggesting artful abstraction combined with careful attention in the handling of decorative details transforms an ordinary cup of coffee into something warmly stimulating.



Fallyn McKenna, gr. 12, 36 Chambers, Acrylic

This competently crafted acrylic painting portraying a montage of powerful faces grabs the viewer's attention, holding it to contemplate the details.



Alyson Idler, gr. 12, Wildfire, Digital Photograph

Unlike the previous painting this photograph did not particularly grab this viewer's attention initially, however upon further inspection the interesting configuration of charred and burning sticks conjures something more...with a little imagination one can picture a burning cross, the symbol of the KKK, frightening imagery forever 'burned' into our collective consciousness.



Brielle Ohlsen, gr. 12, *Reflecting Reservation*, Watercolor and gel pen

This small, quiet, unobtrusive drawing should not be overlooked because the head is a marvelous rendering with subtle shifts in the blending of various values describing the illusion of volume and atmosphere.



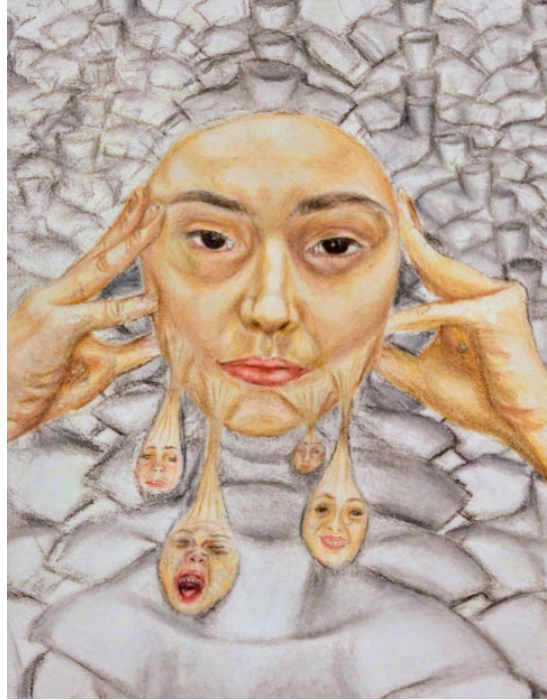
Emma Rocchetta, gr. 12, *Beneath the Bottles*, Colored pencil

"Beneath the Bottles" is a clever interpretation of what one associates with a "message in a bottle" washed ashore, only in this case it's a surrealistic wave trapped inside the bottle. This could also be a drawing ripe with social commentary concerning the ocean being polluted and it would be even a stronger message if that were a plastic bottle.



Lauren Roberts, gr. 12, Identity vs. Role Confusion,
Colored pencil, conte and Charcoal

The title seems particularly pertinent in this surreal yet well rendered drawing, apparently illustrating a personal dilemma the artist is facing.



Gallery 3

Southampton High School

Teachers: Daniela Azzi, Pamela Collins

Cynthia Lin, gr. 12, No Goodbyes, Watercolor

There is something bizarre yet beguiling about those wide spaced hypnotic eyes staring out in a longing fashion with the transparent overlay of the hand shadow passing before the face. Could the title imply there were “no goodbyes” during this pandemic when families are not allowed physically to be in the hospital room to say their goodbyes to loved ones?



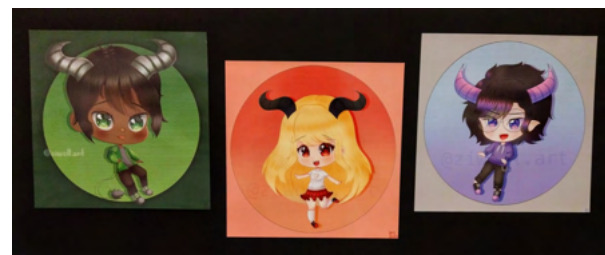
Erin Lewendoski, gr. 12, Sunset Ashore, Acrylic on canvas

Despite this being rather awkwardly painted, in a traditional sense, nevertheless there appears something strangely compelling in the cathartic and expressionistic handling of the brush and color that is reminiscent of one of the German Expressionist artists, Emil Nolde (1867-1956) who didn't use color to precisely render but instead used it to present a wistful look at an imagined scene.



Jennifer Muller, gr. 12, Mythical Trio, Digital prints

While Anime illustration is from a younger generation that seems obsessed with the overly exaggerated big eyes, one cannot deny that these digital illustrations are well crafted on the computer, although they are stereotypical images.



Andre Aponte, gr. 12, Self-Portrait, Digital illustration

This digital illustration is not only well crafted, it transcends the normal self-portrait precisely because this is not the stereotypical self-portrayal in the traditional manner, but instead brings a fresh unflattering look and makes good use of an arresting personal palette that only adds to an overall edgy "rebel without a cause" quality.



Gallery 3

Shelter Island School District

Teacher: Catherine Brigham

Aroldo Pantaleon Castro, gr. 12, Untitled, Acrylic on canvas

This awkwardly painted image is strangely enigmatic. As there is no title the viewer is perplexed at what is occurring. However, the composition is well conceived, breaking up the square darkened sky by a triangle of light shining onto mysterious shapes while another triangle of dark land on which sits a silhouetted figure, is pointed at by a diagonal created within the amorphous shape at the bottom left. It's all baffling yet somehow compelling.



Gallery 3

Bellport High School

Teachers: Barbara Gallagher, Brandon Payne, Devin Auricchio, Sophia Black, Chris Varley

Dream Smith, gr. 12, Mother, Oil

A traditional portrait of a mother, almost classically rendered, yet this particular portrait is brought up to date by having her transfixed by the ubiquitous cell phone. It suggests something prophetic about this century and modern society.



Cameron Kerr-Smith, gr. 12, Cats, Computer Graphics

This clever computer graphics artist creates "kool kats" that bring a degree of levity to this society currently trapped by the coronavirus pandemic.



Ana Iniguez, gr. 12, War of Emotions, Wood

The circular composition of the dragon and tiger motif burned into an oval piece of wood appears very apropos and even the title "War of Emotions" carries on a continuum that literally comes full circle throughout the ages.



Gallery 3

Miller Place High School

Teachers: Jeffrey Corbett, Elise Stasi

Brenden Jung, gr. 12, NYC Vessel, Digital Photography

Those familiar with the structural stair sculpture called the Vessel in NYC will know what it is like to experience it firsthand. However, this particular photograph seems to take it visually beyond to some degree by appearing more like a kaleidoscope of this most unique structure. Perhaps the unusual warm cool color range coupled with the cropping enhances the kaleidoscopic feeling.



Gallery 3

Westhampton Beach High School

Teacher: Kristen Gordon

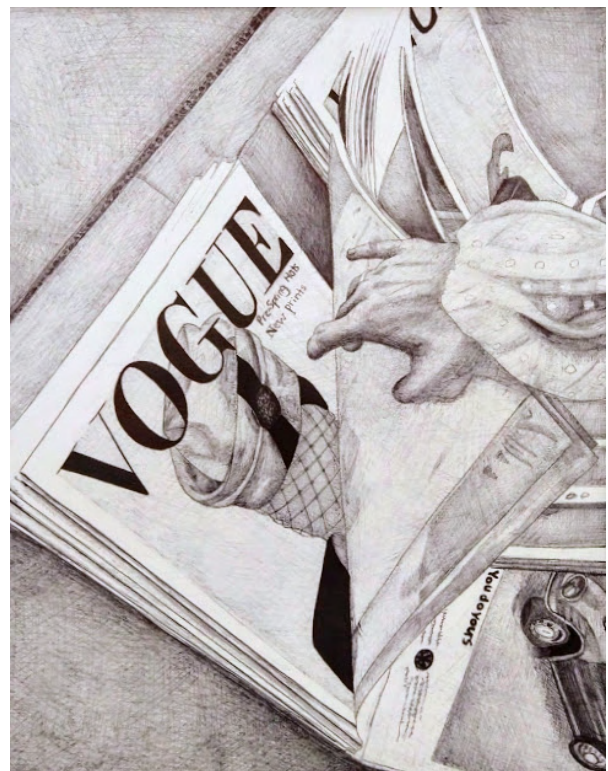
Campbell Kast, gr. 12, Untitled, Mixed media on paper

Although untitled, this might be a self-portrait, however what seems to set this apart from other images of faces covered with masks in this exhibition, would be how this artist is less interested in conveying herself during the pandemic, than to take the opportunity to voice her beliefs via social commentary as portrayed by what is covering the mask.



Isabella Saso, gr. 12, Untitled, Pen on paper

The young artist may be interested in what is behind the pages of Vogue magazine, although this drawing presents the viewer with a more complex composition cropped to emphasize the abstract nature of this particular configuration with a balanced value range keeping the eye moving throughout the composition.



Kayla Jimenez, gr. 12, Untitled, Mixed media on paper

Selectively cropping the image to concentrate on all the diagonals found within the crosshatching of multiple hands creates movement, while also creating a "touching" (excuse the pun) narrative, eliciting empathy from the viewer.



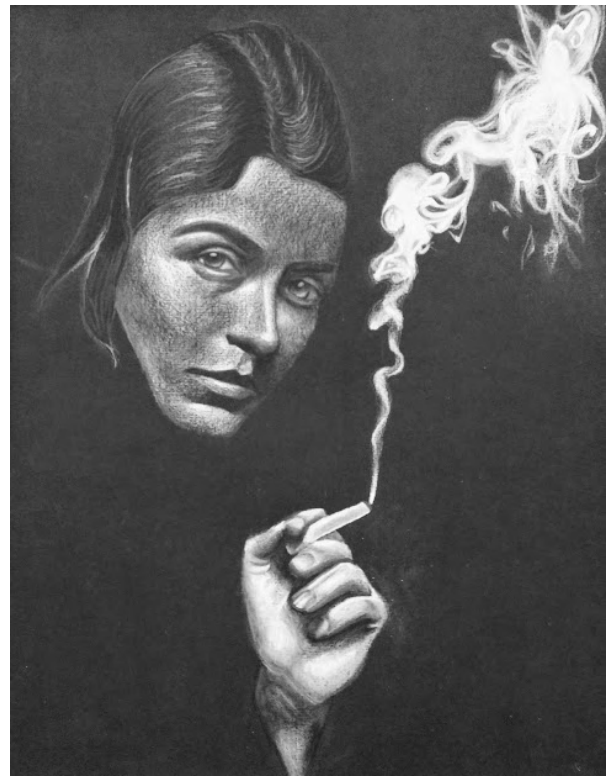
Jade Jackey, gr. 12, Untitled, Mixed media on canvas

A well-crafted Cubist composition retains continuity throughout by cleverly choosing a similarity in the personal palette of colors found in the photo. It should be noted that this particular blue, brown, tan palette is somewhat reminiscent of the early Cubists, Braque and Picasso, although here perhaps viewed through the lens of David Hockney who paid homage to those Cubists while updating them with his photo montages in the 1970's.



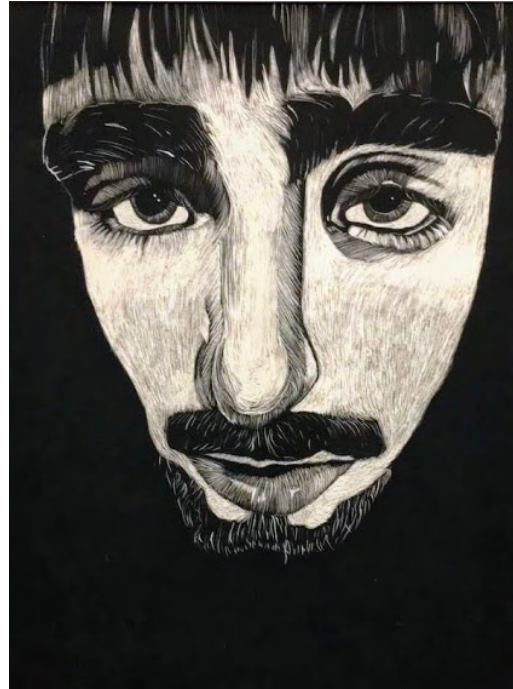
Grace Schmelzer, gr. 12, Untitled, Colored pencil on paper

A well rendered face peering out of the mysterious darkness is a perfect atmospheric device to emphasize the smoke curling up and out of the composition. This image is reminiscent of Film Noir from the 1930's and 40's.



Lucy Olender, gr. 12, Untitled, Scratchboard

By using the scratchboard technique this artist picked a most appropriate medium to convey this evocative face appearing sad and pitiful.



Mia Seitles, gr. 12, Untitled, Mixed media on paper

Cropping the face dramatically while also combining mixed media of what appears to be a subtle application of blended watercolor contrasted by the multitude of scratchy dots produces a very itchy and visually disturbing feeling that is both compelling and repelling at the same time.



Olivia Luce, gr. 12, Untitled, Chalk pastel on paper

The handling of the pastel producing both the glowing color and visually stunning sense of action is eye catching and not wholly unlike one of those Marvel Comic illustrations.



Gallery 3

The Ross School

Teachers: Jon Mulhern, Alexis Martino and Jen Cross

Cassius Luber, gr. 12, Collected Works from Advanced Art, Mixed media

An unusual combination of mixed media including some 3-D elements indicates an active and creative imagination.



Tinatin Gabunia, gr. 12, Born Under a Happy Star, Photography print

The unusual title seems to belie the creepy skeletal background pattern and the confrontational stare of the figure.



Gallery 3

Mattituck High School
Teacher: Dina Rose

Samantha McNamera, gr. 12, Long Island, Mosaic

This student's art, comprised of a mosaic mirror, stands alone and stands out while paying homage to Long Island by showing a map of the island at the top of the mirror in sandy tan/brown bits under which are bits of blue mosaic, presumably symbolizing water from the Atlantic Ocean. Those who look into the mirror might ironically "reflect" upon climate change causing the sea to rise while also discovering further damage from pollution of the ocean.



"Ones to Watch"

Eastport South Manor Junior Senior High School

Arianna Adamo, gr. 11, Shhh..., Conte

Seeing the distortion helps us eventually learn the clarity!



The Ross School

Elyse Beavers, gr. 11, Collected Works from Advanced Art, Acrylic on canvas

Beautifully crafted while concentrating on seeing the abstraction in reality.



Gary D. Bixhorn Technical Center

Michael Bellavia, gr. 11, The Lake, Digital painting

Admire the sense of harmony in the cool, indeed cold color scheme reflecting that Aurora borealis sky.



Bellport High School

Alexia Benjamin, gr. 11, Hodgepodge,
Graphite

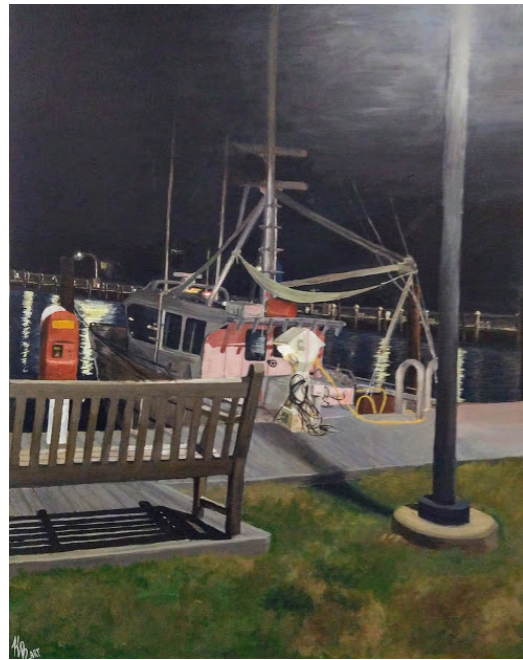
A well balanced "trompe l'oeil" eye catching
composition inviting the viewer in for close
inspection of all the detail.



East Hampton High School

Kimberly Bermeo, gr. 11, DNF, Acrylic on
Canvas

Dynamic nocturne painting with a convincing
sense of the lamppost light illuminating this
dock scene.



Eastport South Manor Junior Senior High
School

Keira Bree, gr. 10, Autumn Still Life, Colored
pencil

Good observation within the leaves and
apples, although perhaps a bit more shading,
changing value and adding cooler tones from
the blue background within the objects
would help the overall atmosphere tie every
aspect of this still-life together.



Eastport South Manor Junior Senior High School

Kathleen Connelly, gr. 11, Looking Glass, Watercolor

Wacky and whimsical... grabs our eye!



Bellport High School

Sara Cornacchiulo, gr.10, Portrait, Graphite

An exuberance for life comes through in a naturalistic drawing including the decorative freckle patterns.



The Ross School

Emilio Rocha Fuentes, gr. 10, Collected Works from Advanced Art, Acrylic on cardboard

The selection of the torn corrugated cardboard is an integral part of making this drawing work. Less is more in this case.



The Ross School

Olivia Glass, gr. 11, Collected Works from Advanced Art, Acrylic on canvas

Eye hand coordination produces simply delicious eye candy!



Mattituck High School

Ella Glover, gr. 11, Fox, White Charcoal

Taking a powerful shot at social commentary...how foxy and clever you are!



Hampton Bays High School

Daniela Gonzalez, gr. 10; Portrait, Graphite on paper

Well rendered drawing with a good range of values creating an illusion of volume and that nose is particularly convincing spatially in relation to the lips and cheekbones.



Mattituck High School

Samantha Hildesheim, gr. 11, Crow, Wood Burning

What a delicate bird burn this is!



The Ross School

Lukas Hommert, gr. 11, The Arrival, Photography print

A superbly composed photo with every aspect from the light and shadow patterns to the placement of the figure in perfect position.



Eastport South Manor Junior Senior High School

Robert Iannaccone, gr. 11, Quenching My Thoughts, Colored pencil

Simply a superb and inventive colored pencil drawing composition in which the abstraction in the bottom of the bottle coupled with the color patterns in the palm of the hand both compete and complement the face.



Gary D. Bixhorn Technical Center

Jadyn Kass, gr. 11, Reflection, Photograph

Making the most banal something beautiful to behold.



Shoreham Wading River High School

Gavin Meltcher, gr. 10, After the Rain, Photograph

This image transcends what it actually is...a cabbage, making it appear as beautiful as the most delicate rose.



Shoreham Wading River High School

Kaelyn Metz, gr. 9, View from the Mountain Top, Paper collage

Wonderful integration of the bits adding up to a cohesive whole!



Bellport High School

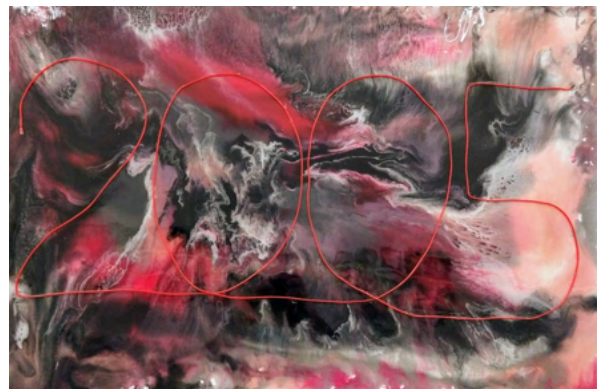
Leonardo Mignola, gr.11, Purple Haze,
Computer Graphics

As someone who actually saw Jimi Hendrix play live in 1969 as a high school student, let me simply say..."Move over Rover and let Leonardo take over." You've captured the energy and psychedelic period perfectly!



Mattituck High School
Claire Nemschick, gr. 10, 2005, Resin

Free form yet controlled pour of the paint and resin create a fluid kinetic composition.



The Ross School
Simoneta Peon, gr.
11, Untitled, photography

A perfect conception producing a Yin Yang composition.



East Hampton High School

Mya Del Percio, gr. 10, Sunset Harbor, Acrylic on canvas

The dock posts configuration are crucial to making this composition operate visually.



Eastport South Manor Junior Senior High School

Lia Pires, gr. 11, Inadequate Perfection, Chalk Pastel and conte;

Seeing beyond into a psychological self-portrait, somewhat reminiscent of Munch's "The Scream".



Southampton High School

Sarah Spanburgh, gr. 11, Collage Face, Acrylic on canvas

A spirited application of paint creating dislocation in time and space produces a compelling portrait that is not the same old face!



Mattituck High School

Alexis Starvinos, gr. 10, Untitled, Photograph

Great to be down on the dog's level in this composition that reiterates a color scheme found in the dog and sky within the rocks.



The Ross School

Emelia Winter, gr.11, Untitled, Acrylic on canvas

Subtle personal palette and roughly sketched figure together produce a poignant catharsis.

