



BRIDGES

FACING CHALLENGES

THE MUSEUMS OF LOS GATOS
4TH ANNUAL SANTA CLARA COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL JURIED ART EXHIBITION

APRIL 16 - MAY 10, 2015

BRIDGES

FACING CHALLENGES

NEW MUSEUM LOS GATOS
106 E. MAIN STREET
LOS GATOS, CA 95030
408.354.2646



NEW MUSEUM LOS GATOS

LOS GATOS CIVIC CENTER 2015 • NUMULOSGATOS.ORG

A Letter From the Director

Art saved me in high school. Literally, I am not being dramatic. I took every art class offered. I stayed after school to make art and took projects home over the weekend. In the library I was the kid who sat in the stacks and poured over art monographs while everyone else was sneaking candy and writing notes.

I was once asked to speak on a panel at the National Steinbeck Center. The topic was “Can a work of art change your life?” My answer was a resounding “Yes!” Art continues to change and shape my life.

One’s high school years are filled with transition and change: developmentally, physically and emotionally. It is a rich and exciting time for these challenging reasons. Art can articulate conflicting and complicated emotional landscapes at a visual level. Creating art can open up pathways to problem solving and conflict resolution. It can also simply be a vehicle of expression, a way to exorcise demons.

This years’ exhibition theme, Bridges: Facing Challenges offered students an opportunity to explore their own personal challenges, changes, transitions and conflicts and to express their feelings, offer up some solutions and even rant a little about their frustrations. The work juried into the exhibit is exceptional. A variety of themes surface but as I consider the work and read the artist statements I am struck by this: these kids are up for the challenges that face them. They are smart, strong and determined to not just overcome, but to soar.

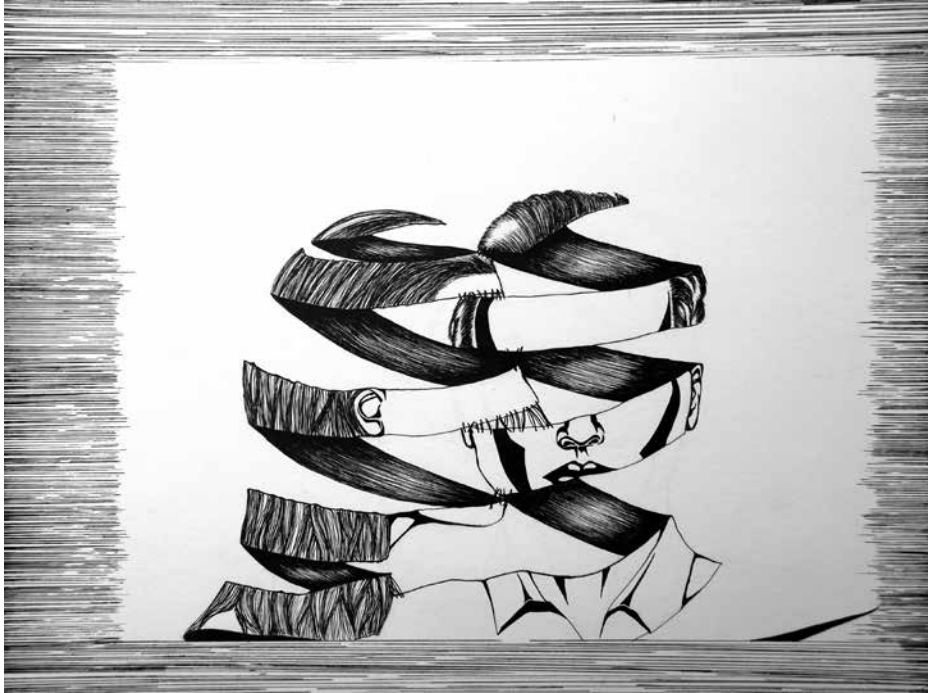
Thank you to the many people who made this exhibition possible, notably our High School Exhibition Committee led by Mary Ellen Kaschub. Her hard work and the dedication of this team is what drives this exhibition. And to the kids, their families, teachers and mentors who place a high value on STEAM over STEM in California curriculum. Lastly, a special thank you to our partners at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, especially Esther Tokihiro.

Over 750 pieces were submitted to Bridges but just 68 were juried into the show. Thank you to ALL the students who took the time to think, create and submit: this tough competitive environment raises the standard of excellence each year.



Lisa Coscino
Executive Director
NUMU Los Gatos
April 2015

Antonia Acevedo Perez



Attached, Loose Ends

Ink pen on drawing board, 2015
18" x 24"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

Two different people collide and fall in love to create a family. When the love is absent, our family bridge is broken. It's that bridge that helped us get to the other side when we felt stuck. It takes that same family to build that bridge back to overcome the problem, the separation of the family. Only then, will it become a bridge, a unit again.

Mondy Ahy



Wandering Innocence

Digital photography, 2015
20" x 16"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Jessica Hayes

This photo collection depicts the results of the transition from childhood to young adulthood. So often kids find themselves wandering astray from their innocence and wishing to rush in escaping the life of adolescence to gain a higher title in society. This collection compares the transition out of childhood and the unfortunate bridge it creates between our past selves.

Ivy Atkinson



End of the Day

Acrylic on canvas, 2015
16" x 20"

Los Gatos High School
Teacher, Thad Smith

The wings of your angel can take you, however slow, fast or to any height that is possible... because they are YOUR wings; no one else's. And no matter what, at the end of the day you can make it to the other side of the sky. Your goal is always reachable.

Siggi Bengston



Adam Without God

Digital Art, 2015
12" x 18"

Palo Alto High School
Teacher, Margot Wixsom

Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Trayvon Martin are victims of systematic racism institutionalized in American culture. The Declaration of Independence establishes that citizens are born with natural rights. Yet, American history suggests only some citizens benefit from these rights. I drew inspiration from Michelangelo's painting *The Creation of Adam*, which depicts the Biblical creation of man. Instead of a Biblical figure reaching back, there is darkness representing the dehumanization of African-American's in American culture.

Anisha Braganza



Identity

Mixed media, 2015
30" x 18" x 6"

Homestead High School
Teacher, Katie Schiltz

Bridges don't always equate to benevolence. There are bridges that abridge personal identity and try to assimilate people under the one "social norm." Racism, gender, sexuality- these are all societal labels that hinder the development of individuality. Michelangelo's painting "The Creation of Adam" defines the creation of whose identity? Even a white male cannot identify to other white males. Ethnicity, background, religion- or these other "identification bridges"- do they really define who you are?

Paige Bushman



Deterioration

New media, 2015

24" x 18"

Christopher High School
Teacher, Mark Carrick

Technology is a monumental idea in our society. It captivates and inspires us, but it also destroys and consumes us. Children today are overpowered by technology. It determines how they live and learn about the world, whereas the previous generation learned from experiences and nature. This advancement is actually deterioration, because now humans are dependent on technology. Instead of technology not being able to exist without humans, humans cannot exist without technology.

Harriet Cassell

BEST IN SHOW



In Orbit

Porcelain, cast bronze, mixed media, 2014
6" X 6" X 11"

Lynbrook High School
Teacher, Charlotte Kruk

He asked NASA for a ship, in retrospect, he should have specified "spaceship." Either way, he'll get to where he wants to go. It's all about the journey after all.

Illiana Castaneda



My Loved Ones

Acrylic, 2015

11.5" x 11.5"

Fremont High School
Teacher, Catherine Zweig

Constantly surrounded by the death of my loved ones, I've learned that it never gets easier. Accepting death has been a constant bridge in my life and I have yet to cross it.

Anna Chen



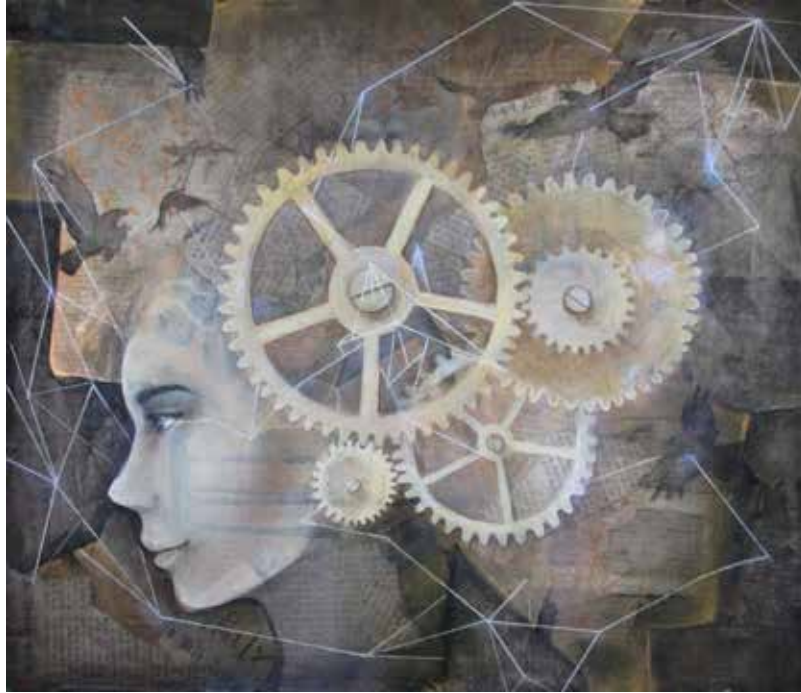
Past and Future

Colored pencil and pencil, 2015
21" x 19.75"

Leigh High School
Teacher, Kimberly Bartel

Every individual has their own unique past and as everyone lives day by day, they should not dwell on what happened in the past because that will make the present gray. Instead, focus on what is going on at the moment and live every day to the fullest because then the future can change into something that is more colorful than the past. Forget the past, forgive yourself, and begin again.

Katie Chen



Ephemeral

Acrylic ink, chalk, pen, collage, 2015
17" x 20"

Monta Vista High School
Teacher, Kyung Ahn

Negativity lives to proliferate stress; it crushed my self-confidence, and inhibited me from pursuing my interests. I was terrified of being a disappointment, and saw nothing but flaws in myself. However, I eventually discerned that negativity is just one side of any situation. It can be controlled by thinking optimistically and being appreciative. Poisonous thoughts are purely ephemeral; by switching gears to a different mindset, one can become the bridge needed to cross over negativism.

Emma Cockerell



Bridging Global Societies with Technology

Digital photography, 2015

12" x 18"

Palo Alto High School
Teacher, Margo Wixsom

When digital technology was not prevalent in society, not much was understood about other parts of the world, and civilian interactions were limited. With the creation of the Internet, communication among people from totally different places has been made faster, easier, and more affordable. Ideas are spread and opinions are shared, creating a diverse and priceless web of information. Technology has helped bridge gaps in communication in the worldwide society, bringing people of different religions, races, and ethnicities together.

Nate Cook

2nd PLACE IN SCULPTURE



Scrutiny

Mixed media, 2014
24" x 24" x 24"

Palo Alto High School
Teacher, Margo Wixsom

My heart plays a fast tempo and my hands shake to the beat for the audience that never stops watching.

Nate Cook



My Collection

Mixed media, 2014

12" x 24" x 12"

Palo Alto High School
Teacher, Margo Wixsom

Trust your soul to help you decide which experiences to collect for your bag of life.

Roy Cramer



It's Easy to Choose a Career

Pen and pencil, 2015
16" x 20"

Homestead High School
Teacher, Edmond Kwong

In this piece I wanted to show the initial fear and dread of choosing a career. We can often feel forced onto a single path towards success by parents and society, where everything else is failure. With this is a fear of waking up several decades later, realizing that you are only content with your life, and that's it. You feel that you've been pulled upward by puppet's strings this whole time.

Dane Cross



Fear

Digital illustration 2014
13" x 19"

Willow Glen High School
Teacher, Sandra Holland

“Wanna make a monster? Take the parts of you that make you uncomfortable—your weaknesses, bad thoughts, vanities, hungers—and pretend they’re across the room. It’s too ugly to be human. It’s too ugly to be you.”

-Richard Silken

Children are afraid of the monsters and the dark just as adults are afraid of themselves.

Samantha Dadok



Masked

Watercolor, ink pen, 2015
15" x 20"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

A prominent subconscious choice we often face daily is that between active compassion and apathy. Too often we choose to ignore, to walk past issues that stare us in the face because they make us feel uncomfortable. Whether they are our own personal weaknesses or societal flaws, it can take enormous courage to confront and acknowledge suffering. Masks (and their removal) are the vehicle through which I explore this choice between insensitivity and empathy.

Samantha Dadok



Searching

Watercolor, ink pen, 2015
12" x 18"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

One of the greatest and most essential choices we make in life is the decision to eventually strike out on our own. We bridge the gap between childhood dependency and the self-reliant nature of adulthood. However, the path to independence and becoming a true individual is hardly clear. In fact, it is the search for individuality itself that comes to define who we become, rather than the destination we have in sight.

Shira Davidson



Covert

Darkroom photography, 2015

15" x 19.5"

Mountain View High School
Teacher, Lori Nock

These two meshed photographs portray the pieces that make up every one of us. While the tree that is strong and thriving draws the eye, the tree that is declining and fading isn't as noticeable. This contrast can be applied to humans as well. Although at times it may even be difficult to tell them apart, in the end all the pieces, both flourishing and not, are essential for the picture to be complete.

Patricia Davila



Black Beach

Digital Print, 2015

16" x 20"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Jessica Hayes

With an environment that is slowly degrading, we must do all we can to help improve our planet's quality of life. We must overcome the barrier that harmful toxins, pollution, and oil spills have on our planet, but it is up to us to create the bridge that will lead us to a greener world.

Sara DiSilvestro

JUDGES' RECOGNITION IN PAINTING



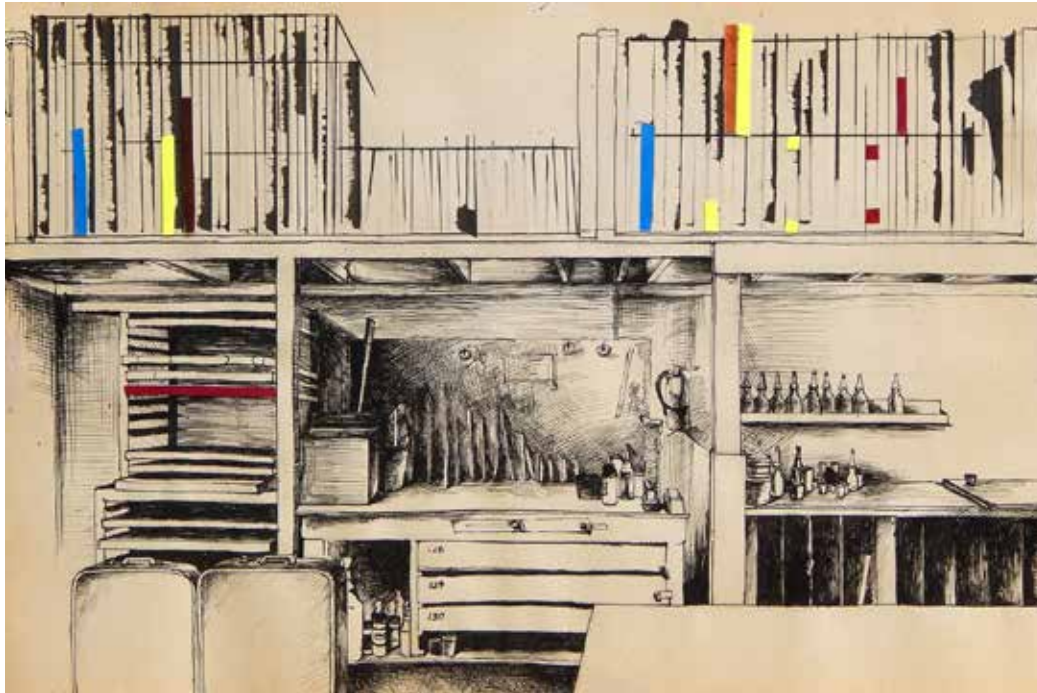
Alternate #7

Acrylic, 2015
18" x 24"

Homestead High School
Teacher, Carolyn Daily

The girl doesn't have any other place to rehearse except for a make-shift studio in an alley behind her house. A place where she can escape and create despite the dirt and ugliness. She improves herself in front of the mirror, forced to do it on her own. The painting challenges the idea of social normality, in a way that the unseen and unnoticed parts of society are sometimes the most amazing and hard working.

Han Ding



Creativity Is Born Here

Ink on old newsprint, cardboard pieces, 2014
12" x 18"

Cupertino High School
Teacher, Alice Cunningham

To artists, studios are the home of dreams and creativity, like a bridge linking abstract ideas to marvelous artworks. In this drawing, abstract ideas are represented by the floating color strips on the top portion, whereas the bottom part is illustrated in a more realistic style.

Kenna Doeden



Under Pressure

Acrylic, pen, and watercolor, 2014
4.5" x 9", 4" x 9.25", 4.25" x 9.25"

Mountain View High School
Teacher, Meghan Engle

Anxiety, pressure, and stress are detrimental to students everywhere. Pressure to get into an adequate college, be valedictorian, or even just get decent grades in school. Recently, these things have contributed to numerous suicides in the Bay Area. It is essential that we find a bridge to cross this barrier, because without it, death will continue to persist in the student populace.

Caitlin Drover



Broken And New Relationships

Photograph, 2014

16" x 20"

Palo Alto High School
Teacher, Margo Wixsom

One ongoing challenge in my life is my parents' divorce. After they announced their separation, my relationship with my dad was rough and has taken a long time to rebuild. Going to my dad's second wedding was an important step. Many guests were my stepmom's relatives who were strangers to me. I'm looking over his shoulder to represent how I'm in the backseat and have no control, but I'm learning how to adjust.

Anna Edwards

2nd PLACE IN PAINTING



Deflowered

Acrylic, 2015
16" x 12"

Lincoln High School
Teacher, Eileen Zamora

In *Deflowered*, a withering, stained flower signifies the concept of virginity held to women and how it has come to measure their worth. A sinister black surrounds the broken woman, similar to the way society harbors misogynistic values. As the color of the gender equality movement, the lavender wisp providing protection represents feminism gradually building up the spirit of the woman. Although initially torn down, feminism is slowly becoming her bridge to a stronger self.

Brianna Edwards



Open Your Mind, Before Your Mouth

Acrylic and collage, 2015

24" x 30"

Westmont High School
Teacher, Augustina Matsui

Words can hurt more than anyone ever thinks. Words have power. Use them wisely. My piece *Open Your Mind, before your mouth* demonstrates how bullying can lead to self-destruction. How something as simple as a few words can end a life. I survived bullying. As a victim of bullying for many years, I know firsthand what it's to feel completely alone and to hate yourself. End bullying now! To end the war against ourselves.

Samuel Espiritu Pico



First Flight

Pen and ink, 2015
16" x 20"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

Although sometimes it may seem like we are at a loss, there is always a crack in the ceiling that lets in light. It shows us hope so we don't give up. We may feel like a dark, lone bird and the pathway to the light may seem far and unending. However, it is ultimately up to us to make the decision to take the first flight into our journey.

Sabrina Awuah Fansey



Let Them Free, Let Them Go

Mixed Media, 2015

24" x 18"

Cupertino High School

Teacher, Alice Cunningham

As a child, I've struggled with many fragments of my appearance and abilities. This painting depicts the challenges that I have encountered growing up. My goal for this piece was to show the audience how I overcame these challenges through the bridge of support from my family. All these symbols in the painting play special roles in my life. I wanted to show myself letting go of these tenacious restraints I once thought were permanent.

Hannah Ferguson

JUDGES' RECOGNITION FOR THEME



Glitch

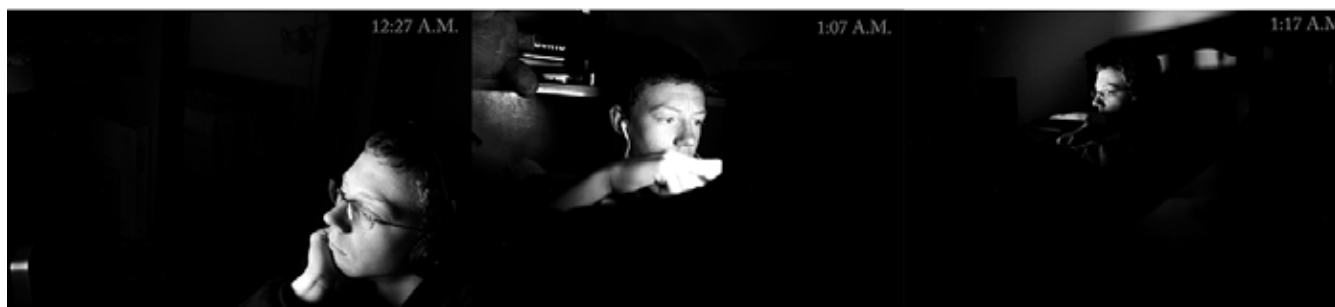
Colored pencil, 2015
15" X 20"

Leigh High School
Teacher, Kimberly Bartel

Being in a mindset where you see yourself as the only person in the world that doesn't have their life planned out is strenuous. It's difficult to self-reflect and view yourself as a mistake because you aren't planned for the future. The uncertainty of where you're going and what you're doing holds you back from what you want to accomplish.

Karl Fisse

1st PLACE IN PHOTOGRAPHY



Modern Engrossment

Digital print, 2015
5" x 19"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Jessica Hayes

Today, technology is unavoidable. Often times too unavoidable; taking away from everyday life. Because focus is so essential in schools, this problem is very apparent in students. Whether it be homework, sleep, studying, or just a basic interest in education, technology acts negatively on students by distracting them with it's irresistible pull. As technology continues to become more accessible, will this problem continue to escalate or will we find a way to address it?

Sarah Freimuth



Weightless

Watercolor and ballpoint pen, 2015
12" x 12"

Ann Sobrato High School
Teacher, Matthew Reynolds

The challenges other species face drift from our minds as we go about our daily lives while they struggle to stay on earth. Without the ability to overcome extinction on their own, the plight of these creatures is only as concrete as people make it. By making one of the largest, most powerful of these animals weightless, their battle against an insatiable desire for luxury becomes more vivid to us.

Rachel Geng

JUDGES' RECOGNITION IN WATERCOLOR & DRAWING



Sink, Swim

Watercolor, 2015

12' x 21"

Los Altos High School

Teacher, Christine An

Miscommunication. A single misplaced word or wrongly stated sentiment, and suddenly a myriad of pain arise. We become our own barrier to unhappiness, between the shame of simple social mistakes and an unwillingness to believe others did not care. The resulting isolation: a lonely ocean. Schools of friends go by as we ourselves drown. It is far from a pleasant feeling, and there remains nothing we can do but let time mend the wound.

Faraz Gorji

JUDGES' RECOGNITION IN PHOTOGRAPHY



Language Barriers

Digital photography, 2015
11" x 8.5"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

One of the greatest challenges one faces as an immigrant is the myriad of thoughts trapped in their head in their own language. Language barriers do not let one express oneself in life; it frustrates and limits people in so many ways. These barriers interfere with social situations, academics, and family, making the bridges to success, wobbly and fraught with challenge.

Emily Goto



Out From Under Us

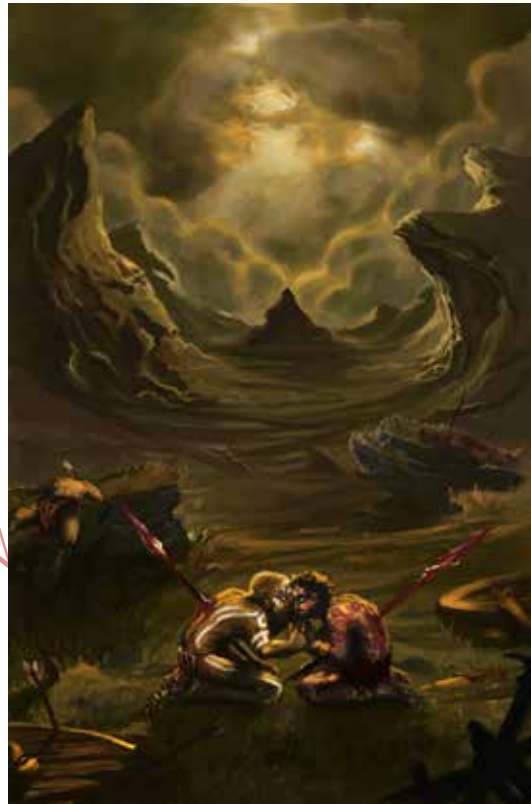
Graphite pencil and charcoal, 2015
12" x 9"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

The worlds we live in do not always support us, and we find ourselves struggling and falling more often than keeping pace. It is the connections we make with others that ground us. And although these connections might keep us from moving forward, they also keep us from falling apart.

Matthew Greene

1ST PLACE IN PAINTING



By Death

Digital Illustration, 2015
25" x 17"

Fremont High School
Teacher, Catherine Zweig

In its passionate tribalism, humanity often ignores that which ultimately brings us together: death. More than anything, we exist to defy it, but our unrepentant pettiness makes us weak against it. We debate each other about the best ways to increase our quality of life and curtail the afterlife, and in doing so, we crumble; ironically, death is all that remains to reap the rewards.

Andrea Hansen

JUDGES' RECOGNITION IN VIDEO



Qui Tacet Consentire Videtur (Who is Silent Gives Consent)

Video, 2015

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

We live wrapped in unawareness, challenged by bleached indifference. Past conversations are merely a platitude for peace in light of our current inaction towards racism and ignorance. Today, the silence has churned into violence as blood spilt by the hands of “justice” becomes tainted by the creeping poisons of prejudice and hate. Society’s stagnant views barr the bridges for change, dooming all to repeat the past, living a circle of life painted red.

Ashayla Harrison

1st PLACE IN SCULPTURE



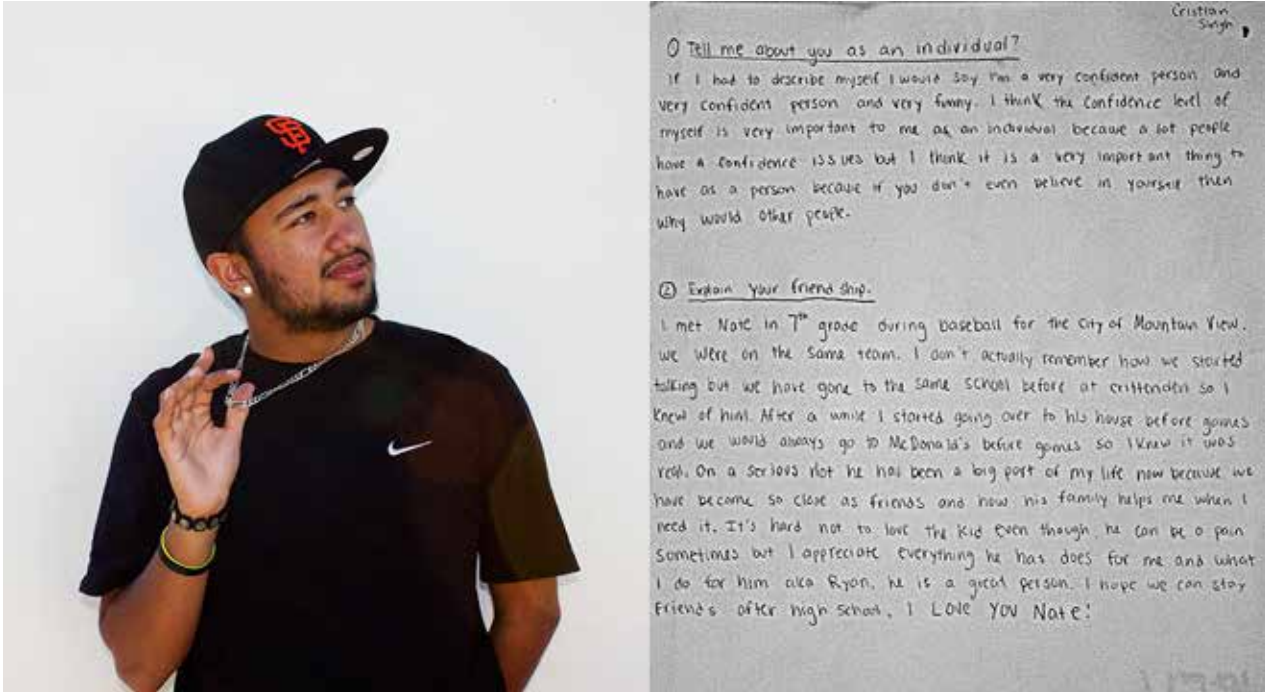
Skeptical Buddha

Clay, glaze and acrylic paint, 2015
23" x 16" x 9"

Fremont High School
Teacher, Catherine Zweig

Money can and will always be an easy fix to many obstacles in life. But we can look past the shallow, money focused, materialistic mind set and start seeking true not-bought happiness. The buddha is facing away from the money representing following your own path, creating wealth beyond a pile of coins.

Max Higareda



Cristian

Digital print, 2015
17" x 19"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Jessica Hayes

Dealing with the power and consequences of diversity can be difficult due to the challenges people take on while having multicultural friendships, or when trying to set aside each others cultural differences. Two people from completely different backgrounds who become friends show strength through their personalities by accepting the other's diverse culture. Through their brotherhood we recognize how they overcome the adversity of the way society views their diverse friendship.

Elise Hu



Contained

Mixed Media, 2015
35 " x 11" x 11"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

Within every teabag contains a story of a unique individual. There are worries that we hold in and bottle up. Secrets and thoughts we keep to ourselves because society tends to judge an individual without understanding their story. Fear is a barrier that prevents people from opening up. That series of life events is what defines who we have become, yet we keep it concealed. Why do we strive to be the "social norm" when none of us actually are?

Yerem Istanbulian



Gimme Shelter

Digital photograph, 2015
12" x15.25"

Palo Alto High School
Teacher, Margo Wixsom

With the Vietnam War, it seemed like there was an avalanche of new deaths coming with each report. Instead of individuals grieving, the entire nation grieved. Everyone looked for a way to endure their pain, and many turned towards religion. For many people, religion provides closure and a way to deal with the downpour of emotions that one often feels when they are faced with the loss of someone close to them.

Elena Jorgensen

JUDGES' RECOGNITION IN WATERCOLOR & DRAWING



Little Girl, Big World

Watercolor, 2015

8" x 10 3/4"

Lincoln High School

Teacher, Eileen Zamora

Recently, I realized the bridge from adolescence to adulthood holds difficult, confusing, and sometimes terrifying moments. Often teenagers feel miniaturized amid grown ups who seem to know exactly what to do and where to go. The young girl in my painting is reduced in size to symbolize the overwhelmingness these moments can have on teens. Stock market graphs rise and plunge in the background signifying the ups and downs of life.

Noah Jung



Man Thinking How to Get Out of the Wall

Cardboard and glue, 2014

48" x 36"

Saratoga High School
Teacher, Jongmin Lim

When facing challenges, people handle them in many different ways: while some try to run away from their problems, others try to face them and withstand hardships. Nevertheless, one could attain such tenacious attitude and ability to withstand adversity only by understanding the relationship between the challenge and oneself: through introspection into one's own heart and thoughts, one may see that he or she is bigger than the challenge itself.

Kevin Ke

2nd PLACE IN WATERCOLOR & DRAWING



iWorld

Graphite and colored pencil, 2014
18" x 24"

The Harker School
Teacher, Pilar Agüero-Esparza

The smartphone, a bridge from the present to the progressive future, symbolizes the work of our technological advancements. While our current world may seem sufficient, as a species, we will flourish intellectually, and our innovations will inevitably surpass the boundaries of the world we know of today. Even if this future may seem implausible, before we realize it, the present will appear to us as rudimentary. Irrefutably, if technology prevails, today's idea is tomorrow's reality.

Panasak Kitiamkun



Oh My God, Who Did It?

Colored pencil, 2015
18" x 12"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

Blaming is a psychological tool people use to run away from their problems. When people face difficult times, the first thing they think of is “Whose fault is this?” People always have this type of automatic reaction, like computers that can’t make conscious decisions. Unlike machines, we have the ability to make choices. We can choose to face our own challenges and forgive instead of always blaming others.

Claire Krumm



Cybernetic Girl

Print of digital artwork (created in Photoshop), 2014
16" x 20"

Willow Glen High School
Teacher, Sandra Holland

Technology has become so incorporated in human life - both in the mundane and the extraordinary - that people have developed a dependency to it. It is such an integral part of modern existence that it begs the question of whether it is an impetus or an impediment. Technology was first developed to facilitate its developer in his or her actions; now the developer cannot act without the facilitation of the technology.

Tyler Lu



Lost Bee

Acrylic, 2015
16" x 20"

Lincoln High School
Teacher, Eileen Zamora

Hunger and famine has plagued our society since the beginning. People from all walks of life have trouble providing food for themselves and their family. It has brought individuals to commit unthinkable crimes such as theft, murder, and war. With the recent phenomenon of the “bee collapse disorder” it has put more stress on farmers and also the people who suffer from hunger. Trying to fix hunger and famine is no easy task, but it can bring nations together to work towards a peaceful world. Saving the bees would be the common issue nations can start with. We can then break down borders, judgements, and egos if countries had something they could agree to work on.

Sophia Luo

JUDGES' RECOGNITION FOR THEME



DNA: Do Not Abandon

Graphite, 2014
19" x 17"

The Harker School
Teacher, Pilar Aguero-Esparza

This limbless, sightless figure surpasses the conventional norms of limitations, eliciting a whole new degree of pity from onlookers. The bridge of DNA proves that, despite appearances, the figure is still human. What defines a person? What makes us human? Physical differences should not be the answer. We must put aside our mental barriers and look upon others objectively, building relationships with the alienated. After all, we are all connected by DNA of life.

Brian Marquez

JUDGES' RECOGNITION IN MIXED MEDIA



El Inmigrante

Xerox transfer, collage, watercolor, 2015
15"x 10.75"

Ann Sobrato High School
Teacher, Matthew Reynolds

The unpredictable nature of the processes of collage and xerox transfer, combined with layering techniques used in this piece parallel the struggles of an immigrant. Starting with the challenges in their home country and the process of emigrating, hoping to find opportunities only to face new struggles in the U.S.-- yet they still manage to thrive. These experiences define the identity of an immigrant, which are represented by this image.

Isabel Martynenko



Unplugged

Acrylic, 2015
18" x 24"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

The human race is a network. Every human-being represents a code in that system. These people feel obligated to follow society's expectations for them. The human body is vandalized by other's opinions while the person feels trapped in that body's shell. An individual can be forcefully connected to these expectations, but they are the ones who have the decision to cross that bridge of challenges. The more decisions you make, the more individualized you'll become.

Katherine Massey

2nd PLACE IN MIXED MEDIA



Save The Bees

Collage, acrylic, pen, 2015
16" x 20"

Westmont High School
Teacher, Augustina Matsui

In my project I wanted to represent the bridge of humanity's survival to the existence of honey bees. Without the honeybee, we would no longer have the food necessary for survival. Yet the bee decline has been happening at an alarming rate. These deaths have been attributed to the use of pesticides, parasitic mites, and colony collapse disorder. As humans we need to be more proactive about bee preservation because without them, we don't exist.

Steven McDonald

1st PLACE IN MIXED MEDIA



The Long March

Mixed media, collage, 2015

11" x 42"

Homestead High School
Teacher, Carolyn Daily

This piece is meant to honor the fight for Civil Rights in America. I have the figures extend off both ends to show how old this fight is, and how it continues today. Laying them out, I did not consider them as individuals, but as a rhythm of shapes working together like notes in a melody. Their variety of ethnicities and ages reflect how universal this fight is.

Nora McGinley



Women Without Walls

Acrylic on canvas, 2015
16" x 20"

Lincoln High School
Teacher, Eileen Zamora

After Muslim and Christian women held separate marches in Jos, Nigeria to protest massacres in both communities by Christian or Muslim militants, Nigerian pastor Esther Ibanga (left) and Muslim religious leader Khadija Hawaja (right) joined forces, founding the Women Without Walls Initiative to bridge the divide between the two religious communities and end the violence and killings. "We want to do away with the walls that divide and separate us," Ibanga says, whatever they may be.

Riley Moulds



Pink Memories

Film, 2015

33 seconds, 1080px x 1920px

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

Pink should be the happiest of colors, but seems to desaturate in a sad moment. Sometimes you have to change your perspective to fully understand a moment.

Aidan Patterson



Dolphins of Taiji

Acrylic, collage, 2015

16" x 20"

Westmont High School
Teacher, Augustina Matsui

In Taiji, Japan, dolphins are harpooned for their meat. While animal rights activists of other nations protest these killings as barbaric, the dolphin meat industry is a fundamental aspect of Taiji culture. Many protesters hypocritically condemn the dolphin slaughter while turning a blind eye to the equally inhumane meat industries in their own countries. Improved understanding between cultures advances the realization that what may be unacceptable to us may be acceptable to others; vice versa.

Archana Podury



Darwin's Circle

Graphite, 2014
11" x 17"

The Harker School
Teacher, Pilar Aguero-Esparza

I chose to illustrate the simplest bridge of life - the sense of touch. In my piece, a loved one reaches for a chronically ill patient, beginning a cycle of connection, regrowth, and hope. A touch holds no beginning or end; it mirrors the cyclical nature of our own experiences and transcends barriers of language and culture. The moment when the hands meet illustrates a small but powerful bridge that forms between the two subjects' lives.

Archana Podury



Goblin Market

Graphite, 2015
14" x 17"

The Harker School
Teacher, Pilar Aguero-Esparza

Inspired by Christina Rossetti's poem "Goblin Market," I wanted to create a scene where fantastical elements blend seamlessly into a commonplace environment through various forms of interaction. My piece represents the bridge between our imagination and the universal reality, reminding us that our experiences in a shared world are characterized by our own personal vision. Thus I have chosen to illustrate the inextricable bridge between the real and the surreal.

Leon Ren

2nd PLACE IN PHOTOGRAPHY



Market

Photograph, 2014
18" x 22"

Homestead High School
Teacher, Edmond Kwong

"Kunming, Yunnan Province.

In a consumer-driven economy, we seldom realize that our buying comes at a cost. This young boy who, though probably not in school, was already going to work. His prospects are more limited than ours, and bringing them to light allows him to step out of obscurity and into awareness. What we consume is the product of labor. Labor is the biggest bridge this young child must cross.

Leon Ren



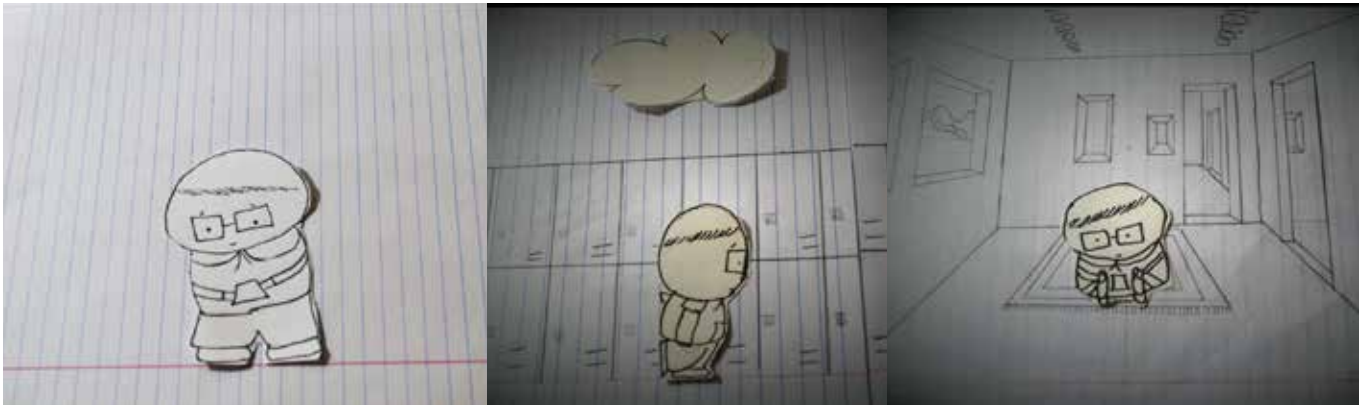
Hazard No. 2

Photograph, 2014
18" x 22"

Homestead High School
Teacher, Edmond Kwong

One of our most imposing challenges is realizing that there are those with a narrower prospects than us. We are lucky. This young woman is already married, yet to vie for social mobility she must take unhealthy risks. Humans are always improving, self-actualizing, defying hazards to get where they want to be. The dance of life, therefore, is balancing the hazards and the fruits of achievement - balancing risks and rewards.

Joshua Bodnar, Joanna Acevedo & Michael Heering



Helping Hand

Stop Motion, 2014

2 minutes

Gunderson High School
Teacher, Michelle Longosz

Our stop motion animation is about depression and was constructed using paper cut-outs figures along with pencil drawn backgrounds. This animation focuses on the character Michael and the many different reasons why one could become depressed. When your body is growing and new experiences are arising, it's easy for anyone to become isolated because of home problems, school bullying or just simply feeling inadequate. The hand that pulls Michael out of the paper world symbolizes someone literally reaching out to be there for you. Depression is not something that goes away. It's an illness that can even be terminal if not treated. Something as simple as a "Hey, I'm here for you," can mean the difference between life and death.

Enzo Segovia



Where am I?

Colored pencil, 2015
14" x 17"

Westmont High School
Teacher, Kyoko Fischer

From human population growth, animals lose their homes, which lead to extinction. For the longest time, the human population grew slowly and steadily. Now, in the modern age, we spike from less than one billion people to over 6 billion in such a short time. This upsets the balance of nature, leaving no more room for animals. We can avoid this, however; if we raise awareness for these animals, we can preserve their lives.

Varvara Shvareva



Tread Carefully...

Watercolor, ink-pen and aluminum foil, 2014
12" x 18"

Los Altos High School
Teacher, Christine An

Crossing bridges is scary. Perhaps we are afraid of heights or we don't like the feeling of leaving solid land. However, bridges are solid structures made of concrete and metal that provide stability and support. It's the bridges that sway in the wind that truly terrify us and it takes a very specific person to cross that kind of bridge. We need someone who isn't afraid of instability or not knowing the destination. We need someone who loves the journey.

Kimi Walters



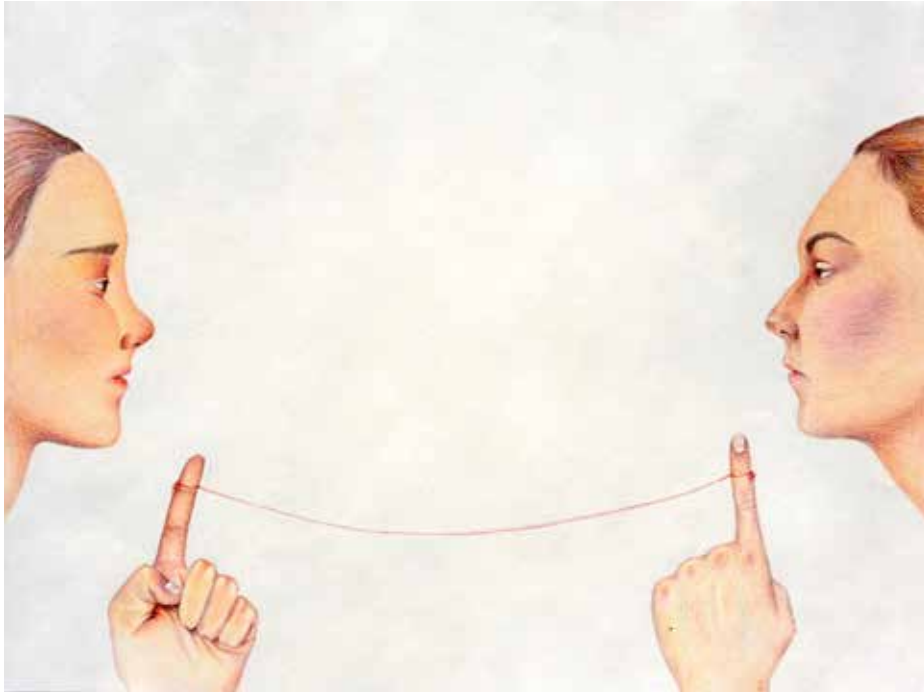
Untitled

Copic marker, 2015
15.5" x 15.5"

Leigh High School
Teacher, Kimberly Bartel

Many of life's problems stem from within our minds. We may feel small or insignificant and trapped inside ourselves, but many times the solution is simple. If you look closely at this piece, the girl inside the maze is sawing down the walls to get to where she wants. She demonstrates how persevering and changing your mindset can help to overcome obstacles.

Kelly Wang



String

Colored pencil, 2015
24" x 18"

The Harker School
Teacher, Pilar Aguero-Esparza

Red strings of fate exist not only between lovers, but also between yourself and everyone you meet. They connect you to those you are destined to cross paths with, whether it's someone you meet once, or someone who changes your life forever. Acquaintances, friends, enemies, family—there are thousands of strings upon everyone's fingers. These strings connect us and shape what we have come to understand as kinship, as humanity. These are our bridges.

Emily Wong



Liberation

Pencil and watercolor, 2014
14" x 22"

Cupertino High School
Teacher, Alice Cunningham

By using broken electronics to show that our generation is being drowned in media and technology, my bridges piece represents the journey to get past the fact that electronics rule over our lives. Contrast between the colors of the hand, broken electronics, as well as the color of the vine accentuates how the vine acts as a savior for our generation, pulling the hand out of the broken electronics to become more acquainted with nature.

Jason Wu

JUDGES' RECOGNITION IN WATERCOLOR & DRAWING



Commute

Watercolor on illustration board, 2015
15" x 19.5"

Homestead High School
Teacher, Carolyn Daily

No one really speaks to each other going to work. But that's fine, isn't it? No need to bother anyone, just let your eyes do the looking, and let your prejudices fill in the gaps. The communication barrier is preserved, and you remain safe. They don't need to know. You don't need to know.

No one really speaks to each other anymore.
But that's fine too, isn't it?

Jessica Yang

1st PLACE IN WATERCOLOR & DRAWING



You Are What You Tweet

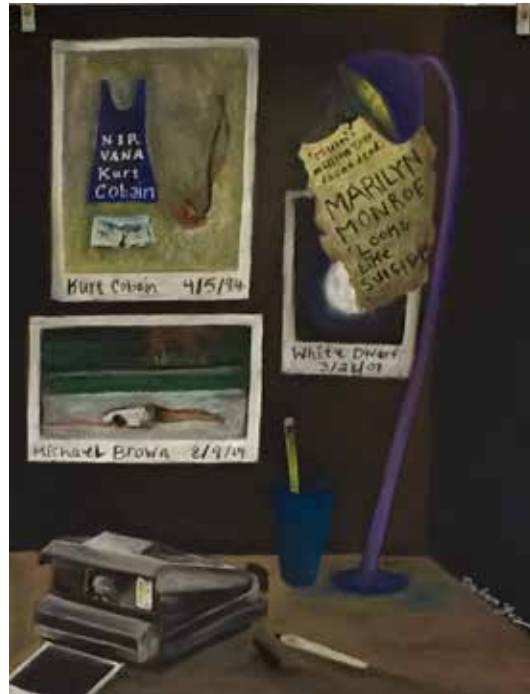
Watercolor, 2015

14" x 21"

Teacher, Kyung Ahn

Technology has undeniably opened up a new world of communication. It's a bridge that connects people, enabling us to share ideas like never before. But simultaneously, technology has created a social barrier. People are constantly glued to their mobile devices—meals are no longer full of chatter, as everyone stays fixated on their screens, plugged away in their own worlds. Technology has shaped how we communicate and interact, but is it for the better?

Barbara Zhao



Death through Media

Chalk, 2014
25.5"x 20"

Saint Francis High School
Teacher, Salvador Gaeta

The death of Michael Brown and the controversy within the media regarding the matter demonstrates the media's manipulation of imaging and words to deceive the public and capture the event in a single perspective. Such manipulation is found not only in the case of Michael Brown, but also in the deaths of numerous public figures. Creating a bridge between the media and the public to break down the untrusting barrier between the two begins with raising awareness of the abilities of the media.

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