



Unsung Heroes of Black History and Why Representation Matters

By Mildred Amofa and Deselle Thompson

During Black History month, we want to shed light on people we don't normally acknowledge or think of as heroes. We've chosen to focus mainly on black women because there is an unfortunate history of us being left out of the conversation of black achievements. Their contributions go unnoticed and unrecognized, often overshadowed by their white or male counterparts. To be very honest we didn't know much about these ladies before research. We'd like everyone reading this to recognize these women for the impact of their contributions on society, especially the black community, as well as think about their perception of who the black woman is and the parameters in which she is allowed to exist within their minds.



Kizzmekia S Corbett born January 26, 1986, in Hurdle Mills, North Carolina.

From a young age Kizzmekia knew she wanted to pursue a career in the sciences. Kizzmekia did many internships in research laboratories. After graduating high school in 2004, Kizzmekia went to college and received a bachelor's degree in Biological Studies and Sociology in 2008. In 2009, Corbett started studying human body antibody responses to fevers found in the children in Sri Lanka. Dr. Kizzmekia S Corbett is now the lead scientist on the COVID-19 vaccine team. She built the team within her six years of studying the spike proteins of other coronaviruses, like SARS and MERS, in order to design the vaccine within two days of the novel coronavirus being discovered.

Henrietta Lacks- Creator of Hela Cells (family never received a dime though).

Henrietta Lacks died in Baltimore hospital at the age of 31 due to aggressive cervical cancer. After she died, doctors took samples of her cancerous cells when diagnosing and treating them and gave the cells to researchers without Henrietta's knowledge or consent. Hela Cells were found to be able to survive outside the body in test tubes, allowing researchers to experiment and understand the human body in a multitude of ways. Hela Cells were vital to the development of the polio vaccine. They are used today to further cancer research without experimenting on humans, and even in COVID-19 research. The name Hela Cells has a bittersweet twang to it. Her legacy survives through the use of her cells coined "immortal" by scientists and researchers, and she lives beyond her time. Yet, the mother of three never consented to immortality, and her family was never compensated.



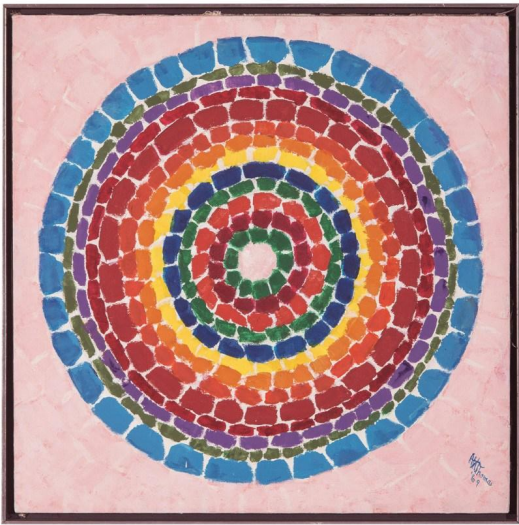


Alma Thomas 1891-1978 Columbus, Georgia

Alma Thomas was one of the first black women to establish herself in the art world. Her work was abstract and expressive. She attended Howard University, where she became the first graduate of the art department in 1924. After Howard, Thomas became an art teacher in a D.C. middle school for 35 years before she began painting professionally. During her time at the school, Thomas was very committed to giving young artists opportunities and helped establish art galleries. Her first exhibition didn't take place until 1966 at Howard when she was 75. Alma Thomas was the first African American to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney and first African American woman to have their paintings exhibited at the White House. With that being said, many may wonder why she only began painting professionally at 75. Her answer to that as recorded by the Washington Post would be: "Who knows? I'm an artist, not an analyst . . . Maybe I would have become an artist sooner if I'd grown up in Harlem instead of Washington." Here Thomas refers to the pressure to be successful in the educated black community. She speaks of the heavy expectations to conform to a perfect mold that would make you acceptable in a society that does not want you. Thus, her dedication to teaching. Teaching provided Alma with money to finance her art ventures and security to fit into the educated community. Despite the difficulty to succeed in the white male dominated world, her race and gender were never a subject of her work because she did not believe it should be. Thomas separated her art from her person allowing her creativity to exist outside of herself.

Nichelle Nichols born December 28, 1932 Robins, IL

When we think of Civil rights contributors to the fight for equality, MLK and Malcolm X come to mind. These icons fought the long and difficult battle for legislation, but it is also important to acknowledge those who fought the battles in the psyche/conscious mind of America. One of those people was Nichelle Nichols. Ms. Nichols was one of the first black women to portray an uplifting role as a black woman on television. Her character, Urhura (who's name is derived from the Swahili word Uhuru, meaning freedom), was a commander, lieutenant, and communications officer on the 1966 original Star Trek series. The original series aired during a time when black women representation meant servants and nannies. Nichols helped redefine the perception of black women in society. She conveyed intelligence, elegance, and refinement with every word and motion, defying the aggressive, uncivilized, and unintelligent norm racist ideology had established. Despite almost quitting to pursue her own career in musical theater after the first season, Nichols decided to stay on the show after realizing the impact she would have on her community thanks to a talk with MLK at a convention (King was a Star Trek fan). Nichols inspired many young girls and women of all races, serving as an inspiration for the first black woman astronaut, Mae Jemison. She even helped recruit women and minorities for NASA, among them being the first woman astronaut and African American astronaut. Nichelle Nichols truly is a hero who defied the box and stereotypes society made for black women and remains a testament against them today.



Lina Iris Viktor born 1987 UK

Lina Iris Viktor is a British Born artist based in New York of Liberian descent. Her captivating work is accentuated by gold, in an effort to convey the spiritual connection of the metal. She likes to work within the parameters of the colors Majorelle blue, gold, white and black, which establish her own set of rules/artistic style. As she explains it, black and white are positive and negative opposites of the spectrum. Gold has a cosmic quality to it and we associate the material with power. Majorelle blue is associated with an overwhelming feeling. These boundaries give her infinite room to work within. Viktor’s work pulls inspiration from the African diaspora and centers around the idea of blackness. Viktor does not view blackness as a mere void, on the contrary, she sees it as the most full containing infinite color. Her work provokes thought and conversation about the idea of blackness within the world and ourselves. Common themes of her work can be described as Afrocentric, queenly and other worldly. She’s exhibited in a variety of places like New York, New Orleans, London, Italy and Sacramento, California.



LeSean Thomas 1975 The South Bronx

LeSean is a Television animator, producer, and director from the South Bronx. He’s the creator of Netflix anime series Cannon Busters and the upcoming Netflix anime about a black Samurai in Japan, Yasuke. LeSean wanted to be a comic book animator in his youth and drew inspiration from the world around him, having grown up during the rise of hip hop and illustration culture. Never formally attending college for art, LeSean was self taught and learned from the animation graduates around him. He was an assistant animator for the Disney channel series Lizzie McGuire, and supervising character designer and co director in Hollywood on The Boondocks. When the show ended, LeSean decided to move to South Korea to gain more experience in the animation process.





This was because the U.S. only does pre production of an animation and then outsources the material to South Korea where the bulk of the work is actually done. Here he ended up working on the American animation Black Dynamite and built up many connections in the animation world. These connections helped him gain international investors to aid in the creation of his own Japanese animated series, Cannon Busters, which was then picked up by Netflix. LeSean aims to continue normalizing blackness in animated media. As LeSean says, “ it's incredibly important that we can create an opportunity to allow new voices in the industry, black people in particular, to tell stories that expand upon the idea we think is the black experience. We don't all experience blackness the same way and everybody's voices need to be represented”. LeSean makes a habit of giving his characters proper representation and range. He allows his characters to exist within their own different identities of blackness, whether they be quirky, intelligent, strong, poised or charismatic. I'll end with another worthy quote from LeSean on the topic of becoming an animator: “You have to find your voice. Once you figure out who you are and what you want to create, everything else just falls into place.”



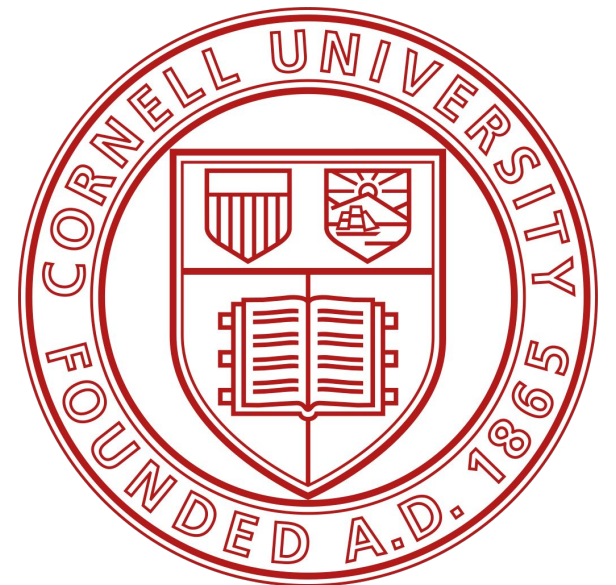
As we close this black history month, we'd like to remind everyone of the importance of proper representation. We often adapt subconscious ideas of who a person is before they even open their mouths because of the way they are portrayed in media and society. We shouldn't think of Nichelle Nichols or Alma Thomas as exceptions outside of the normal stereotype but two shades of the same color on a broad spectrum. The range of the black woman should encompass more positive stereotypes outside of the “strong independant” trope we've seen in recent media. Black women can be strong and independent but we can also be gentle, kind, charismatic, reserved, creative, pragmatic, humorous, fashionistas, geniuses, athletletes, beauty gurus, poised and refined. We are allowed to exist in more ways than one just like everyone else. No one person is bound to fit a single character trait or personality and we should remember that when we think about how we see ourselves and other people.

College Admission Interview Experience

By Mekhi Brown

Imagine this; you wake up to the sounds of birds chirping, your morning friend stares directly at your face with its warm and blinding glow, you've just completed your morning routine and loving the smell of your coffee. You feel refreshed as ever, ready to have a nice peaceful day filled with productivity and laughter. Then, BOOM! Your hopes for a great day are now just thoughts that once took a neighborly stroll through your mind. You're beyond anxious, feeling unprepared even though you've practiced, possibly, too many times, and you're now no longer making coffee but, instead, a big pot of Chamomile tea to get you through the day. You might ask, But, why is that Mekhi? How could a great start to your day turn so sour with just one thought? Well, I'll tell you why with three words...college admission interviews! It should be noted that these aren't any ole' colleges either. They're Ivy League Universities which, as we all probably know already, almost always have an acceptance rate of ten percent or lower. Now, now, let's settle down. I know you, whoever is reading this, may think that applying to Ivy League colleges or any University that requires an interview for admissions is something you shouldn't do, after reading how I described the impact they may have on your whole entire day. But, let me assure you that you have nothing to worry about, as I have completed not one, but two Ivy League University interviews, and I am here to do nothing more than assist you, by sharing my experiences and giving you the necessary advice you'll need to complete your future interviews with flying colors.

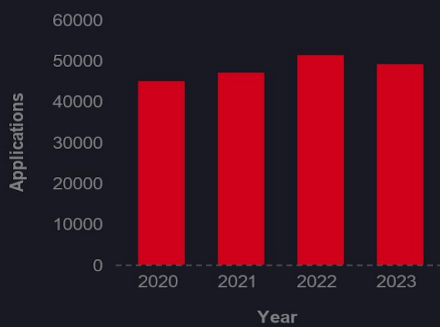
My first of two interviews occurred right after Christmas, December 28th specifically. It was my Cornell Interview and the interviewer was a Cornell school of Architecture alumnus. Luckily, I had been able to experience both the present and lingering Christmas joy of three days prior, which in turn allowed me to be in a pretty decent mental space heading into my interview. I didn't spend a whole lot of time preparing for this interview. Quite frankly, it is because I didn't care enough about how the interview would go. With Cornell University being an Ivy League university and a PWI (Predominantly White Institution), I felt my chances of actually getting in were slim to none; therefore a valiant effort was pointless. Now with that being said, I still wanted to have a good interview performance. To clarify, I just didn't plan on beating myself up if things didn't go well. I am still not 100% sure why I felt this way, going into this interview, but I do know that it definitely helped me do as well as I would have liked because it allowed me to be carefree and, ultimately, be myself. The interview lasted for an hour, with the first half being your typical interview conversation with the typical interview questions, "Tell me about yourself", "Why do you want to major in the said subject?", "Why do you want to attend this school?", etc. However, I still used those questions as moments to shine by giving honest and well-thought-out answers.



For example, for the conversation starter, "Tell me about yourself" my answer went along the lines of "Hello again, my name is Mekhi Brown. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and currently attend school there at the Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design. I am an aspiring architect, and luckily my school has given me opportunities to further explore my interest in the architecture field through various after-school programs and activities along with paid internships." After saying this, I further explained my time in those internships, by elaborating on my tasks for each internship I participated in, as it was the perfect opportunity to show some of my skills. Aside from this showing some of my skills, it opened up the door of opportunity to connect with my interviewer as we both worked with the NYC Department of Buildings. I made sure to mention my internship there because I knew that we could relate, on some level, because of it. This took no longer than two minutes to answer and the same went for every other response. I started feeling comfortable here, not only because I practiced and felt confident in myself to have good answers, but because I was being genuine and talking about what I'm passionate about. After the interviewer got to know more about me, we reviewed my architecture portfolio. This portion mainly consisted of the interviewer giving me some feedback on the overall layout of my portfolio. She gave me some pointers on how to improve it and one thing I did was write down all of her tips. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to ask questions and even if I did, I had to get permission from the admissions office. Despite this, after the interview, I was sure that I had done well and was satisfied with how well things went. Comfortability is something that I recommend. Being uncomfortable with yourself, so much so that you're insecure, and that your responses aren't genuine will instantly make everything go south. This creates a very negative aura that the interviewer can see and pick up on in seconds, which will ultimately damage your first and only impression on them. You want to be comfortable and confident, not arrogant, knowing that you prepared to the best of your ability and that you're telling the truth and being yourself.

CLASS OF 2023

APPLICATIONS FOR FRESHMAN ADMISSION



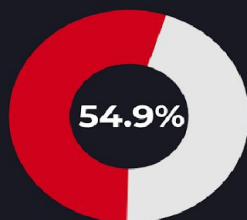
OVERALL ADMISSION RATE



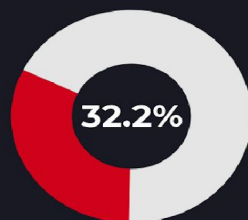
Admitted students reside in all **50** U.S. states, plus Washington DC, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as **70** countries outside the U.S.



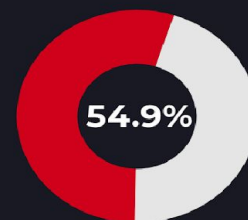
DEMOGRAPHICS



of all admits are students of color.



of all admits self-identified as under-represented minorities.



of all admits identify as women.

Last year's Cornell admission statistics

Going into my interview for Princeton University, I was sure it would be the same as my Cornell Interview, minus the portfolio review, where I was truly confident in myself to put on a great showing. This, indeed, was the case, until it wasn't. The interview started with the typical greetings "Hi!" and "How are you?" and then the infamous conversation starter "Tell me about yourself" came up. My answer was exactly the same as it was for Cornell University, this time, however, I added some more to it being that I applied to Princeton University to major in English and not Architecture. I applied to Princeton University to major in English as a way to step outside of my comfort zone and explore some of my other interests, and I made sure to explain this in my response as this showed that I am not one to shy away from taking risks. As time went on, I started explaining my tasks in my past internships and elaborating on my current roles at my current internship. Things were going pretty well. I was starting to get comfortable and more grounded with myself, internally and externally. Soon, however, I felt overwhelmed, as if I was struggling to get through this very important interview. It was as if I was jogging down the quiet, empty, and clear street, blinking my eyes only once. Next thing I know, I'm in a 2,500-kilometer race, near the finish line with all the other competitors so close behind me that their words of discouragement are nesting in my ears, into my mind.

I had prepared every day, for a week, multiple times each day, so I knew I wasn't unprepared. I was expecting some more straightforward questions regarding my applying to Princeton University such as "Why did you apply to Princeton?" and "Why do you think you'll be a great fit at Princeton University?". However, those questions were never even asked. Instantly, I knew I was facing some adversity, something that I had prepared to avoid at all costs. Certain that the interviewer would throw some curveball questions my way, that would force a well-thought-out response, I made sure to do what I do best which is thinking on my feet and adjusting to challenges. The problem was, I was expecting this challenge to meet me, face-to-face, in the form of questions. But no, the interviewer, very subtly, would make statements in our conversation just to see how and what I'd respond with. I clearly was unprepared for this, and I felt that my confidence had been shaken a bit, but I ultimately didn't know what was truly happening with myself causing me to become so worried and anxious, all over again as if all the Chamomile tea I had drunk before had gone to waste. The last thing I wanted was to mess up in any way. In fact, I prepared profusely to avoid that and as a result, I was sure it wouldn't. But now it was happening and the scary part is, I wasn't sure of exactly what was happening. Ultimately, I had to face the unknown, which is beyond terrifying already, while keeping a calm and confident poker face during this Ivy League school admission interview. Now, I don't want you, the reader, to think that the interview was bad because it definitely wasn't. Despite my confidence diminishing and me having to quickly fix an internal contingency, I feel that my performance was still a strong one and that I left a good impression on the Princeton Alumni Interviewer after I collected myself and kept going.



I also made sure to subtly answer the questions that, surprisingly, were never asked, in my statements in the conversation the interviewer and I had. I did so by mentioning one of my inspirations, Michelle Obama, who is a Princeton University Alumni, and how she helped me find the leader within myself. Following up with that, I elaborated on how her impact on me, along with my desire to get a high-level education in my unexplored interest, while being pretty close to home, is also why I applied to Princeton University. After reflecting on what caused this immense feeling of uncertainty and doubt within myself, I concluded that although I was very well prepared, I prepared for the wrong kind of interview. This interview wasn't the same as my Cornell interview where it focused on me academically and my passion for Architecture. No, the Princeton interviewer really focused on me personally to see who I was as a student and as a person. Throughout the interview, it was becoming increasingly evident that the interviewer was making efforts to have a real conversation and, as a result, I made it my business to engage in those conversations as best as I could while dealing with my impromptu internal affairs mentally and emotionally. Reflecting on it though, I wish I would've shown them a little more about myself throughout those conversations as I still feel they didn't get to know me enough. However, my natural sheltered and closed-off nature didn't allow that to happen as much as I would have liked because as I said, I didn't prepare for that. Nonetheless, once I realized that adversity was sitting right beside me, I made it my mission to quickly adapt and go with the flow. This was essential in ensuring I put on a good performance. If it's one thing I was proud of during that internal conflict I had, it is that I made connections with the interviewer. I made sure to let the interviewer know that I connect with them to a certain extent being that we're both people of color in a predominantly white society on a national level and on an academic level. That helped reduce the awkward tension that resided within me. Luckily, in this interview, I was able to ask questions and I made sure they were really good ones. The interviewer seemed to be impressed with my questions, and he enjoyed answering them. If it was one thing I made sure of, I made sure to finish the interview strongly and I feel I did just that.

My couple of experiences with college interviews were definitely good ones. I made sure to do my best and, most of all, be myself. If there are some key tips I want anyone who's reading this to take away from my experiences it would be to come prepared for many different types of questions and interviews. Get to know yourself as much as you can so you can be in your most genuine form during the interview. The interviewer will know if you're being genuine or not and if you're telling them what you genuinely want to say or what you think they want to hear. Be comfortable and confident; however, do not become arrogant as this will be a complete turn-off for the interviewer. You want to leave a great impression on the interviewer because this is your first and only one. When the time comes to apply to very prestigious colleges and it is time for you to be interviewed, don't shy away or be intimidated, simply be yourself. You will most likely feel really anxious heading into the interview, but the second it starts, you'll feel as though you have nothing to worry about. As one of my most influential teachers once told me, "Talking to people is hard", and that statement from Mr. Koestner couldn't have been any more true. Having a conversation with others, especially the conversations where you know your character is being judged and analyzed is not for the weak-minded. The best thing you can do is come prepared by simply getting to know yourself and being confident in your ability to be yourself in the presence of others while most of all, holding a great conversation.

Interview with Park Avenue Armory Teaching Artists

By Silas Rodriguez



Recently I had a chance to sit down with two Park Avenue Armory teaching Artists, Vickie Tanner and Neil Tyrone Pritchard, to discuss art, teaching and life itself. Being involved with Park Avenue Armory myself, I had known both for their work there and in WHSAD, teaching students about art abstract and figurative alike. Our conversation was unscripted and more about getting to know each other a little better rather than getting in their psyche.

While both teach about art, they also make it themselves. Here's a link to Vickie's teaser trailer for **"One Cuckoo"** <https://vimeo.com/302894185> a web series, which she wrote and produced, as well as a link to Netflix short film, **"Home"** in which she has a role <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMB8bBoBTyo>

Vickie isn't the only actor however as Neil also does much theatre work on and behind stage. Here is a link to his instagram where you can see his work.

<https://www.instagram.com/neiltyrone87/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdeHACzPCH4>

How MF DOOM Revolutionized Rap

By Silas Rodriguez



MF DOOM, is your favorite rapper's, favorite rapper. It's a phrase I had seen on the internet when researching the late rapper for this piece. And it's a phrase that perfectly describes an artist as influential as he is, especially to underground rap culture. MF DOOM or simply DOOM, passed on October 31st, 2020 as revealed by his wife on New Year's Eve. DOOM is personally one of my all time favorite artists and has been a big inspiration for my writing since I became a fan. When I first started listening to his music, it was almost like a reinvention of a genre that, with the exception of some other rappers, had become stale. Stale in the sense that I felt like I had heard everything it had to offer. And then I came across MF DOOM. Every aspect of his music is entirely unique to him and no other artist I have heard has even come close to replicating that sound, which is probably why I always come back to his music. His rhymes are complex and unorthodox. His production style is meticulous and heavy on samples from records both obscure and popular, and his penchant for telling stories with random inserts from 60's superhero cartoons is a staple of his songs. Big names such as Donald Glover, The Weekend, Drake, Joey Bada\$\$, Logic, and Tyler The Creator have all cited MF DOOM as influences on their careers. Despite that, not many people really knew much about him, if anything at all. So what is there to know about DOOM? And more importantly what is his legacy in the world of music?

Before I discuss his legacy on music, it's important to briefly look at his backstory. Daniel Dumile was born on July 13th 1971 in London, United Kingdom. He moved to Long Island, New York as a child, and in 1988 formed the rap group KMD with his brother, Dingilizwe, also known as DJ Subroc. They enjoyed minor success with several singles and two studio albums. However prior to the release of their second record, "Bl_ck B_st_rds" Dingilizwe was fatally struck by a car, subsequently cancelling the release of the album which was then only heard by way of bootlegs. After the accident in 1993, Daniel went underground and seemingly stopped making music. Though after a 6 year hiatus, he returned under a new persona which he and his fans embraced wholeheartedly. That persona being the "Villainous MF DOOM" and in 1999 he released his first solo album under the new moniker, "Operation: DOOMSDAY".



KMD members from left to right, Daniel Dumile, Dingilizwe Dumile, Onyx The Birthstone Kid



MF DOOM's debut solo album. Note the comic book aesthetic of the cover

It seems to be a fitting origin story for the self proclaimed “villain of rap”. Though that “villainous” status is mainly in how he challenged both mainstream rap sounds and the record companies that had burned him previously after his brother's death. And while DOOM was certainly a prolific storyteller, he was able to do something that I don't think any other artist has done in recent memory. That was to reinvent himself with a persona that for many, elevated him to a nearly storybook status. The idea of artists having a persona was nothing new, but MF DOOM took the idea to a whole new level, especially in the rap world which was rapidly becoming more club music friendly. MF DOOM never made public appearances without his signature metal mask which was inspired by the 2000 film “Gladiator”. And when he rapped, he only did so in third person as if he was telling the story of a character inspired by his life, which for all intents and purposes was exactly what he did, though more on that later. As far as his fan base was concerned, Daniel Dumile never returned to rap after he quit. And when he passed, it didn't feel right, as the character of DOOM he played felt invincible. In many ways, like an actual comic book character, he was gone but was sure to return.

In a sense that does ring true as his legacy is sure to extend for generations of misfits who happen across his music. This is where I started deep diving into his impact, not just personally, but across the rest of his fanbase. What I find most fascinating about DOOM as an artist is the way he appealed to a culture that really had never been given any representation in the world of music. Part of DOOM's distinctive sound was how he incorporated pop culture in both his rhymes and the beats themselves. His songs are littered with references and sound bites of comics, classic television, and movies. He has entire songs that use audio from cartoon shows to tell narratives and, more often, is able to weave his rhymes into those narratives. His 2004 LP “MM...FOOD” does this masterfully in almost every track. And while he never shied away from the more stereotypical elements of the average rap song at the time, he did so with a jubilation and breath of comedy to it that made each song fun to listen to. The point I want to get to is that he appealed to the nerds of rap. He was making references to comic books before it was popular and was creating a sound that at the times was groundbreaking and kind of still is despite geek culture becoming pop culture.



MF DOOM's second studio album under the MF DOOM character, MM...FOOD

Now it's important to note that MF DOOM was not the only name he had gone by. In my research, I learned he wrote and produced every song from the perspective of one of his characters that was typically inspired by his childhood. So while MF DOOM is what he is known for, it's only one character of several. The character of MF DOOM is a cartoon-like villain in his mid 40's seeking global domination. His other personas which each have at least one album dedicated to them, are Viktor Vaughn, an MF DOOM follower in his 20's who thinks he can overthrow DOOM and take his place. Then there is King Geedorah, a three headed serpent of mysterious origin who seems to want to take over the world as well. Then at the forefront of it all is Madvillain, a team up with another artist in the rap game that went on to inspire a generation of rappers to come.

Lets focus quickly on the persona Madvillain, which is a duo between DOOM and legendary producer Madlib. Mainly because it is considered by many one of the most influential rap records of all time. The phrase, “Your favorite rappers, favorite rapper”, spawned from just how many artists heard and latched onto this album. The project that resulted from their collaboration was the 2004 LP “Madvillainy”. Simply put, this is MF DOOM matched with a producer who was not only able to match his quirkiness, but push its sound to the technological limits. And while Madlib deserves equal praise for creating the mind bending beats, of course the focus here is on DOOM, and he brings his absolute A game. He has lines in here that in lyrical complexity alone would be any other rappers best bars. And that's not me being an opponent to modern day rappers because I mean that across the board with the exception of the all time greats. Lyrically this album is on another level even for DOOM's standard. It has such impeccable rhythm that he makes even the most unconventional of rhymes sound flow effortlessly. It is everything the artists represented for so many in one giant album.

Some could listen to it and cite it as pretentious for seemingly just being a collection of jumbled rhymes, but the more you listen, the more you find that it leaves the door open for interpretation. And while that may frustrate some listeners, that has always been what makes DOOM stand out and why he inspires me so much. Transporting you into his abstract world and letting the listener pull meaning from a story that can range from absurd to relatable. He’s the only rapper I know that has made his struggles with alcohol and women into infinitely replayable tracks. Point is there is no rapper and never will be another rapper who can do what DOOM does. And while that may sound a bit mellow, I think that it's actually a great thing. Because his uniqueness is one of many things that inspires me to be myself, and as an artist, stand out as best I can by creating a style and a swagger that belongs to uniquely to me

Since his passing I’ve taken a trek into his back catalog and reminded myself of all those things. And in trying to define his legacy, I’ve decided that it extends far beyond the stylistic decisions of other rappers he has influenced. My friends and me as examples, he was able to appeal to a subculture of music fans that had never been touched before. Fans of the genre, like myself, who never felt a part of the overall culture. Me. a person who loved rap just as much as I loved X-Men and Martin Scorsese films, but never related that much to Biggie or Nas. He created a culture of his own, one that was abstract and weird in all the best ways. Embracing subcultures like comics and cartoons before it was ever popular in the states. And like many other pioneers, he proves that being entirely you is the key to creating your voice in this world.



MADVILLAINY album cover

WHSAD and Lake Como

By Jennifer Ramirez



Birds Eye View Of Lake Como

This helps the town by located on the impervious surface and with the data it can help in many ways. It can help locate areas that are highly impervious and can reduce the flooding in the area. In addition, making sure that the non-impervious can soak up the water and nothing else such oil or chemicals than can affect the lake. You can compare this with what I'm doing in Lake Como but instead of reducing the floods, we're trying to reduce the traffic and speeding in the area. Srewashi Mondal, a high school student, talked about how the town has problems with the floods, most notably during Hurricane Sandy and how this flooding causes poor water quality. The blame for the floods occurring are the surfaces like the cement and asphalt and the low quality of water. Srewashi’s team worked with four classifications: Maximum Likelihood, Minimum Distance, Mahalanobis Distance and Spectral Angle Mapper. Results showed the method that maps the surface the best was the Mahalanobis Distance. This method has the highest Kappa Coefficient out of the rest. Maximum Likelihood helped assume the statics and was distributed in each class. Minimum Distance used to calculate the Euclidean distance classifies the distance with the statics that are shown for each class. Spectral Angle Mapper determines the spectral similarity between the two spectra. This helped him understand how to use the mfour classification method throughout the project. The workshop helped him expand his understanding of using ROIs. I am really glad that I attended this event and learned this much based on these two excellent students. It was very interesting and it had a connection with what I’m doing in Lake Como.

The presentation on Tuesday, February 16th was of two students, a middle school student and high school students. It was based on the Borough of Lake Como in New Jersey and the water quality of the town’s lake. Zayden Li, the middle school student, talked about the Impervious Surfaces Analysis of Lake Como. The objective he had was to research how the impervious surfaces block the water from going into the ground. It is very important because since the water is staying on the surface, it can cause floods. Finding what causes the water from going into the ground can help stop flooding. By controlling the amount of the impervious surface, then it can control the flooding. A town that is near Lake Como has experience with floods, so they can provide information of the experience of the floods. He also talked about how it takes many steps to create a classified image. He even talks about what the color represents in the image. Like the dark grey is the asphalt, the lighter grey is concrete, the light green is the grass and the dark green is the trees. So when you're designing an image you should know what each other represents if you do use it in your image.



Mfour classification method showing levels of flood control

Sense of Expression

By Elliana Duran

Expression , a way you represent yourself and make yourself known. The way you let yourself be seen by others let it be the way you look, act, or even things that you do. To show off your personality in ways that make you different or similar to others is so fascinating to me. Through all life stages we change and have a new way we show ourselves. Your skin is the magical bag that holds everything that makes you, you. To have multiple personalities and personas surround me brings colors to this bland world which some people prefer to blend into, myself included.

Now that I am in high school I have been able to see many different kinds of personas around me that range so far from each other. The diversity of personalities is refreshing because if everyone was the same, I would be bored and feel stuffed in a place of monochrome. But the thing is some people shy away from expressing their true selves. I believe that everyone has multiple masks that they put on, but with those masks, there will always be the sockets for the eyes, the windows to someone's soul. But do we really have to get that deep? Expressing yourself can be as simple as smiling when the waiter gives you food, making plans with your friends to go to the park, laughing at someone's corny joke, anything you do is just another way to show others how you interact and digest this world around you. When walking down the halls of my school, I would see lots of students that would stick out of the crowd because they were not afraid to be vibrant! It didn't have to be the way they dressed, it was the way they carried themselves. They were almost like an open book that I could read which interested me. How can someone be so comfortable in their skin that they didn't fear the eyes of others? To me it was like someone tightropeing with no harness! In a place where everyone is still discovering who they are, what they like, what they want to do, and more, it was so amazing to see people okay to show that change so openly.

I have never been someone to be so open to express myself. Dressing the way I wanted seemed ridiculous to me because I thought I would stick out like a sore thumb. I say this as if it is past tense, but I still feel this way. But the thing is I have found comfort in the fact that even if I may think I stick out, even when I'm not wearing or doing anything dramatic, there is always someone okay with doing that.



I was able to take control of my thoughts and put my emotions into this art piece

In a generation like this where we are becoming more accepting of many different things, we are slowly getting to that point where people don't really care and it's just commonplace to an extent. Especially in a place like New York where it is pretty much known as the most diverse place in every shape and form! Now just because I have not become fully comfortable with the idea of expressing myself in such bold ways, I have been able to find other ways I find most meaningful to me to show who I truly am. Art is one of the ways I express my feelings and outlooks on this floating rock. Draw any emotion and thought I have and make it into something I can look at and reflect on. Many other people express themselves through fashion, art, writing, music, interactions, and many more beautiful things that are so personal yet universal to many.

To accept yourself and the way you want to be can be hard, but the more you look around, the more you see different shades in the rainbow. As cliché as it sounds, everyone is their own person, so not everyone is not going to be the same. There will be people similar to you or ones that perfectly contrast you... and that's okay. Expression has always been interesting to me for this reason! How you can show your personality, likes,, thoughts, through many different forms. We are still in high school, a place where you come to terms with yourself and make decisions for yourself and that's just another way you represent you. Expression is truly beautiful.

WHSAD Pets showcase

1.How old are your pets

2. Any interesting stories about your pet

3.What is something about your pet that only people with pets would understand

4.How do your pets bring joy to your home/life

Ms. Como



1. We have had our dogs since they were about 6/8 weeks old; they are now all seniors between the ages of 13 and 11. At the time, we heard from family friends that their dogs were having puppies and reached out to them.
2. Gigi had to have all of her teeth removed due to old age, her tongue is always hanging out of her mouth now. A few years ago we realized that Pupa is deaf/hard of hearing. We now use hand gestures and attempt to create vibrations to communicate with her. Wiz looovveesssss to play fetch! He'll go on forever if you let him. Lucas was the sweetest boy with anxiety and would never go on walks without the whole gang together.
3. Due to quarantine/working from home, Gigi will now never leave my side, she is constantly following me around and if I leave the apartment she will wait by the door until I return.
4. The pups are family, I want them to have the best life so as long as they are happy I'm happy. They're definitely spoiled with lots of treats, cuddles, and playtime.

Robin



- 1. I’ve had my cat for a year now! We got her as a birthday present
- 2. My cat likes to watch me while I shower and she also likes to bite my foot a lot
- 3. My shoes are chewed but I feel people with babies also understand?
- 4. Uh, she makes me laugh sometimes

Ian



- 1. I had them for 3 years and I got them from petco.
- 2. My grandma was chilling in the living room with me and our family so I realized I had to feed the birds Three minutes later I let them out their cage for them to stretch their wings and fly and when I took them out they flew around the house and landed on my grandmas head , she laughed and stood still while she waited for them to leave
- 3. Something about my pet that only other people with pets could understand is that they like to scream Because parakeets are noisy birds when it comes to whistles and talking.
- 4. My pets bring joy to my home because of their beautiful colors and when they take flight in our house.



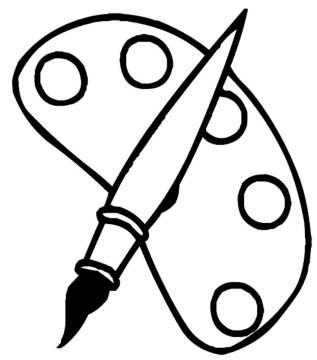
Jeremy Colon

1. I have had my cat Mamacita for 12 years. I have also had my dog Skittles for 8 years.
2. An interesting story about my cat is that she likes to go out the window and run around the neighborhood. This particular day it was about 9 at night and at this point I'm sleeping. As I am sleeping I wake up to two live mice in my bed that my cat had brought in from outside. Another story, but this one pertains to my dog. My dog was perfectly fine that morning but when I got home she couldn't walk and she was leaning to her left side. My mom took my dog to the vet and they did various tests to find out she had a lesion on her brain that was causing her to lean to one side that the lesion was on.
3. Things that only people with pets will understand is that cats when they are comfortable they need blankets and pillows. Another behavior or action that only people with pets will understand is that when cats hide it is either that they are scared or don't like new people. Another thing that only people with pets will understand is that dogs will protect you if they feel that there is a threat that may harm you. One last thing that only people with pets will understand is that dogs will bark at random noises.
4. Pets bring joy in my home life because they do things that make you laugh. They will also play with you when they are bored. They will lay next to you when you're sad. They will also get angry when they are eating even though you are not trying to take their food. Another way that my pets bring me joy by allowing me to pet them.

Brianny Estevez



1. We got Dusky in 2015(I was around 5th grade then). She was bought at a standard pet shop, as at the times my mom didn't want to deal with adoption papers.
2. I can't think of a memorable one right off the bat, though I can note that she takes affection from anyone except my aunt in Florida.
3. She's an absolute rat and we love her for it
4. She keeps me company during the day while my mom is at work, and likes to lie down next to me during classes (she's napped on top of me and prevented me from participating in class more than I'd like to admit



STUDENT ARTISTS' SHOWCASE



Elliana Duran

I drew Rihanna, an iconic singer along with CEO of Fenty Beauty. Rihanna is a woman that I cannot help but to admire. She inspires others to become more confident and goes against standards that are put on to women. Rihanna also made a makeup line that is so inclusive that has everyone able to feel beautiful. She is a true inspiration for me and many others so I wanted to show that appreciation through art.



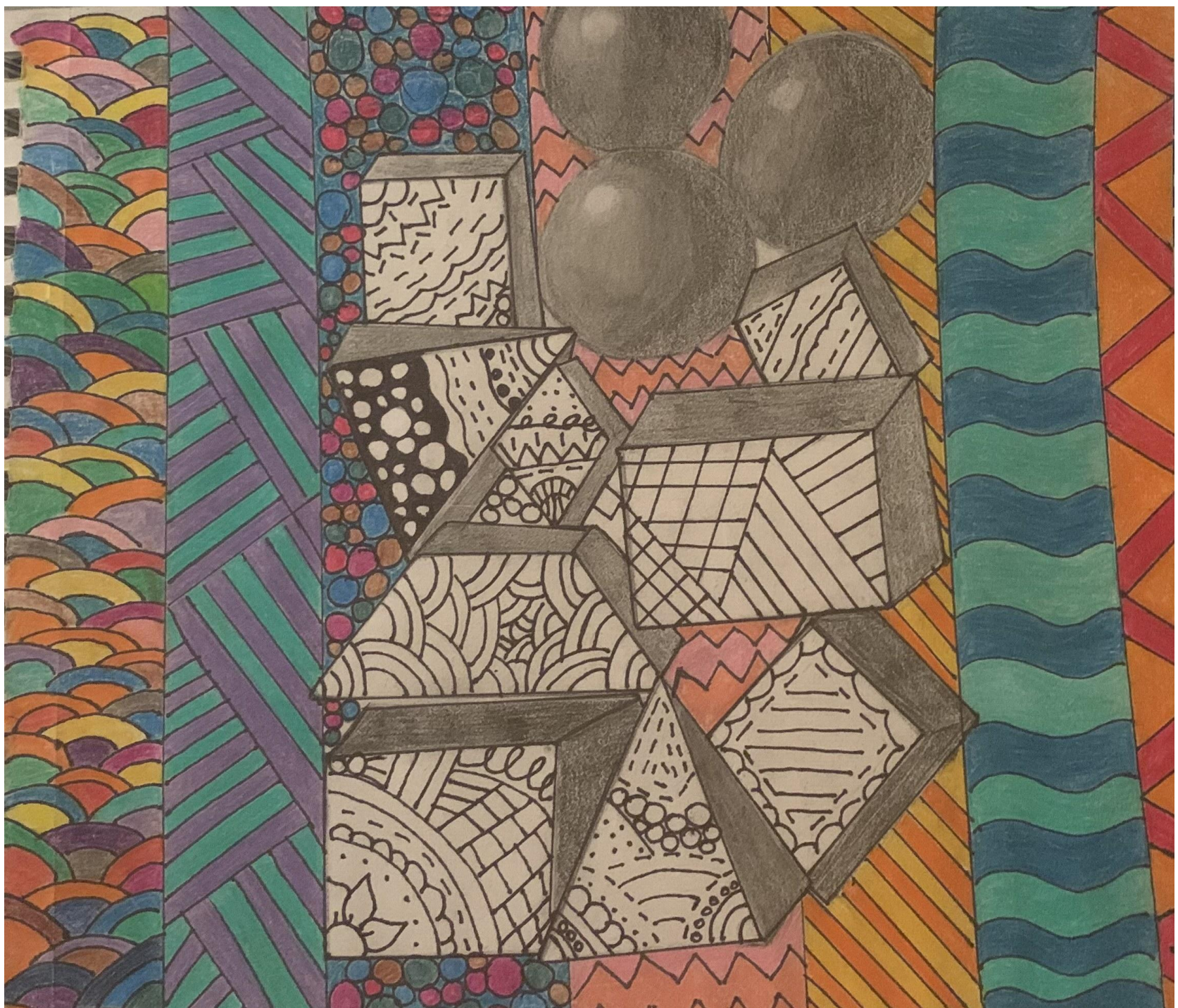
Mildred Amofa

This is a drawing of myself at moments where I feel like my freedom is taken away. Just moments where I stay quiet instead of speaking up



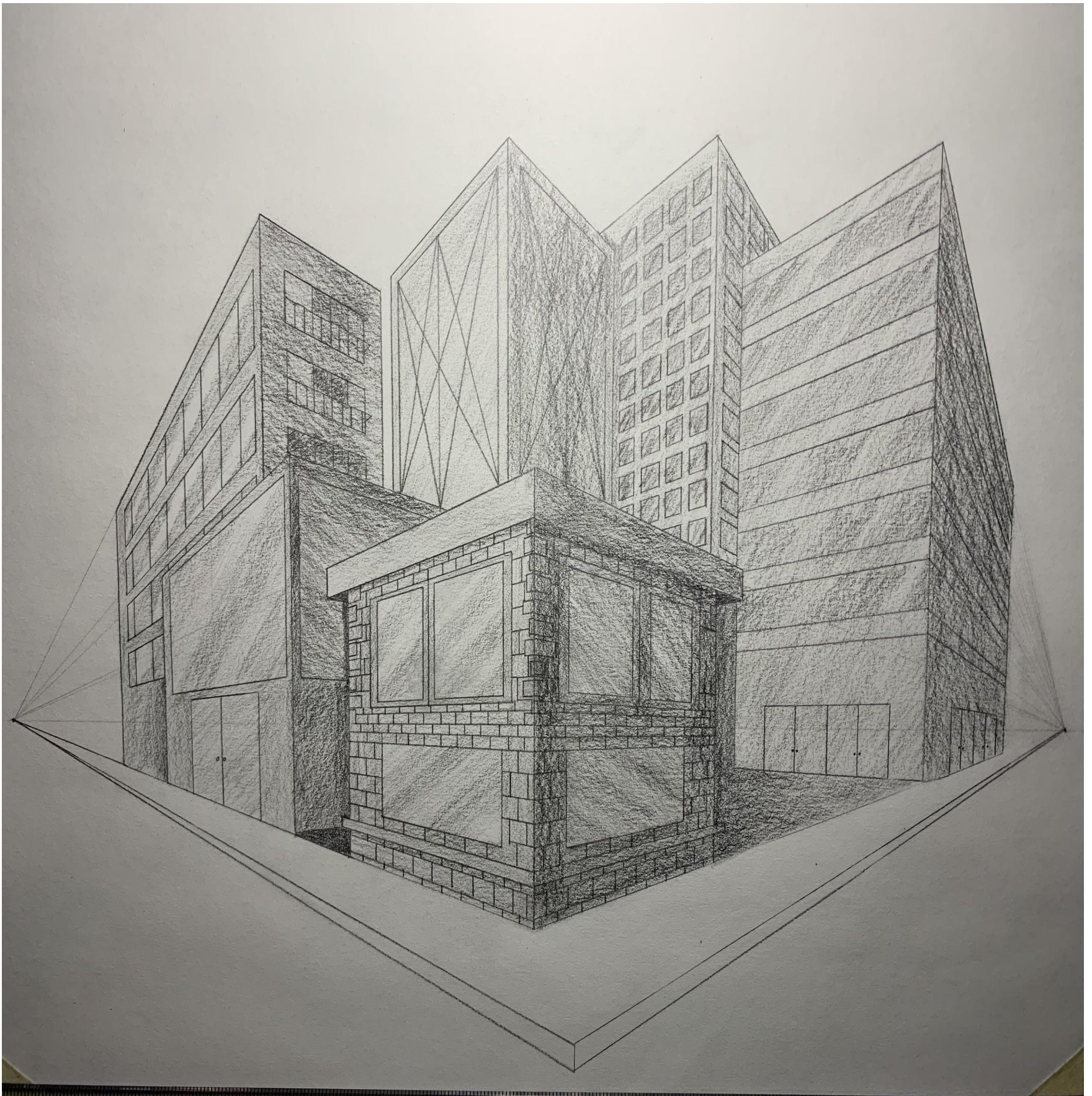
Megan Golding

This drawing that I created is called “Talk to the hand”. Recently, my little cousins are starting to like flowers and I wanted to add something that excited them. Since they are interested in colors, I used all colors they would like. The hand was important because I never drew the back of the hands.



Jennifer Segundo Ramirez

This artwork is called “The Tower of Design.” I gave it this name because the shapes have designs within themselves, instead of just being plain and empty. The shapes are also used to form a tower and that tower is holding the whole art piece together. The elements that are most obvious are shapes, color, form, value and lines. There are many colors in the background that make the shapes pop. I did this to show that the middle is most important in the whole artwork. I used different values to make it seem more 3D like as well. The principle of pattern can also be seen in the background and inside of the shapes. I got inspired by looking at Pinterest and seeing how architects use these simple shapes to make cool and amazing structures that are still able to stand on their own. My overall thought of my artwork is that I wanted people to focus on the middle where the structure of the shapes are located. That is what I wanted to catch people's attention. I wanted people to feel happiness and lovely feelings when they look at my artwork and see the designs I made in the shapes. I learned that even when using simple shapes you can always make something amazing, even if you're just adding designs and patterns to the artwork. This piece might influence my future artwork because I now know that with simple designs or shades, you can always end up having more than something plain and simple.



Derek Ramos Matos

My overall thoughts on my artwork are that I'm proud. I felt I could have done a bit better on some areas like shading but I still feel like I drew exactly what I wanted. I have learned to not get too ambitious when creating art. Trying to stay in areas and working with knowledge that has already been learned will save you from a lot of frustration and unpleasant moments. The final piece is as I imagined. The only thing is I imagined it with a bit smoother shading. I do believe my piece is accurate in the space of perspective. I used many types of rulers and tools to make sure every line I drew was in perspective. A thing I would do again is the shading. I am not really proud of how I did it and I feel like I could have done better. But overall I am very proud to have finished my artwork and thank you for taking the time to read this.



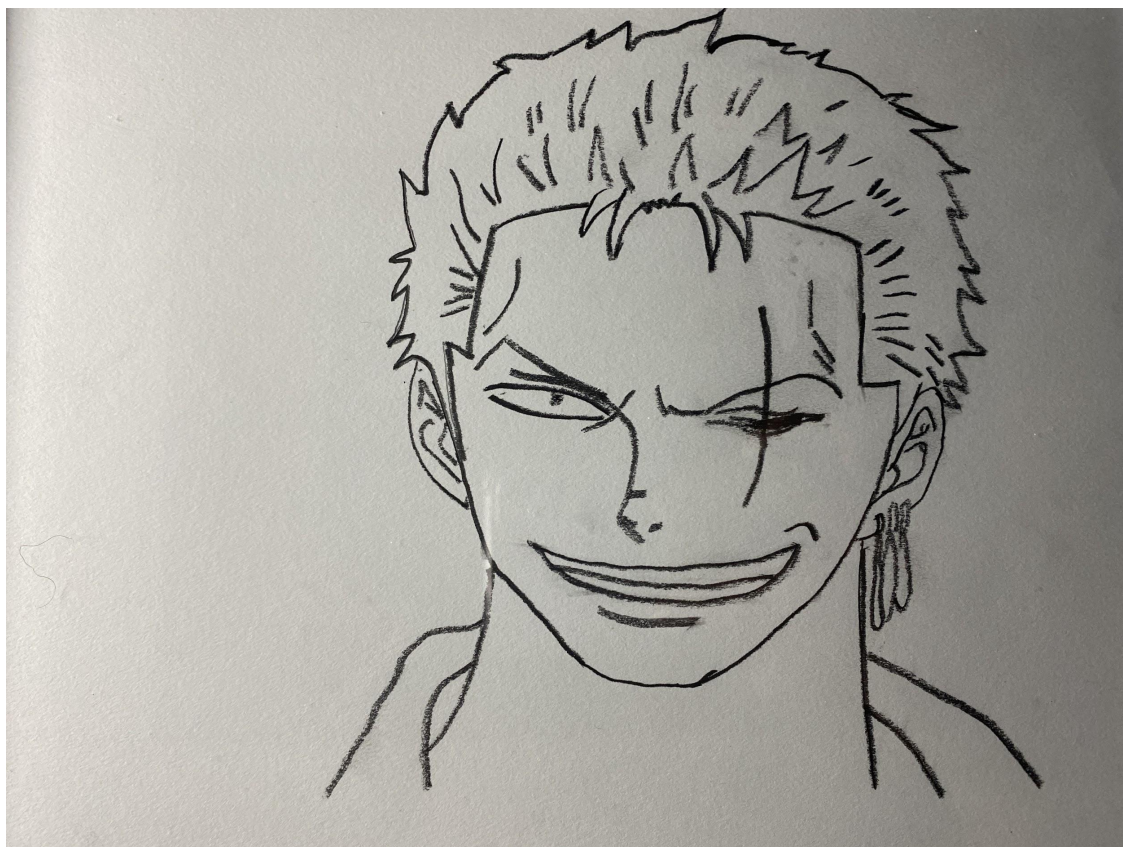
Xochitl Munguia

I decided to draw a bedroom and decided to draw my dream bedroom. I saw images on furniture of a bed with curtains. I was looking at more images and decided this will be what I will draw. This came out better than what I thought and was exciting. I would love to use perspective drawings in the future.



Kevin Garcia

Minato Namikaze is my favorite character even though he doesn't get too much screen time. He was looked up to as a God and as a hero, he reminds of my grandfather who passed in 2015. He was looked up in his whole and he helped out the people of his city build them houses and gave them jobs to support their family. Viewed as a hero, Minato gave his life to save his son and village. My grandfather gave his life so he could give the people around him a better life than what he had.



Kevin Garcia

Roronoa Zoro is one of my favorite character for how far he's come. We met this little cocky "teen" who thought he fight things bigger than him and when we fought against the strongest obstacle on his way. From that they on he made a vowed to himself never give up onto he become the person he wants to be. I see this drawing on my wall and it gives me hope to keep on fighting and walking onto I become an architect. I'll fight my way up no matter the outcome or the obstacles on my road, this is why I drew this.