



**ARYAM SALAH**  
9th grade  
North High School

### A Hijabi's Crown 2022

With this art piece I was trying to express how a hijab can mean so much more than just a cloth or scarf around someone's head. It can mean many things, such as power and self-worth. Jean-Michel Basquiat's work inspires me by representing who I am and what I love every day. His artwork means many powerful and beautiful things, showing us his heroes and influencers who have inspired him. A detail that I bet you would notice is the crown, of course. It is to show how when a hijabi wears her hijab it's just like wearing a crown on her head, making her realize her self-worth and that they don't have

to listen to what other people say about their hijab. While creating this artwork, I felt like I was truly making a change with my voice and artwork. It made me feel like I can do greater pieces showing people who I really am, where I come from, and my community that I truly cherish and admire. While making this art piece, I realized there are many more future steps to go in my art and I shouldn't play myself down just because something didn't turn out the way I wanted it to. There are going to be many opportunities and times where I can keep growing my art ability, showing people my voice and the art I have in me. I want my artwork to show people that I love Basquiat

for representing who he is and what he loves to the world, by giving no care to what other people say about him. I want it to show that you, too, can use your voice and artwork to inspire others to do what they love in life and go after their dreams, telling people their voice is worth fighting for. And to all my hijabis, that they are MORE than what society sees us as – we are strong, beautiful, hardworking, and inspiring to many!

INSPIRED BY  
JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT, UNTITLED 1984



DES  
MOINES  
ART  
CENTER

Jean-Michel Basquiat (American, 1960 – 1988)  
**Untitled 1984**  
Acrylic and oil stick on canvas / 42 x 40 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of David Kruidenier, Jr. Estate and Elizabeth S. Kruidenier 2002 Revocable Trust, 2012.2  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines



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BY DEGREES, AND  
THE PRINCIPAL FOUNDATION







## The Peace on Waiting 2022

John Singer Sargent's *Portraits of Edouard and Marie-Louise Pailleron* inspired my artwork. He portrays the young girl's disquieting and uneasy sensation through her face, and he made the girl and her brother wait for a long time so the painting could be completed. The look in her eyes prompted me to create a piece of artwork that shows her waiting feelings and thoughts.

My intention was to create a piece of art that expresses emotion without using facial expressions. The woman is quiet and melancholy, giving the sense that not seeing

the woman's face feels wrong. When I look at Sargent's painting, I perceive a girl glaring at him, as if she doesn't want to be there. I wanted to capture what it felt like, not with her face, but through her clothes, the way her hair is styled, and the color of the flowers. Each color indicates a different aspect of her personality. Color has the ability to elicit emotions and reactions, and shift thinking patterns.

Because I wanted the clothing to symbolize her complexity while also covering her agony, I painted the dress a dark brownish color. The dark wood door background, as well as the pictures on the wall, create a dramatic vibe.

The fact that you can't see her face or body adds to the sense of mystery and unease because you can't know what she's doing or if something crucial has captured her attention. I painted the flower white so that even when everything around her is dark, you can still find hope and peace in the white blossom.

INSPIRED BY  
PORTRAITS OF EDOUARD AND MARIE-LOUISE  
PAILLERON 1881



**SABAH KOKO**

12th grade  
North High School



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John Singer Sargent (American, 1856 -1925)

**Portraits de M.E.P. ... et de Mlle L.P. (Portraits of Edouard and Marie-Louise Pailleron) 1881**

Oil on canvas / 60 x 69 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edith M. Usry Bequest, in memory of her parents Mr. and Mrs. George Franklin Usry, the Dr. and Mrs. Peder T. Madsen Fund, and the Anna K. Meredith Endowment Fund, 1976.61

Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines





**A Grim Future 2022**

This piece is all black, representing oil spills and pollution. I was inspired by a monochromatic piece at the Art Center. In my artwork you can find planes, gears, and bombs, all representing violence. At the center of the piece there is a squid representing fear, with hidden money inside, which is at the root of all war, pollution, fear, and violence. We need to put greed aside so that we can make the world a better place.

INSPIRED BY  
LAUREN FENSTERSTOCK, SCRYING 1 2017

**HOWARD BLACK**  
7th grade  
Harding Middle School



Lauren Fensterstock (American, born 1975)  
**Scrying 1 2017**  
Blown glass, shells, rubber / 58 x 33 x 6 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Larry and Rita Sibrack, 2021.7  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines



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### The Wired Tree 2022

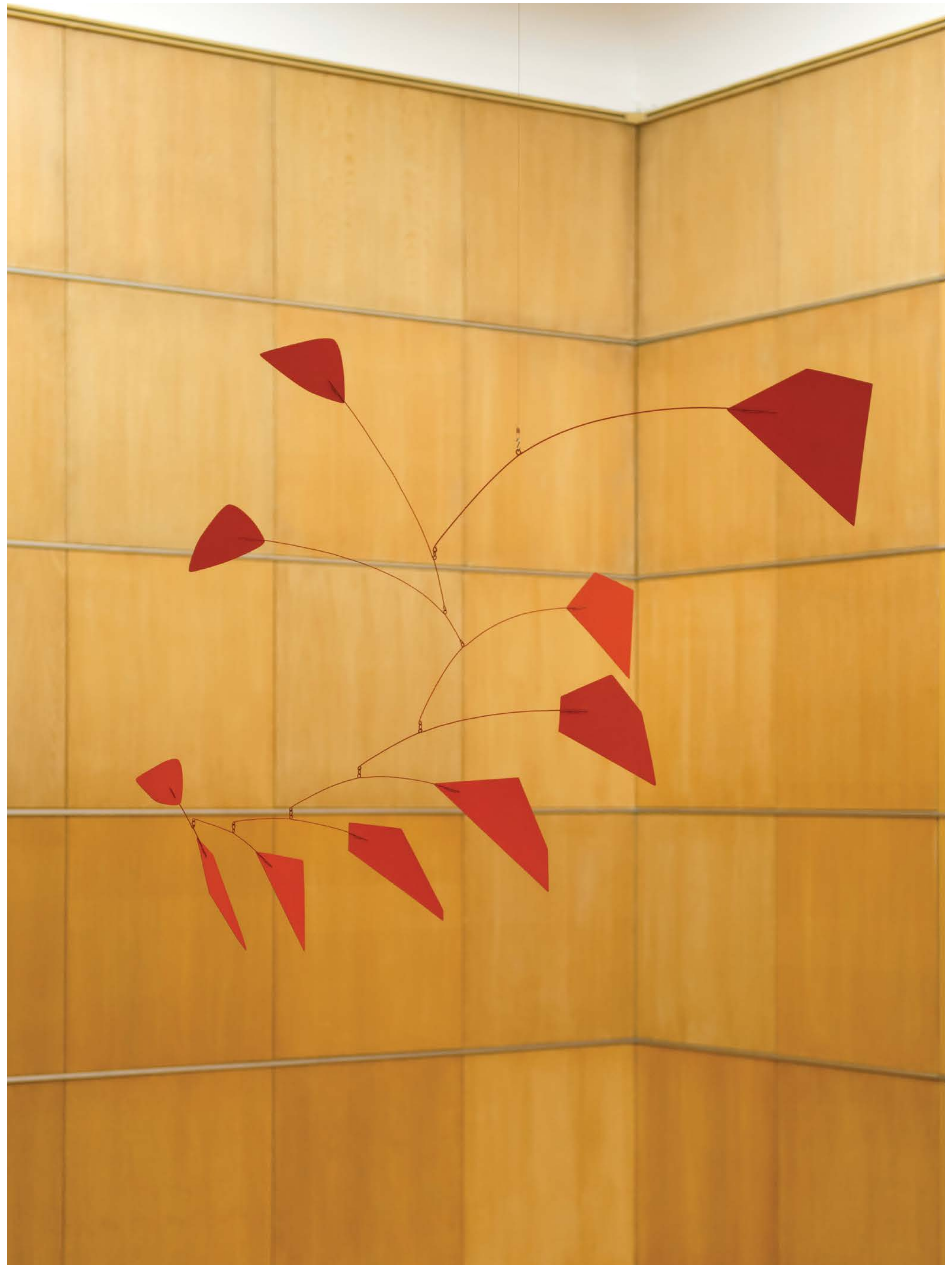
I was inspired by the mobile at the Art Center because of how it represents balance. My piece is not only about balance but also about love, and how it is not perfect. My challenge was getting the right weight to my piece, so that it would sit how I wanted it to.

INSPIRED BY  
ALEXANDER CALDER, HOLY RED 1960



**TJ BATES**

7th grade  
Harding Middle School



Alexander Calder (American, 1898 – 1976)  
**Holy Red 1960**  
Painted sheet metal and steel wire / 62 x 43 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of David Kruidenier, Jr.  
Estate and Elizabeth S. Kruidenier 2002 Revocable Trust, 2012.3  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines



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**Unbreakable 2022**

I was inspired to make something that was broken, yet beautiful and eye catching. I also wanted to highlight the point that beauty can come from something that was once destroyed. Breaking the car and getting it to represent exactly what I wanted was definitely the challenge in making this piece.

INSPIRED BY  
ANSELM REYLE, UNTITLED 2010



**AVA HANSEN**  
7th grade  
Harding Middle School



Anselm Reyle (German, born 1970)  
**Untitled 2010**  
Cast aluminum, chrome optics, patina / 95 1/4 x 75 3/16 x 7 inches  
Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust:  
Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 2011.3  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines



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**GRIFFIN MEEK**  
3rd grade  
Findley Elementary School

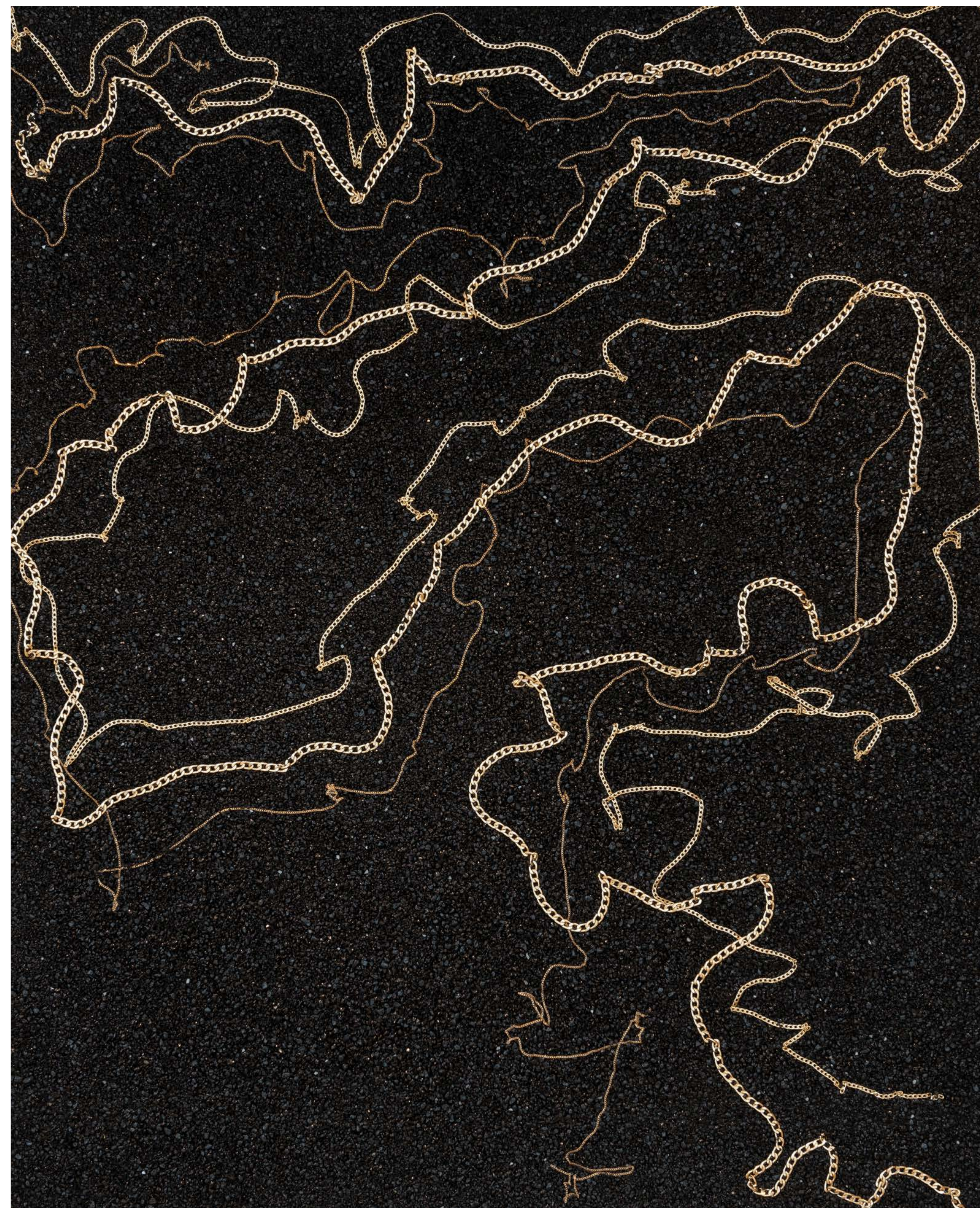
### Imagination Playground on SW Street 2022

What you are looking at is my imagination. In this picture is a playground, odd happy green clouds, a pot of gold, and a kite. I was inspired by Jimmy Page's gold chains and black asphalt. It reminded me of a playground. Creating this work was easy for me because I didn't stress about it being perfect, it was more important for me to express my creativity. I want people to know that art can be made by anyone, any age, any time – because life is imagination.

INSPIRED BY  
LUIS GISPERT, JIMMY PAGE 2015

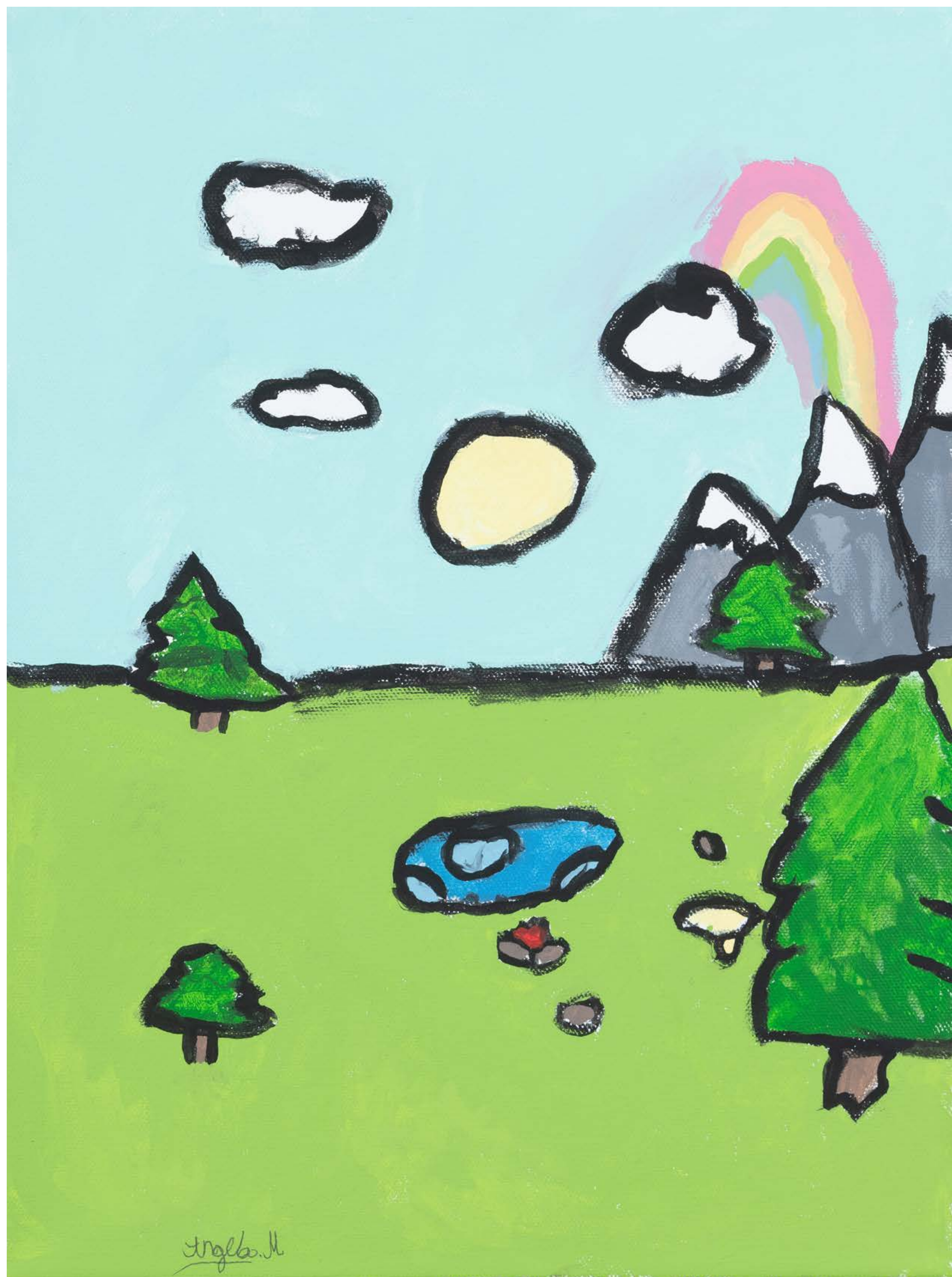


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Luis Gispert (American, born 1972)  
**Jimmy Page 2015**  
Polychrome stone, gold chains / 60 1/2 x 49 1/4 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Robert Feldman, 2020.4  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines





### Life in the Outside 2022

In this artwork I was going to paint a sunset, but then I made a blue sky and rainbow because it added happiness. The Childe Hassam painting made me feel inspired by nature and seasons. I felt like making my painting in the spring because it is clearing up from winter, and I like being in nature during the spring. There isn't any purpose in life but to have fun and be creative. I want people to feel creative looking at my artwork.

INSPIRED BY  
CHILDE HASSAM  
BRIDGE IN SNOW (BROOKLYN BRIDGE IN WINTER) 1894



**ANGELA  
MOOHTOOKHIN**

3rd grade  
Findley Elementary School



Childe Hassam (American, 1859 - 1935)  
**Bridge in Snow (Brooklyn Bridge in Winter)** ca. 1894  
Oil on canvas / 31 1/4 x 24 3/8 inches  
Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust;  
Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 1961.47  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines



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**Wasteland 2022**

When I saw the piece at the Art Center, I imagined that it was a big clump of trash surrounding the earth. In my artwork, I want people to notice how some of your favorite things can be thrown away. If we don't take care of the earth now, the planet will die, and the world will be a wasteland. While working, pieces kept falling off, so I had to keep making new pieces. As I was painting, I had to keep putting new layers on because I kept messing up. I am happy with how I made the paint look dirty – like on the McDonald's sign – and all around. I like using clay because you can remodel it, you can use it over again. It felt great that I was getting

to make something that would be seen by many people because a very limited amount of people see my artwork. Now, if I see people that have seen my artwork, I can get feedback from them, and they can give me ideas of what I can make next.

INSPIRED BY  
JOHN CHAMBERLAIN, VANDAM BILLY 1981

**BENJAMIN GONZALEZ-MANROSE**

4th grade  
Findley Elementary School



John Chamberlain (American, 1927 – 2011)  
**Vandam Billy 1981**  
Painted and chromium-plated steel / 65 x 42 x 68 inches  
Purchased with funds from the Coffin Fine Arts Trust;  
Nathan Emory Coffin Collection of the Des Moines Art Center, 1987.9.a.-b  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines



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### Hidden History 2022

The inspiration for my piece is women's history and what we have gone through over time. We are resilient and strong and have bounced back from trauma. I was inspired by Ebony Patterson's use of color and design, though my challenge was definitely the hair!

INSPIRED BY EBONY G. PATTERSON,  
 ...AMONG THE BLADES BETWEEN THE FLOWERS...  
 WHILE THE HORSE WATCHES... FOR THOSE WHO  
 BEAR/BARE WITNESS 2018

**DAISY NAIL**

7th grade  
 Harding Middle School



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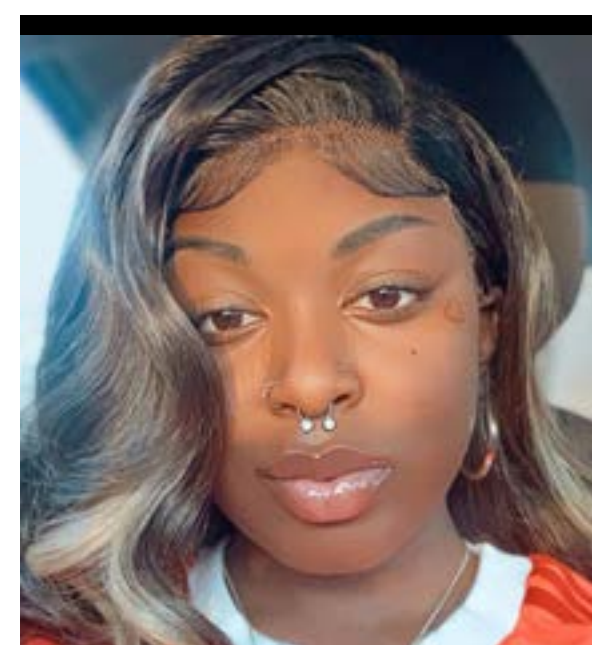
Ebony G. Patterson (Jamaican, born 1981)

...among the blades between the flowers... while the horse watches...  
 for those who bear/bare witness 2018 (detail)

Hand-cut jacquard woven photo tapestry with glitter, appliqué, beads, trim, brooches, feathered butterflies, fabric, silk flowers, and hand-embellished resin owl on shelf, on artist-designed fabric wallpaper / 130 x 175 inches  
 Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 2019.3.a-c  
 Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines







**DAVIANNA HEARRING**

12th grade  
North High School

**Crystal Clear Eyes 2022**

The title of my project is Crystal Clear Eyes. I chose this title to describe the outside and inside perspective of the sculpture. With this sculpture, I was trying to tell the story of Water Woman and Medusa together. As for Water Woman, she was depicted as a beautiful mystical creature known as the siren, but in other mystical tales, sirens are seen as seductive killer-creatures who prey on men. Medusa was shown as a hideous snake-headed woman who could turn people into stone with her eyes. However, it has been revealed that Medusa once was a beautiful human being, who was raped by

the Greek god Poseidon, resulting in Athena, his wife, casting a curse on her because her beauty was seen as a seductive curse.

Together, both women have inspired me to create a piece that shows the true beauty through the eyes of women's history, women's trauma, women's betrayal, and women's stories being told in the wrong way. This sculpture will make anyone who lays eyes on it feel and see that villains or women who are painted out to be the bad person are actually the heroes, and that their stories and souls were taken from them.

INSPIRED BY  
WANGECHE MUTU, **WATER WOMAN** 2017



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Wangechi Mutu (Kenyan, active United States, born 1972)  
**Water Woman** 2017  
Bronze / 36 x 65 x 70 inches / 400 lb.  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections;  
Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 2017.25  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines





**BRENDA QUAYEE**  
9th grade  
North High School

### Bedroom 2022

I was trying to express in this piece the feeling of loneliness and isolation, and how that takes a toll on your life and mental health. The painting by Edward Hopper inspired me because of the figure sitting at a table looking lonely. I took this inspiration and created my own ideas to make it how I saw it in my head. I want people to notice the fact that the main figure has no face and how the duplicates are crossed out, and everything in the back is all black, like a void. Some ideas my art explores are society, melancholy, and being dark and disturbing. I like to make art that makes people have a deeper feeling and maybe feel a little bit

sorrowful while looking at it. My objective is to have at least one person look at one of my pieces and say, "This is really deep," because that's what I'm going for. I like people to relate to my artwork as well. During this process I struggled with being motivated to finish the piece and it dragged my painting time.

INSPIRED BY  
EDWARD HOPPER, AUTOMAT 1927



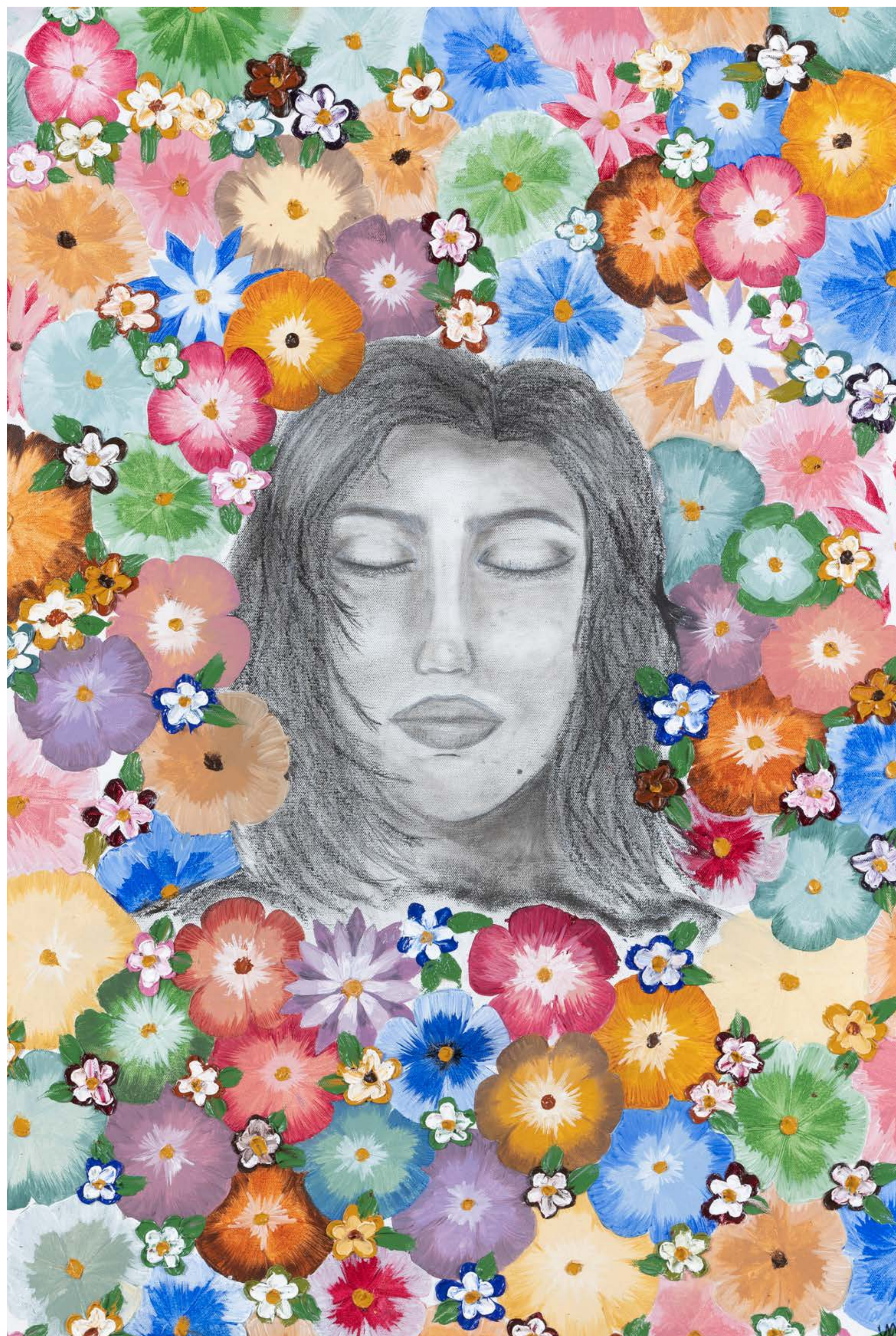
Edward Hopper (American, 1882 – 1967)  
**Automat** 1927  
Oil on canvas / 28 1/8 x 35 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmondson Art Foundation, Inc., 1958.2  
Photo: Rich Sanders



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**Nature 2022**

In the Art Center painting by Elizabeth Sparhawk Jones. I liked how the flowers filled the room with life. I liked this because humanity is so dull, but nature can fill a person's world with life. In this artwork I am comparing humanity and nature. To me, humanity is very lifeless and nature is colorful. I learned a lot while working on my art piece – like to how properly use new materials, like oil paint, how to work on a larger canvas, and trying out new techniques.

INSPIRED BY  
ELIZABETH SPARHAWK JONES, *IN THE SPRING* 1905



**YERALDIN ROSALES**

9th grade  
North High School



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Elizabeth Sparhawk-Jones (American, 1885 - 1968)  
*In the Spring* ca. 1905  
Oil on canvas / 35 1/4 x 40 inches  
Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Mrs. Florence Carpenter, 1941.2  
Photo: Rich Sanders, Des Moines