

School of the Arts  
Visual Arts Department  
April 2021

Senior Show Group 3:

***DARK***

**Artist Statements by:**

Sidney F.

Yousef A.

Mia R.

James P.

Reginald S.

Harry W

# SIDNEY FORREST

## Artist Statement

Since art class in elementary school, I have always had some type of art or art supplies around me such as an easel with canvas or a chalkboard on it. Back then, I would make my art on paper or canvas; these days, I create my art digitally on my iPad. Instead of having the typical artist tools and canvas, I can have unlimited access to what I need on my iPad. I use one App and it is called 'Sketchbook.'

I don't know what style of art I make. There are so many art projects to do, that I don't know what I like to make. My inspiration comes from the mainstream media. Anything from music and clothing to documentaries.

I have finished my applications to the colleges I would like to attend. Hopefully, I will get accepted into one of them. After college, I plan to work in the fashion industry. In the future, I would hope that making art will be a hobby for me or turn into something more.

# YOUSEF ALI

## Artist Statement

My art is a representation of my emotions and thoughts at the moment. That's why I love art a lot; it lets me express them. To me, art means creativity of all kinds and sorts. It can be made using all mediums from a pencil to a computer. Even though there are all kinds of ways to make art, I generally just prefer using pencil and paper.

I base my art on my current feelings and interests. I enjoy creating portraits the most; that is probably because that is what I grew up doing. I usually use my simple #2 pencil, but I also like to paint. I decide what I want to do before making my art. I imagine how I want everything to look at the end and go with the flow throughout the process. My ideas can come from my mood, or a TV program that I liked watching last week, or even an image that I saw on my phone. The themes I usually show in my work are not only how funny looking something may be, but also how they evoke weird and questioning thoughts... like it's abstract. I don't really have a specific inspiration or influence to create my art, it's just a passion I have.

The majority of the current work seen here doesn't fit my artistic comfort zone, but I still enjoy it a lot. Photography isn't my best strength, but the quarantine this school year helped me to develop my skills. Even though I prefer using the nice high-depth cameras instead of my phone, I enjoyed improving and learning how to take photographs thanks to Ms. Rudy's teaching.

# MIA RAMOS

## Artist Statement

My passion for art started when I was 7 years-old. I watched videos on YouTube of people making food for their *LPS - Littlest Pet Shops*, and it inspired me to do the same. So I told my mom and a couple days later she surprised me with “EZ Clay,” and that’s where my journey started with art.

The thing I like most about art is that whatever I envision in my head I can pour it out onto paper or in the form of a sculpture. The process of creating art and seeing the final product is what drives me to make art, and also all the new things I learn from the process. I’ve grown as an artist by just doing things I like to do like sculpting, drawing and painting. Over the years, my artistic style has changed a lot. I don’t really have one single style, but I do like to make creepy detailed realistic sculptures or small, cute, simple sculptures. When it comes to drawing, I use a semi-realistic but still cartoon-like style. I personally love to sculpt. I like to be hands-on and actually hold what I make versus having it be 2D on a piece of paper. I feel like I make art come to life when I sculpt. When it comes to sculpting Sculpey Original is my favorite medium to use. It's oil-based, which gives me all the time I need to work with it. I bake the pieces in my toaster oven and use a pointed silicone tool, cuticle pusher, dotting tool, cricut weeder tool, and an exacto blade to add detail.

My inspiration really came from “Ace of Clay,” “Tina Yu,” and things I find on Google. Over the years, I have improved as an artist in many ways. In the future I am going to be a venomous reptile, alligator, and crocodile sanctuary owner. I am going to work with venomous snakes and reptiles. I plan to educate people on venomous reptiles and do shows with the alligators and crocodiles. Currently, I do have my own business making resin pieces and sculptures. I do see myself continuing to make art in the future as a small side business.

# JAMES PEPPARD

## Artist Statement

I create art because I enjoy it, and it calms me down from all of life's struggles and expectations. I like art because I can really express myself and the things on my mind. I enjoy looking at other people's artwork as well. It gives me a better understanding of them, and helps me connect to the person, and see things that I did not notice before. I create art to give people a better understanding of me and the things I love in life.

When I make art, I usually use a concept of things I like in life. I would never draw something on my own time that I do not like. I like to make art that is connected to something in my life, such as something I like to do, or something or someone that is important in my life. I usually only use pencils; I love that you can create and express so much from a tiny thing like a pencil.

I am inspired by things that mean something to me in my life, from cultural things like where I'm from to things that I think are important. I have learned a lot about the Arts at School of the Arts, and how it can shape your future. Even though I am not pursuing a career in Visual Arts, I will always remember the lessons that I have learned by creating art which have helped me become a better person.

# REGINALD D. SMITH JR.

## Artist Statement

As a Visual Arts major at School of the Art, I have experienced many ups and downs creating my various works of art over the years. When I entered SOTA, I was unsure about my decision to be a Visual Art major. As I grew up, I lost some of the love I always had for art when I was a kid. Though, I still manage to give Visual Arts everything I have. When I was younger, making art meant expressing what I felt on paper; any idea I had went on to the paper.

Since starting at School of the Arts, I have seen many different types of art. I never noticed the various styles and mediums such as photography, 3D, computer graphics etc. When someone asks about my major the first thing they say is. "You know how to draw." Most people don't realize that the Visual Arts has a wide variety of mediums and styles other than just drawing. I love art because it's amazing to know that you are contributing to something that is experienced around the world. Everything in this world is art, honestly believe it or not. Art has many aspects to it and has for many years. We are just the next generation.

In my years of making art, creating art about things that I love and how I feel is my favorite way to make art. Honestly, it gives you the feeling you are bringing something you love to life. My favorite materials are pencil and paper, But taking photos has caused an uproar for me and made me look at images very differently. I plan to use what I have learned in the future.

I tend to choose the materials I use based on how I feel after thinking about it. I love what I do whatever is in front of me at the time whether it is making art, playing basketball, or being at school. I give it my all, even if it is stressful. I am influenced by the things that happen in my life, and that is what inspires me. Many things can be created, but only we can make it happen.

I feel that I have chosen some of my best pieces for the show. They demonstrate my progress from the start, working on my own, to making art with help from my teachers. These pieces show just me as I brought my thoughts onto paper, or by using the camera, or in my 3D pieces. I explored many things while making these projects with the help of every art teacher who helped me along the way.

I learned a great deal at School of the Arts. I plan to continue making art and use the experience I acquired as I move to the next level as an artist. Even though I don't plan on pursuing art as a career, I want to keep making it and use the skills I learned. I may not be the best artist, but I feel I am a good artist and learned from my high school years.

## **HENRY WENTWORTH**

### **Artist Statement**

I create art because it helps me express myself in ways words cannot. I like art because I can use my imagination and I can think “outside the box” with my pieces. I like making art because it makes me realize how far I have progressed with my artwork.

Art means a lot to me; I draw when times are harder than usual, so that when I am finished with my piece the final outcome will make me proud of what I have drawn. I make my art by first brainstorming my sketch. Then I sketch it out in my sketchbook and use ink or color, or even

move it into a computer art software to create digital art with my sketches. I like to create artwork because when I am finished with a piece, I can look back on older pieces to see how much I have improved over time.

Most of the time, I use Prismacolor sketching pencil sets for sketching; I use Micron inking pens when I am inking a piece; I use Adobe Photoshop CC and Adobe Illustrator CC when I am creating my digital art pieces.

The one thing that inspires and influences my artwork is to see my progression from when I first started drawing to see how I have evolved into the artist I am today. I have learned so much about art overall, I learned how to actually build an art piece from the ground up starting with brainstorming, sketching, and my final copy. When I was not as experienced as I am now, I did not brainstorm my ideas or sketch; I would go right into the actual final copy and just make changes as I went along. I have also learned how to use Adobe Illustrator so much more. I was always good at Photoshop, but when I learned how to make things in Adobe Illustrator it became one of my favorite mediums.

My future plans are to use my digital art skills to become a magazine cover illustrator, and also to create album covers for artists in the music industry. Art is something which will help me throughout my whole life. I can use art for expressing myself when I cannot find the right words and to make work for people who choose me to create a piece specifically for them.