

***20 Under 20***  
**2020 EXHIBITION**

Juried and Curated by  
Bellevue Arts Museum's  
Teen Arts Council

## **Torin B.**

### *Rhino Air*

Custom shoes, acrylic leather  
paint

Lakeside School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I am a fifteen year old artist and shoe customizer. I started my own business selling customs about a year ago.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Art gives you the ability to create anything. You can escape and go anywhere you can imagine when you are creating. I find the line between fashion and art very interesting. I want to continue to practice and improve my skills. I think that the opportunity of showing my work will help me a lot. It would give me confidence in myself and my art to see it displayed.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

This is one of a few custom shoes I have painted. It started with an all white shoe. I use an airbrush to put down base coats then all the details are entirely hand painted. When I think of change, climate change is a big issue that comes to mind. Endangered animals are a part of the trauma the humans have caused on the earth. With these rhino inspired shoes I want to bring awareness to Rhino conservation and the beautiful animal in general.

## **George B.**

*Torso #1*

Clay

Lakeside School



### **ARTIST BIO**

Throughout my four years of high school I've progressed all the way through its sculpture track. I work mostly in clay, but I've also done pieces in wood. I like sculpting the human form.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I think that making art is a very therapeutic, calming experience. A lot of my classes stress me out, but whenever I'm in the sculpture studio I can be at peace, just creating. I enjoy working with clay and bringing something completely new and beautiful into the world. It's immensely satisfying to finally realize that a piece is done, and it turned out exactly as you would've imagined.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

This was my first sculpture of my senior year, as part of a study on human anatomy. The cold, almost metallic exterior of the piece is broken up by the warm gold leaf of the absent arms and neck. I like to think that the piece represents how sometimes you have to lose what feel like important parts of yourself to pave the way for new parts of the person you are becoming. Change is a difficult process, but as long as you keep your heart intact, beauty will find its way through.

## **David C.**

*Holding On*  
Photograph  
Lakeside School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I'm just a kid who loves doing something -- anything. I'm a child in an adolescent body, and my best to hold on to my unobliged youth as the world tries to take it away from me.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Photography is beautiful to me because in essence it's just so simple. You look through the camera, mess with your controls, press a button, and there's your picture. But through a simple, constraining three-step process, amazing things and styles can emerge. Creativity comes from constraint. This exhibition gives me a chance to show my interpretation of this three-step process.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

As we write our dreams onto paper boxes and release them to sea to wait for the universe's response, it's clear: we're lost. We still dream. We still care. We just don't know what to do after that.

We were all born dreaming, yes. But we were also born into a world against our dreams — a world where we have to fight to keep our dreams burning.

By all means, we'll do our best to keep fighting for our little flames. I know many who are still dreaming. But I know of some whose fires are waning.

## **Fareyza “Rey” D.**

*Changes*

Acrylic paint on canvas

Skyline High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

Autistic and speak with an iPad or through handwriting, I received awards home and abroad and had exhibited my work internationally. I had struggle with motor challenges, painting has freed me.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

The figures have no face because I want the viewers to see that they can also see themselves in my works. I learned from old masters e.g. Turner in mixing colors, Matisse how to be bold, Van Gogh how to create expressive strokes, Haring in body language. I also learned from new artists, like Basquiat in terms of composition. I developed my own style through exploration.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

I am senior so I am thinking about my future and how I can belong. I feel people are changing. Some were once there, some disappear and some came back. Interestingly my path is full of obstacles. I am exploring silhouette and outline to describe changes.

## **Natalia F.**

*Ring of Time*

Photograph

Bellevue High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

Hello, my name is Natalia and I am a Junior at Bellevue High School. I've always loved to experiment in the arts although I rarely have the opportunities to do so. I also love to read and travel.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Art is a means in which a person can express themselves, and show their true thoughts. An image is worth a thousand words, and especially when it come to difficult moments art can be used to describe them. I love to use high contrast and bold colors in my images so that they stand out, as if they were a more colorful and brighter reflection of the world around us.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

The numbers in my image are in a round, never ending wheel demonstrating the continuation of time and life despite obstacles which individuals may face every day. The images resembling houses within the numbers are old Polish houses from before the WWII, which devastated the nation. My image represents the continuation of time and positive progress which we may make from it, is that which is essential for the prosperity of humankind.

## **Elijah H.**

*Untitled (Part of instillation titled "Grave of the Unknown Activist")*

Acrylic paint and vine charcoal on canvas  
Issaquah High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I am interested in many subjects, including philosophy, math theory, writing, politics, art history, and of course art. I am very politically outspoken. I am atheist and Jewish. I have moved 15 times.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Art making is the ultimate expression of emotion and ideas. Exhibiting my work would be a dream come true, and give me exposure necessary to develop as an artist. My process includes reading articles, philosophy, learning about art history, and exploring my own emotions, then develop images in my head to represent my thoughts. I utilize every medium from acrylic, to food, to digital art.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

Being a great admirer of Ai Weiwei, and energized by the humanitarian travesties conducted by Xi's regime in China, I decided to make a work discussing the suppression of freedom in the country, and how Ai has been deified by the Western world, yet the crises are still ignored. The portrait is a generalized, emotional image of 'the activist' buried by memory, alive as a general symbol. Each 'cell' is a part of the effort, forming the collective portrait of activism in China. Change is a symbol.

## **Nicholas H.**

### *Skin Deep*

Yarn, string, and embroidery floss  
on canvas

Skyline High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I am a self-taught artist of multiracial and cultural backgrounds. A nonconformist at heart, I am empowered by my differences, and use my artwork as a view into the modern experience of youth.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I like to say that I feel in colors. Being synesthetic, I have always associated people, personalities, and emotions with colors instantaneously. As a result, I have developed an intimate relationship with color and the visual arts. When I feel strongly about something, I turn to my artwork. Using brush strokes like words, I have whispered secrets, laughed happily, and screamed about injustices.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

"Skin Deep" reflects upon the modern beauty standards that have plagued western culture. I personally have felt the pressures of appearances, especially because I was born with a hemangioma tumor under my nose, which has left permanent scars. A self-portrait, this piece uses yarn to mimic the patterns of muscle tissue, showing that when we look past the layer of skin that we let define us, we are all human. Over time, my self-confidence has changed, and I have come to cherish my differences.

## **Irene J.**

*Lofty dreams*

Oil paint on canvas

Newport High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I'm currently a senior at Newport High School. I've been taking art lessons since I was in elementary school at the GW Fine Arts studio with teachers Wang and Guo.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

To me art is the epitome of connections, from the artist to the canvas, to the viewer, to the ideas that are to be conveyed through each piece of art. Art intrigues me in its connections and its freedom of expression. I would like to participate in because I believe that my piece portrays a unique viewpoint on change that can bring a different perspective to the topic of change.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

This piece explores the change surrounding the concept of attainability. While the free butterflies show such splendor, once they are captured, it disappears, as if it was something only to be found when it couldn't be obtained. Once something is attained and brought to a standstill immediately it loses that splendor that it had. The beauty of something unattainable is always beyond reach. The beauty of something ever changing is always beyond reach.

## **Rozella K.**

*Persona*

Mix media on wood panel  
Forest Ridge School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I feel that exploration in my artwork not only allows me to share who I am with others, but also to represent the stories and experiences of my peers and enable us to better understand one another.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

My goal as an artist is to delve into the depths of the human mind, and to explore the ideas that determine how we define ourselves in relation to or contrast with the roles that the world seems to determine for us. In doing so, I hope to simultaneously celebrate the uniqueness of the individual as well as the shared experiences that connect all of us.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

Persona is the face that we present to the outside world. Often, our inaccurate labels come to shape our persona, which links to our identities as well. Though, I believe it is a human instinct to strive to find who we are within and to define our unclear identities. This piece depicts the product that comes out of the forge- unique, beautiful, yet imperfect and still inchoate. The individual's will to separate themselves from their inaccurate stereotype is represented by the mask.

## **Sungmin K.**

*Lucidity*

Acrylic paint on canvas

Skyline High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I'm from South Korea, lived in the U.S. for 4 years. I spent my childhood in South Korea. I'm a female.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I like to create new art and make them, it makes me have a wider point of view of various societies and cultures. I am always influenced by the wider point of view, which makes me think of 'what if'. Emotional music also makes it easier to catch the vibe of my art, easier to imagine the scene I want to express. I like my art to be abstract, which makes people wonder about the hidden meaning.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

Every society has its own social norms and stereotypes, and people believe it is normal and correct most of the time. What if that is not right, makes me wonder how society will look like to those minorities. I drew the landscape of the city upside down, to express the change and abnormality of the idea of normal. I wanted to express the sudden change with big visual impact, the moment right after you realized that the idea of normal is not normal at all.

## **Alice M.**

*Vanity Looking Back*

Oil paint on canvas

Issaquah High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

Alice M. is an emerging artist whose work explores identity, anxiety, and digital distortion. More can be found on her instagram, [@alicemaoart](#), or her website, [alice-mao.com](#)

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

My work explores identity, emotion, and social issues through the mediums of oil paint and digital art. The majority of my work reflects my transition to young adulthood through events in my life.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

The girl looks into the bathroom mirror, and a peacock stares back, talon outstretched to offer a pearl necklace. She's dressing up, preparing for a dance performance, a show, perhaps a party, complete with an elaborate peacock dress. The array on the countertop and the dress could easily cost thousands, and the girl ties her self-worth and warped self-image into beauty with every swipe of eyeliner.

## **Blake P.**

*Fractured*

Clay

Lakeside School



### **ARTIST BIO**

My name is Blake P. and I am a Junior at Lakeside High School. I love to read fantasy-style science fiction, hang out with friends, and make pots. I recently got my Eagle Scout award as well.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I started ceramics a little over two years ago, and I have been in the studio constantly ever since. The wheel is what I focus on most, but I make time for hand building as I enjoy the process so much. I really like experimenting with vessels, especially the finish or glaze. Raku is my passion right now-- I am fascinated with how aesthetic the chaotic black lines are on the white background.

### **ARTWORK STATEMENT**

Raku is a risky process, but that is part of why I love it. I use clay (typically newcomb) to make vessels that are classically shaped as I want the raku to stand out. By firing then rapidly cooling, the raku slip cracks. I put the hot vases into a can filled with newspaper which then catches fire, and the ensuing smoke fills the cracks, leaving black streaks. This art form fits the theme of change as the vase is like a phoenix, literally rising from the ashes, completely changed.

## **Shalini V.**

*Inescapable*

Oil and acrylic paint on canvas

Inglewood Middle School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I'm Shalini V. My greatest hobby is painting, which played a significant role in my life as I grew up being the only child. It entertained me and developed my passion for art.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Making art is something that everyone can do which makes it collaborative and fun. I tend to be more fond of wildlife paintings. I love how animals can be brought to life with a few brush strokes and some color. For my paintings, I use oil and acrylic paint. I also started learning the wet on wet technique by Bob Ross under a certified instructor, which introduced me to the world of oil paints.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

This painting shows a man trapped in an hour glass, reaching for the sand falling above him trying to stop it from falling. I am trapped in this hourglass, with change constantly being thrown at me like the sand pouring on the man. The man struggling to stop the sand shows how I have struggled to stop change. I have learned that there is nothing I can do to stop change, but only accept it. The red shows the intensity of life and the black and white shows uncertainty. Change is constant.

## **Mia V.**

*Winter's Blossom*

Clay

Lakeside School



### **ARTIST BIO**

Hi, my name is Mia V. In school, I enjoy English and am design chief of the newspaper. Outside of school, I enjoy playing year-round soccer, playing piano, and hanging out with my dog.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I've been taking 3D art since freshman year of high school and immediately fell in love with it. The studio is the perfect place for me too let the rest of the world fade away and focus on the beauty of art and nature (as most of my art is inspired by nature). I'd love to have my art included in the exhibition because it's an opportunity for me to grow as an artist and possibly inspire others.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

For this piece, I threw the bowl and then bent the sides in to give it a warped appearance. I then sculpted each of the flowers in varying sizes (according to the size of each crevice). The glazing on the piece is winter shades and was inspired by changes in seasons and the power in that. The unexpected color of the flowers conveys a transitional period and the way the flowers are placed makes it appear that they are warping the walls of the bowl into a more organic shape (man vs nature).

## **Isabella W.**

*Don't Look Away*

Acrylic paint on canvas

Newport High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

From a young age, I've loved making, enjoying, and destroying everything. I challenge myself by setting small creative goals--from learning to crochet solely from YouTube to making balloon animals.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

For a time, I accepted that everything I did was either good or bad. I tirelessly tried to always be good, and in the process, lost touch with my feelings. When I started drawing, I could capture the human essence and show my emotions. It allowed me to work hard but also feel human. Art has made my life more meaningful, and I want to help more people slow down and really feel something.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

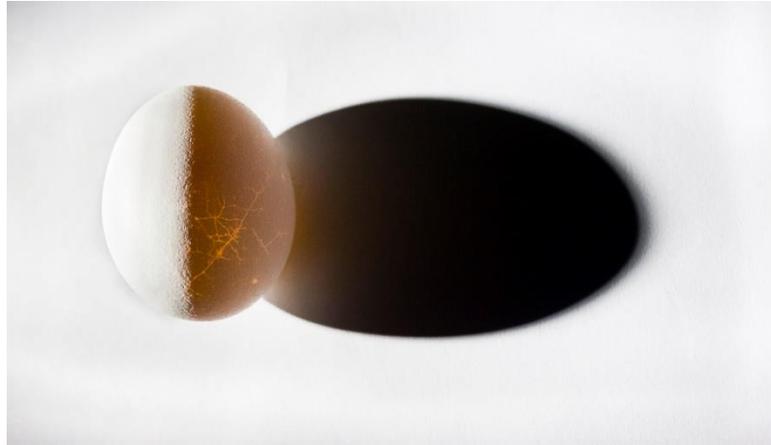
This drawing started off as a smiling self-portrait, showing that I see change positively. Then, I asked my friends about change. Many described it with hatred. So, I changed my obviously happy painting to an emotionally ambiguous one to include every opinion. Someone who sees change positively would look at my painting and see laughter. Someone who feels hostility towards it would see anger. The painting is a self-reflection, so the audience can not only feel, but also recognize their feelings.

## **Katie W.**

*First Quarter Phase of Egg*

Photograph

Lakeside School



### **ARTIST BIO**

Katie W. hails from Kirkland, WA and is a current high school senior in Seattle. When she's not focused on schoolwork, she often finds respite in baking, poetry, and photography.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

What I love most about art is that there are truly endless possibilities when it comes to encapsulating the essence of a particular subject. While I can appreciate the aesthetics of a photo of some tomatoes, for example, I still remain the most fascinated by photos that capture ordinary objects from angles that make them look bizarre and almost unrecognizable for a moment.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

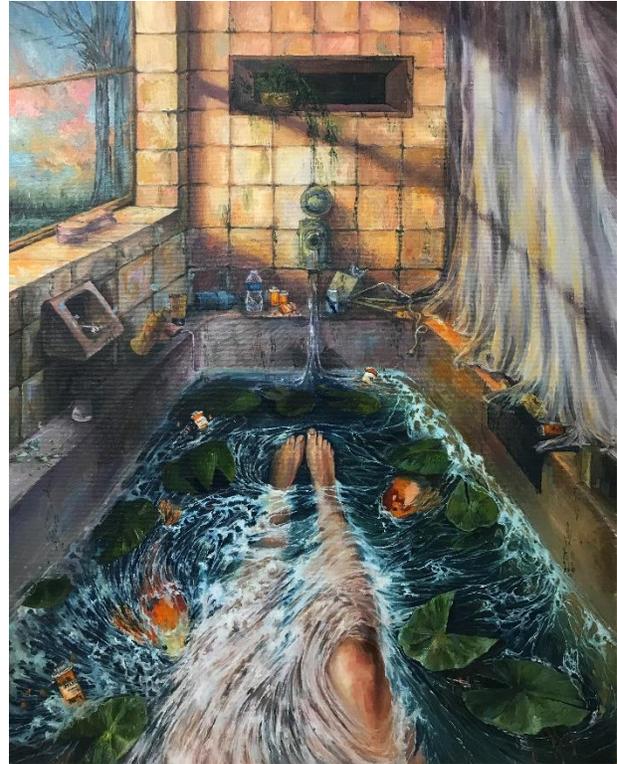
In my photo class this year, we were given the assignment to shoot a white egg on a white background. As I was playing around with light, I noticed that shining through the yellowish interior of the raw egg, the light had inadvertently illuminated some of the cracks in the eggshell and the shadows on its surface had also almost perfectly split the egg into dark and light, like a moon phase. To me, a moon phase is the perfect emblem of consistent and recognizable change.

## **Taylor W.**

### *Self Care*

Oil paint on canvas

Issaquah High School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I have been interested in the arts since I was very young, and my love for it has only grown. As an advocate for teen art equity, I run a nonprofit called Student Art Spaces when not in the studio.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

My primary medium is oil, which I love for its versatility. Through my art, I hope to shed light on my personal experience as a Chinese American as well as the broader contemporary issues in my generation. I would like to create open conversation about the polarizing experience of being a young person in 2019 and struggling with identity.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

One thing that has evolved as I have grown up is the concept of self care. As we grow, pressure mounts with the need to be high achieving, well-rounded, and outstanding. I struggle with the idea that self-worth is directly linked to how impressive your grades or achievements are, and this led to a lot of neglecting of my own health. This innocent step of taking a bath, which would once be considered fun as a child, is now littered with messy bottles and clutter everywhere.

## **Chloe W.**

*Schweizer Erbe*

Acrylic and ceramics

The Bear Creek School



### **ARTIST BIO**

Chloe W., a sophomore, enjoys the outdoors, playing volleyball, and of course, art. Last year, Chloe received the 'Underclassmen Artist of the Year' award for her school.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Chloe Wengerd is an artist who enjoys painting and sketching while experimenting with new mediums for art. She has a strong connection to her Swiss Mennonite heritage and wanted to convey that through her art. Chloe has also been inspired by her high school art teacher, Trinity Osborn, into activating her creative side.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

Through six painted plates, the artist wanted to convey the journey of her people. The Swiss Mennonites have experienced change as they immigrated from Switzerland to America due to persecution. These plates exhibit scenery and events from the Mennonites' past as they journey to a new home.

## **Eric X.**

*hardly imagined*

Generative Adversarial Network  
trained on Google Street View  
imagery  
Lakeside School



### **ARTIST BIO**

I am a junior at Lakeside High School. I created this art piece as a part of an independent study project focusing on the intersection of machine learning and visual art.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Art is the most rewarding when the process of making it results in a better understanding of the subject. Machine learning helped me accomplish this by generating images for me, distilling the process of art-making and making it more meaningful. This series of images have all been artificially generated by a machine, trained on a set of hand-selected images.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

This is selection of artificially generated images, designed to mimic scenic Google Street View photos from around the globe. By generating these artificial images, I hoped to examine our natural desire for change and new horizons under a new light. These are places you cannot visit. These are places that do not exist, mere abstractions of our wanderlust. Yet they feel authentic and worldly in a way no real image can.

## **Victor X.**

*There You Are*  
Photograph  
Lakeside School



### **ARTIST BIO**

Victor X. is a junior at Lakeside School. In addition to street photography, he writes and directs films.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I've always been drawn to the imagery of emotion, the poetry of a moment, and in my work I strive towards that ideal. I try to capture what is ephemeral, movement unable to be put into words; I hope to carry this motion into this year's exhibition, where I feel it belongs with the theme. I take my art very seriously, and feel that it can't be approached any other way - I try to improve everyday.

### **ARTWORK COMMENTARY**

Someday I will have to accept the inevitable, accept the mutability of what seems now immutable - the formation of bruises on my skin, the softness of age. I chose to juxtapose opposing sources of light to add a surreal quality to the piece, but the sharpness of the image is still undeniable - taken on the street, the photo captures both the long-time godly and the newly mortal, frozen in time. Who will I remember myself as? How best to reconcile the two sides, at odds, yet the same?