

Global Art Exchange

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Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.



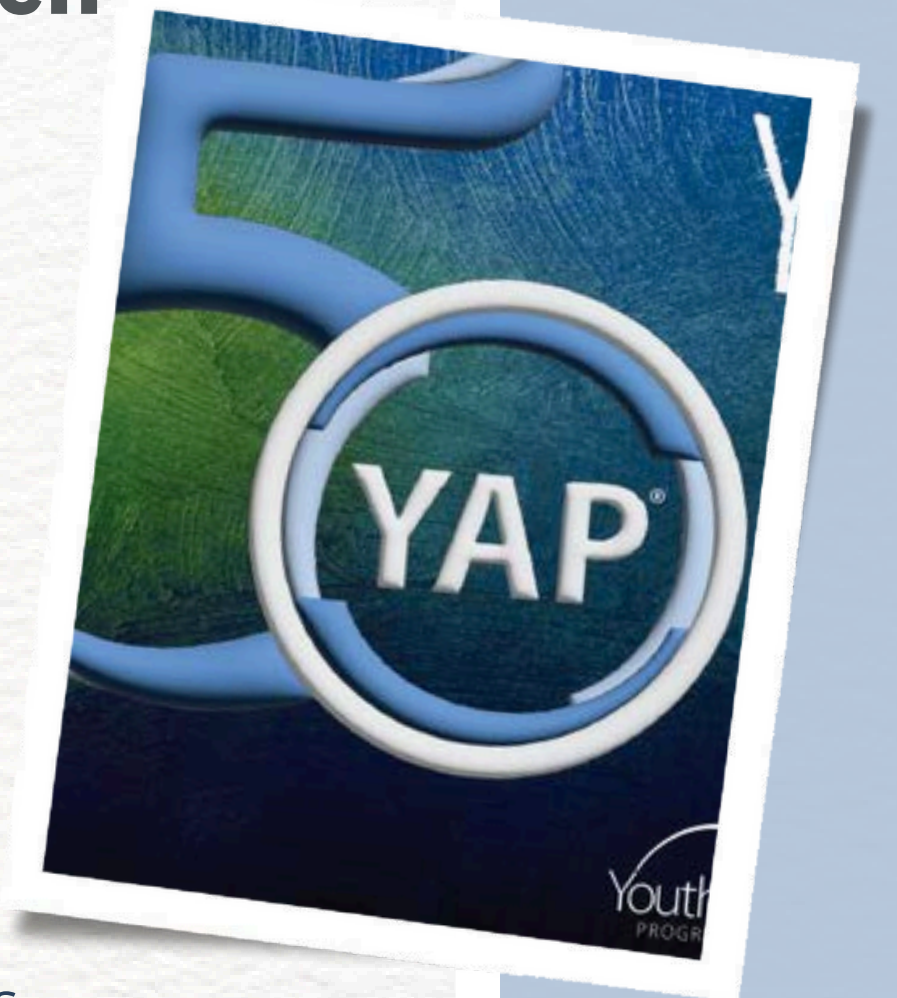
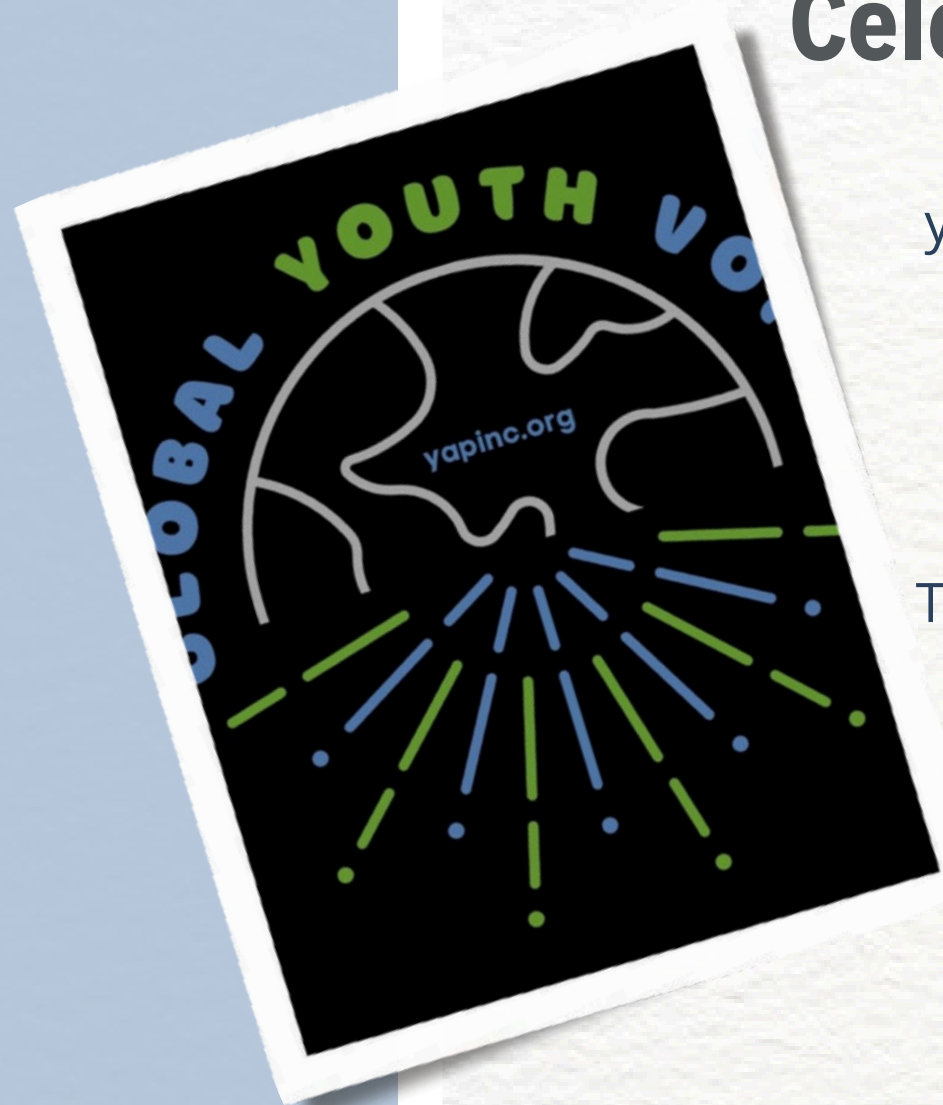
Celebrating 50 Years of Making Change Happen

Welcome to the YAP® Art Gallery, a vibrant celebration of youth, families, and communities from around the world. In honor of YAP's 50th Anniversary, we invited our global community to share their stories, hopes, and dreams through art.

This gallery showcases powerful expressions inspired by the themes:

- **My Story, My Voice**
- **Dreams for My Community**
- **Celebrating My Family/Community**

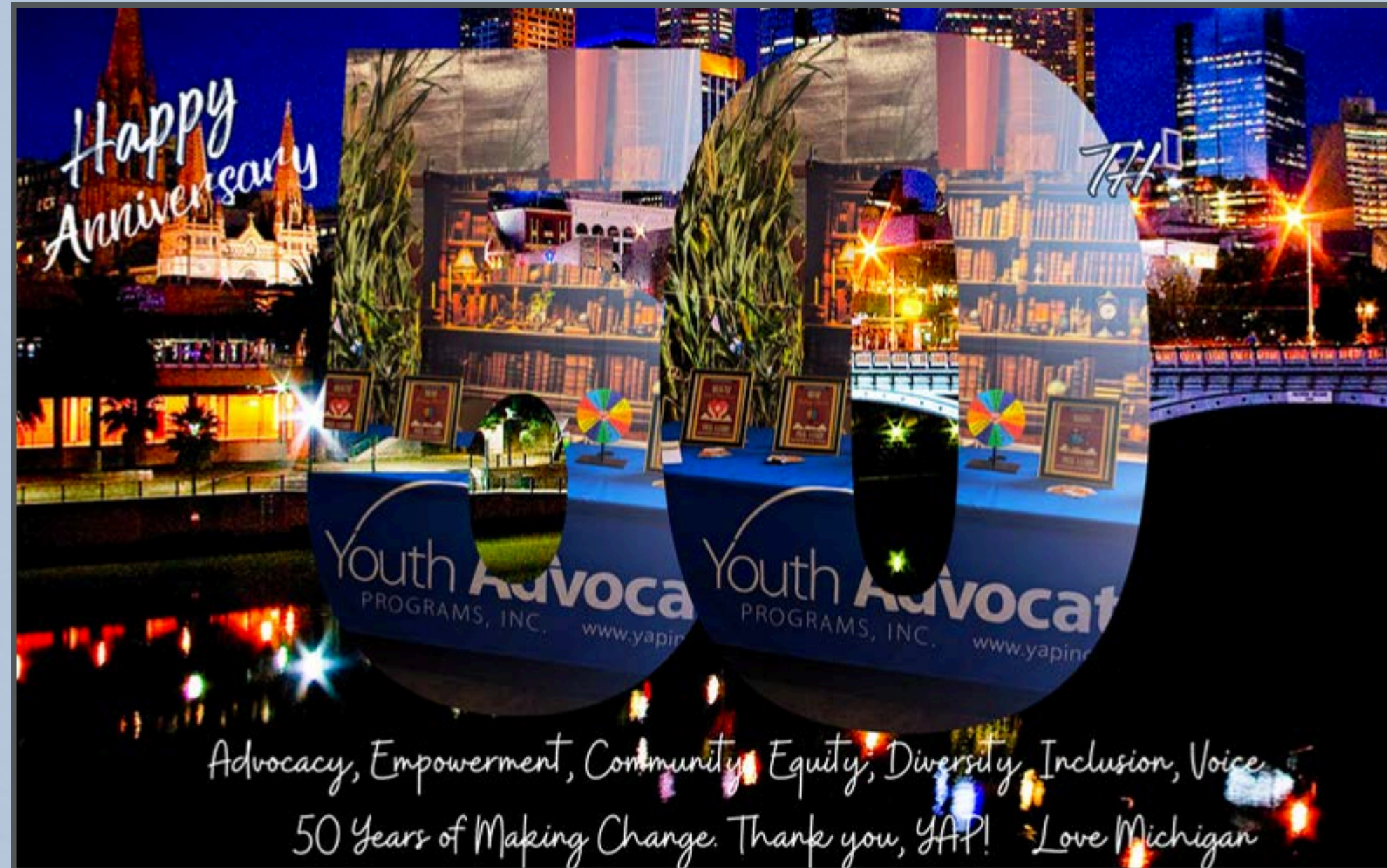
Each piece is a reflection of the artist's journey and vision, amplifying youth voices and honoring the strength of families and communities.



Happy Anniversary Card

Christine

"I wanted to make something special for the anniversary. The letters in "50" feature images from a YAP event at the Saginaw Fair."



Celebrating My Family

Camila

Age: 8

"Camila loves her mom and dad because they give her unconditional love and care for her every morning."



Kimberly



“She is my daughter, and she was in the yap program. She was going to prom. Just a simple girl who love horses. Her name is Kristen Thomas.”

Miguel

Age: 14



My Story, My Voice

Darien

Age: 7

"Your voice matters because it's about your feelings."

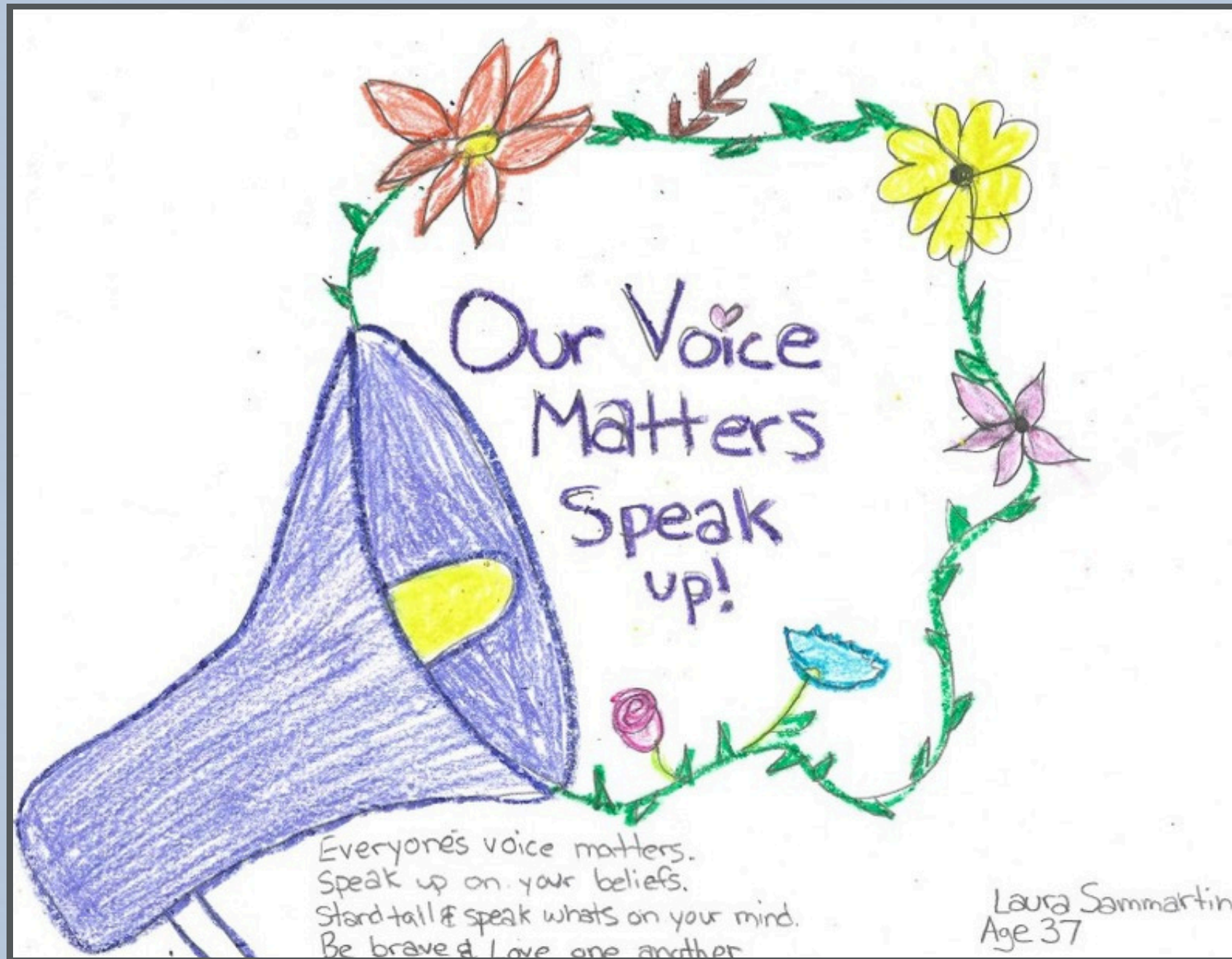


My Story, My Voice

Laura

Age: 37

“Everyone’s voice matters. Speak up on your beliefs. Stand tall and speak what’s on your mind. Be brave and love one another.”



My School Day

Leesha

Age: 6



"I wake up for school. I walk to the bus stop and get on the bus to go to school. I go into my school and go to my classroom. This is my best day!"

A Moment of Escape: Dreams For My Community

Xulip

Age: 68

“Reading allows us to discover new worlds, learn about other cultures, and give free rein to our imagination and desires. Reading is a form of freedom. It is a source of inspiration, creativity, and happiness.

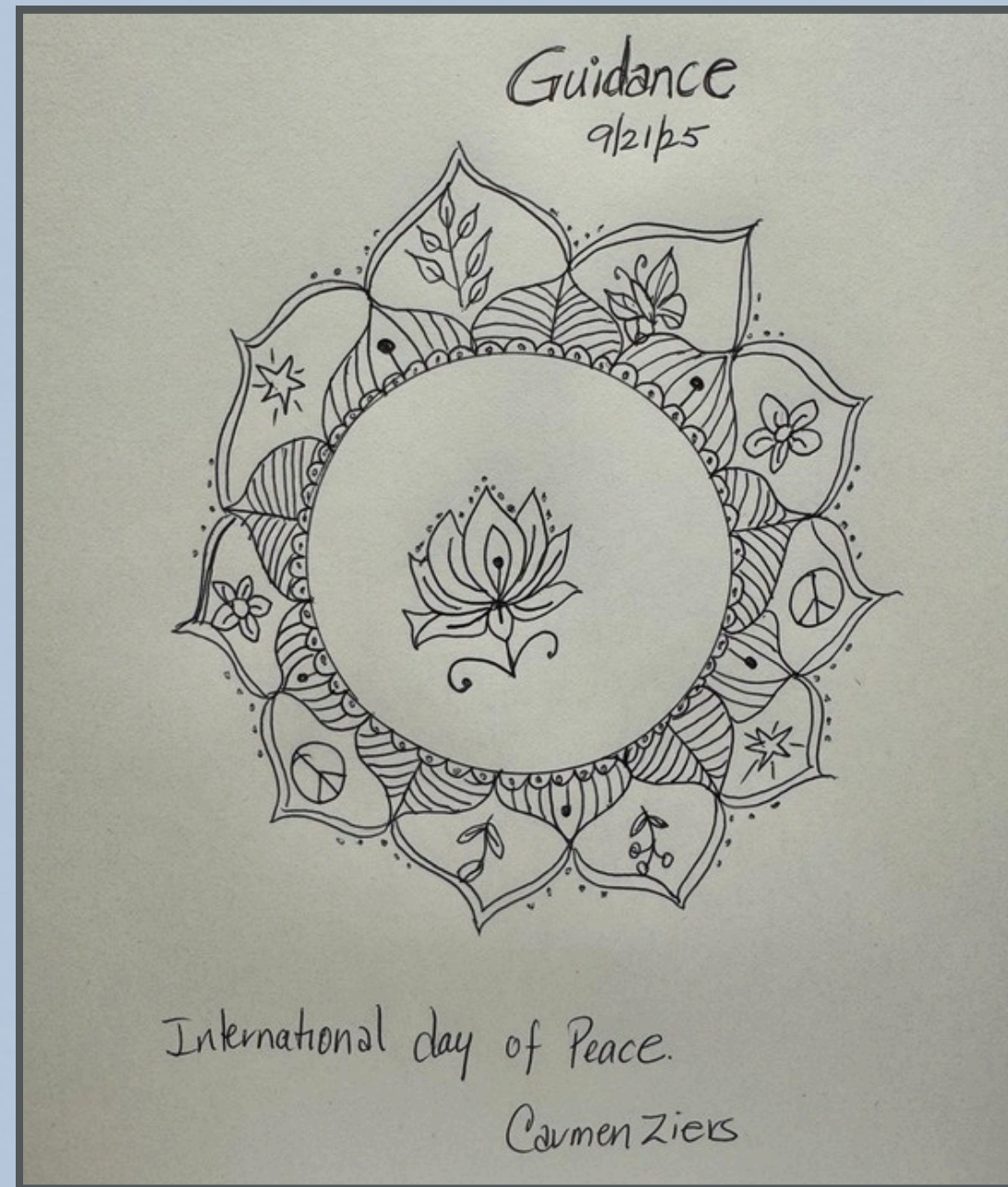
Reading offers the possibility of imagining infinite hopes.

Reading is dream.”



Guidance

Carmen



Warmth

Raegan

Age: 16

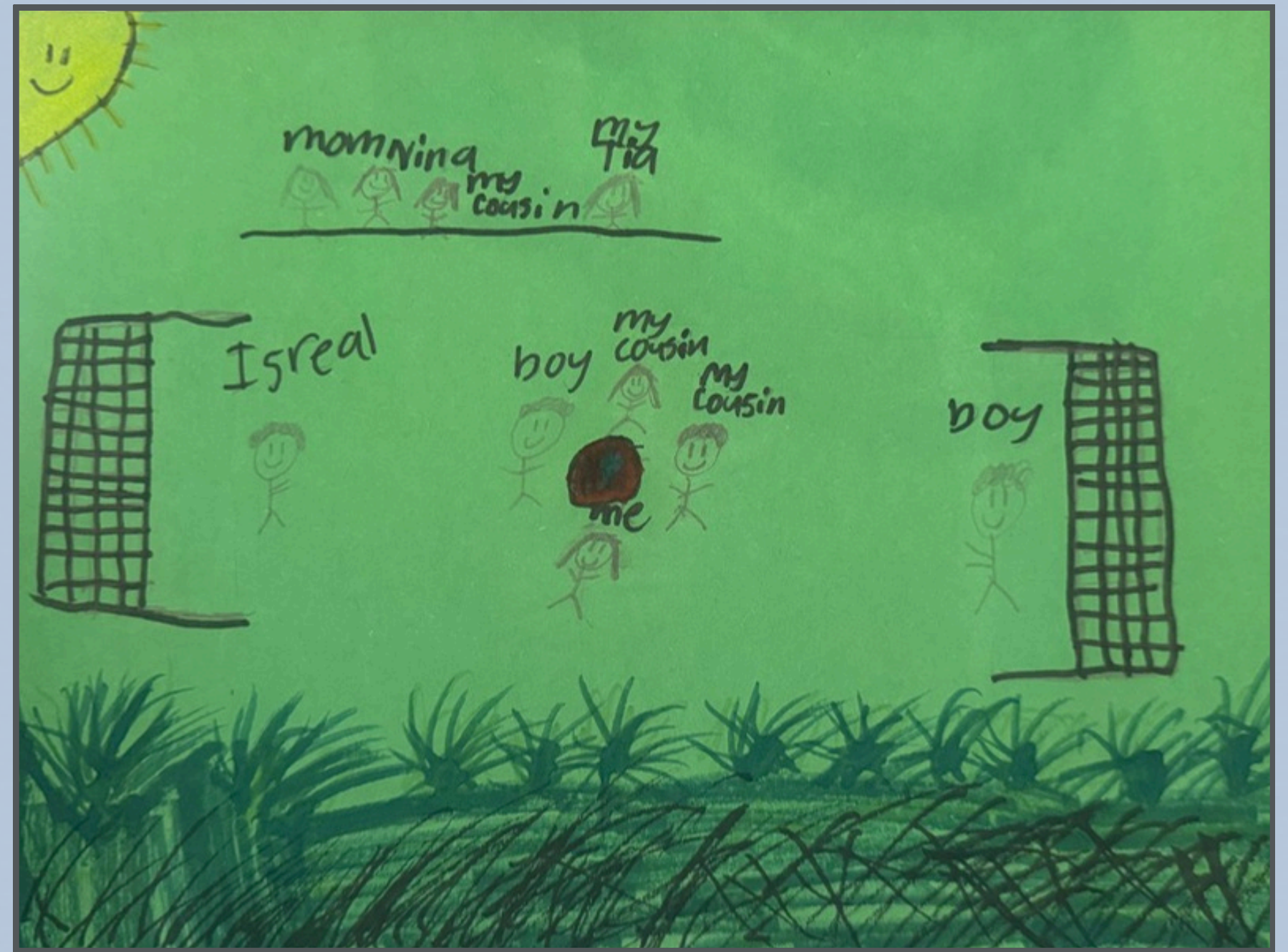


“When looking at someone for the first time, you feel sudden excitement and warmth around you.”

Elena

Age: 10

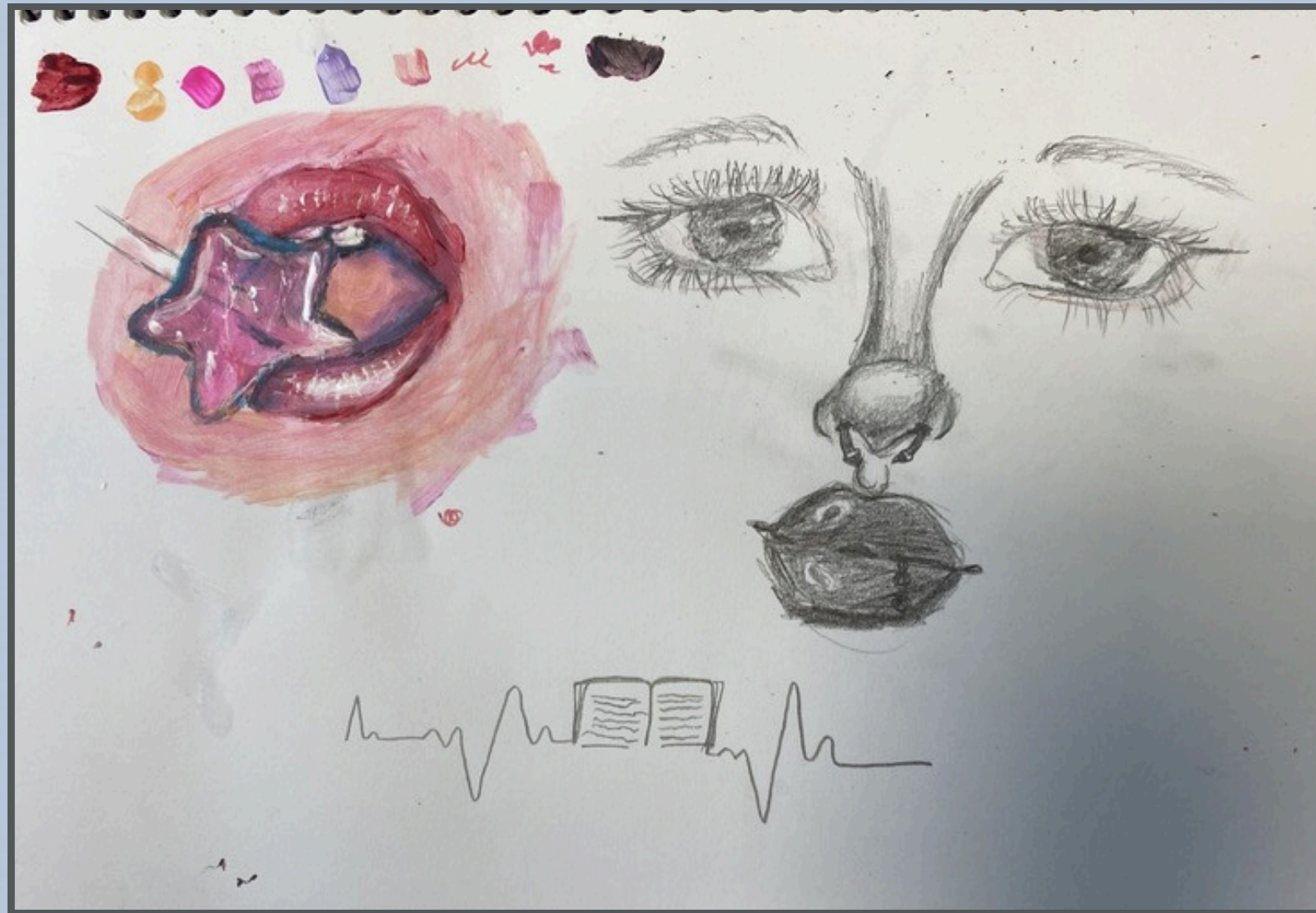
"My name is Elena. I am 10 years old. I love to play soccer. It's so much fun! I enjoy playing it. I play with my cousins. They like it, too. Like I do. My family watches us play all the time."



La Rencontre Internationale



Violet



Karolina





Onex World: My Story, My Voice

Sebastian

Age: 15

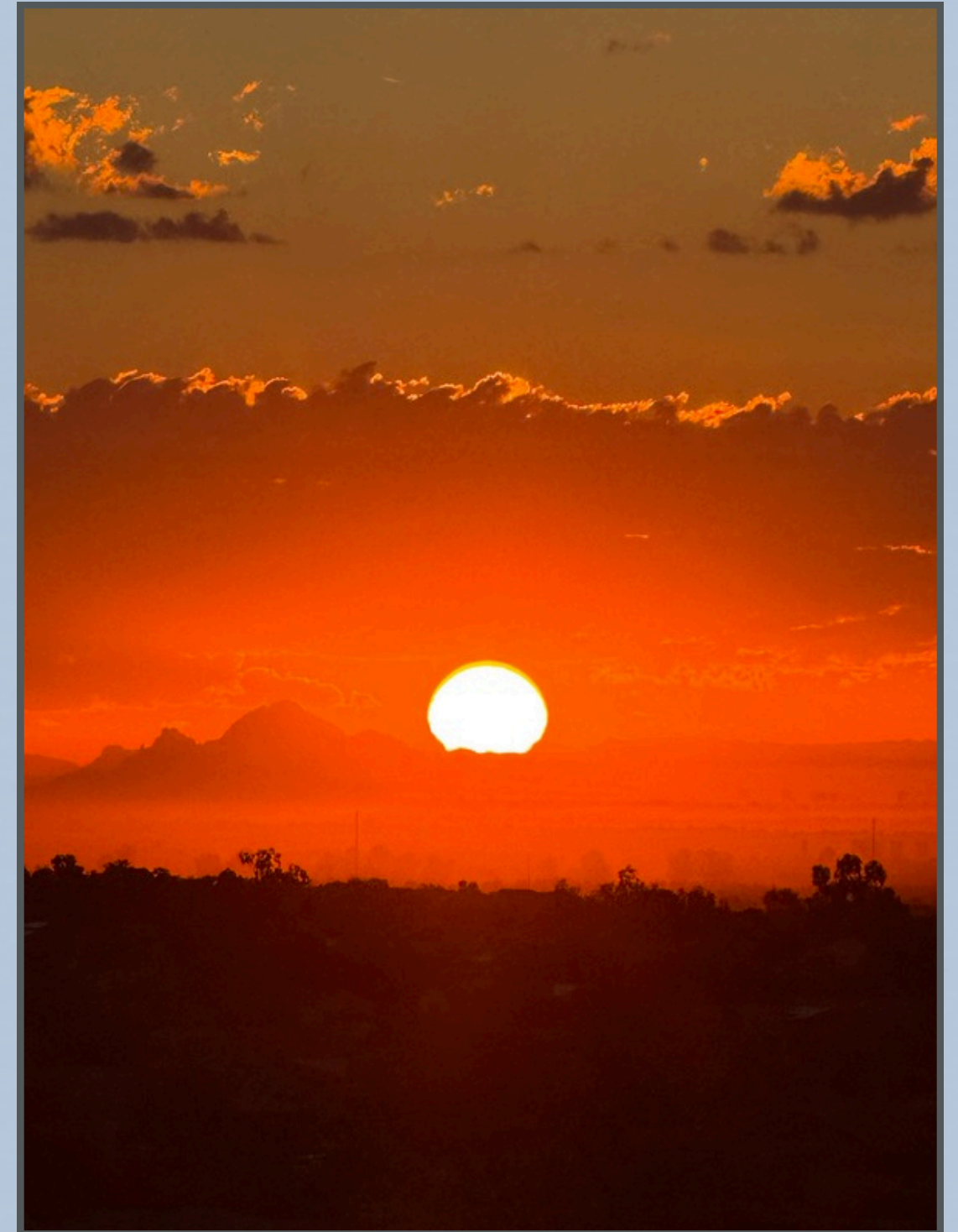
"In a world built on silence, my voice erupts in color."

Sunrise Bonds: Arizona Awakening

Staff at Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. in Arizona

“Every sunrise in Arizona feels like a gift, but this one was extra special. My daughter and I have a tradition: we rise early, wrap ourselves in cozy blankets, and watch the world awaken together. On this particular morning, as the first light crept over the mountains and the sky blazed with color, we sat side by side in quiet awe.

We shared stories, dreams, and laughter, letting the beauty of the moment fill our hearts. The Arizona sky, with its endless expanse and vibrant palette, has always been our canvas for connection—a reminder that no matter how busy life gets, there’s magic in simply being present with those you love.”



Shadow Box Artwork

Tey-Ah





The Inner Child

Amanda

Age: 31

“This piece is a reminder that no matter how old you are, no matter where you are in your life; your inner child is still alive. Listen to their voice, honor your truth, and your inner child will lead you to a light that guides you back home to your true self. In a world lost in shadows, we need YOUR light.”

Shades of Growth, Grounded in Hope

Tarraye

Age: 28

"The climbing vine embodies resilience and renewal. Its shades of green symbolizing voices, families, and dreams rising together. Rooted in persistence, the piece reminds us that hope and community can take root and flourish even under the weight of coarse stone."





The Story of My Life: As told by Three Vans

Savanna (Vanna)

Age: 22

“This piece is meant to represent three significant eras of my life: my childhood filled with hope and ambition, my teenage hood being the dark age for me personally, and the me that is here and now, healed from the wounds and scars of the past. Our experiences shape us into who we are and what we become as people, both the good and the bad. While the glowing aura that surrounds me isn't as bright as it once was due the innocence lost over time, there's still a little bit of it left that keeps me going, and that's gotta amount to something right?”

Strange Fruit

Jonasia

Age: 17 (April 2020)

“Painted in the spring of 2020, Strange Fruit was born from my fixation with Nina Simone’s song “Strange Fruit”—a song steeped in sorrow, telling of Black bodies hung in Southern winds. Every brushstroke carried the weight of her lyrics, each element a fragment of verse, pieced together into a visual elegy for lives taken too soon.”



Karl



Hope For The Community

Francis

“Flower on the road.”





Octopi

Jonasia

Age: 16 (April 2019)

“Created in the same classroom, Octopi speaks of the survival dance demanded of Black women. Like the octopus, we must shift and bend, code-switching and camouflaging, learning to exist unseen yet everywhere. Beautiful, yes—but beauty pressed beneath the weight of performance, never permitted the simple freedom to just be.”

Once Upon a Hindsight

Cyn (Pronounced "Sin")

Age: 24

"A bold, but confusing collection of ideas. A finished picture, made from unaffiliated pieces of a puzzle."





Malani

Age: 10

Malania says that creating her artwork has been a powerful source of inspiration. It has helped her to express emotions she could not put into words.

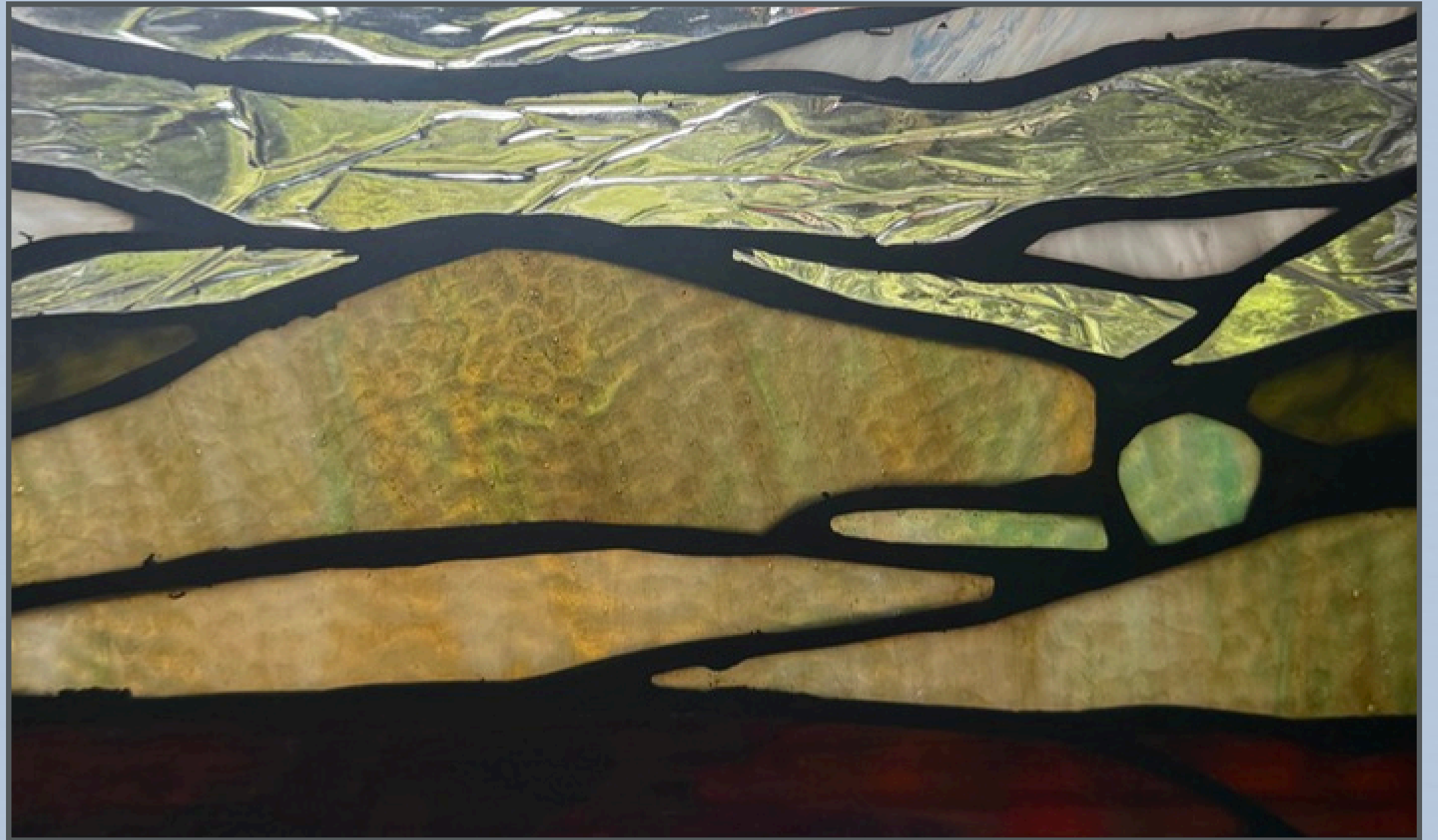
This piece reminds her of her growth, confidence and beauty as a young girl. She says that through her art, she has discovered a sense of self confidence, self-value and courage.

Virginia, USA

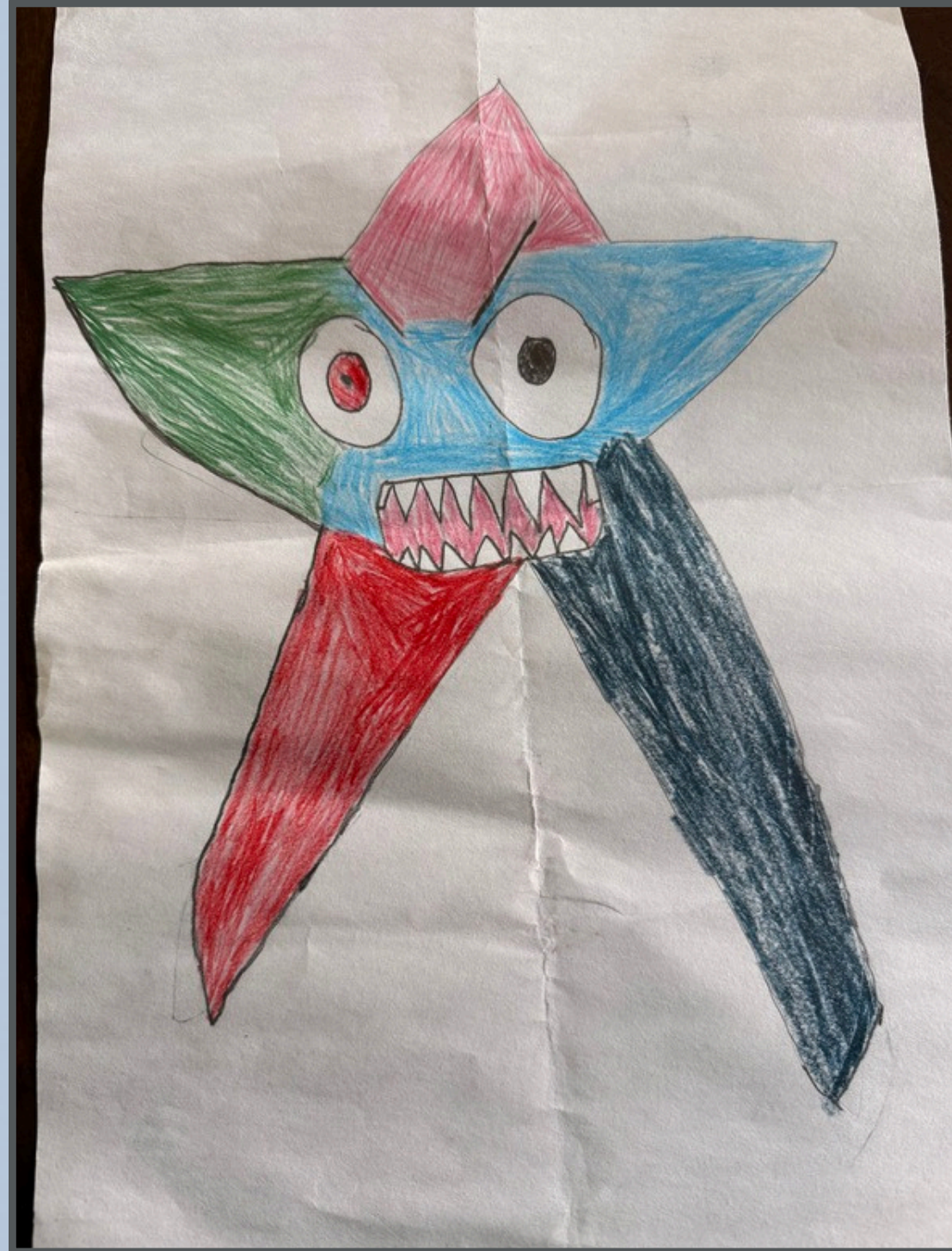
Shawnee Ambush

M. Doyle

“Inspired by the scenic view of the holler containing the historic farm where I was raised in rural SW Virginia, Shawnee Ambush.”



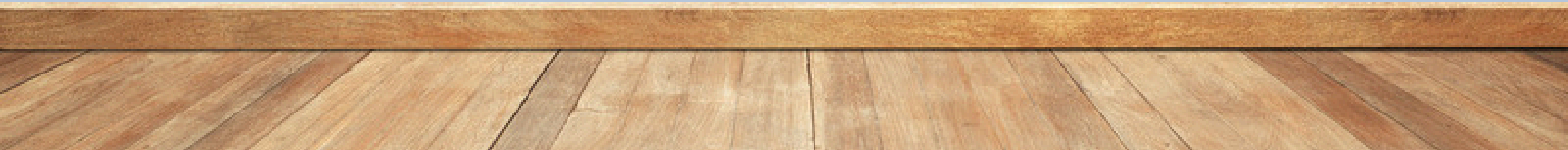
Elijah



Photos from Guatemala

Gabriela

Photos by Gabriela Altman,
Executive Director of Siembra
Bien, Guatemala





Orgullo y Promesa (Pride and Promise)

Yotzeli

Age: 15

“Within this image lives a dream turned into a promise. A young woman wearing two paths; The uniform of courage and the coat of hope.

In her hands, she holds the fruit of her effort - a diploma - that carries every sleepless night, every tear, and every silent victory.

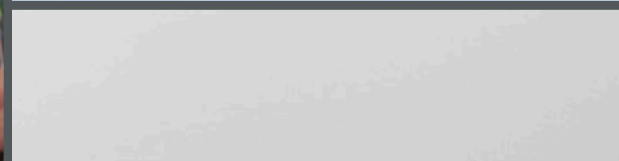
Behind her, the mountains and the sun embrace her and high above the smile of her grandmother around from heaven blessing each step she takes.

It is the union of strength and tenderness, of duty and vocation, of a grandmother's eternal love, and the determination of a granddaughter who fights to fulfill what she once promised.”

Photos from Guatemala

Gabriela

Photos by Gabriela Altman,
Executive Director of Siembra Bien,
Guatemala





Self Esteem

Mark

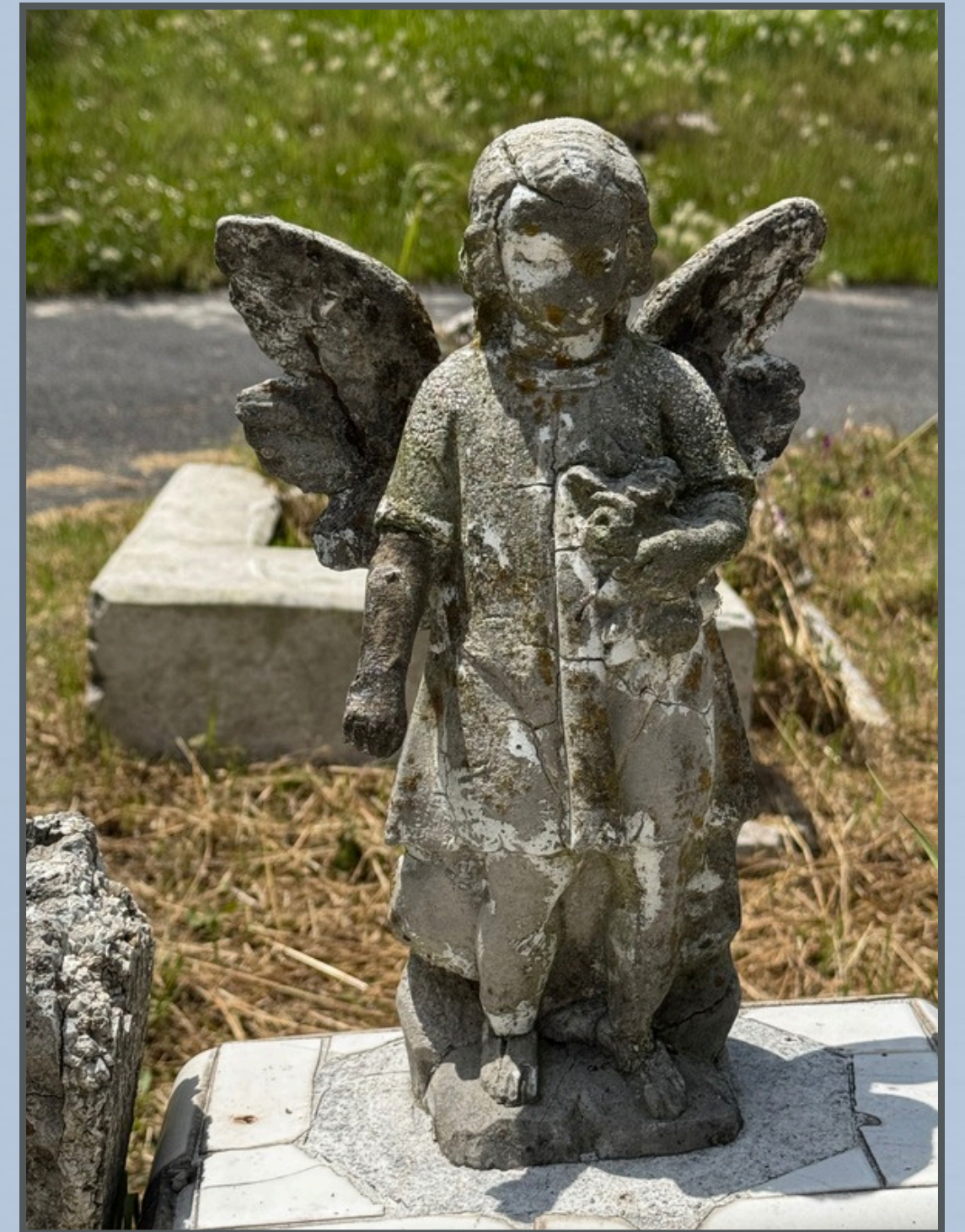
Age: 15

“Reflection of meditation
for growth and
improvement of the mind
and body.”

Photos from Guatemala

Gabriela

Photos by Gabriela
Altman,
Executive Director of
Guatemala - SiembraBien



Photos from Sierra Leone

Ajara

Photos by Ajara Marie,
Executive Director of Sierra Leone
YAP



Canoeing in the Peace of Nature

Francis

“My girlfriend
canoeing.”



Music In The House

Valérie

“Me and my girl with the guitar.”





Spark

Emrys (Emma)

Age: 13

“In a crowd, yet all alone,
Voices blend but none are my own.
I wander through the confronting maze,
A ghost beneath their vibrant gaze.

Each laugh, a dagger, sharp and bright,
Stealing my purpose, dimming my light.
I chase shadows where dreams used to dwell,
A flicker of hope in a silent hell.

The world moves on, a relentless tide,
While I stand still with nowhere to hide.
But in this silence, a truth starts to rise,
A glimmer of strength beneath darkened skies.

Yet the weight of despair clings to my soul,
A haunting reminder of purpose left unwhole,
In this emptiness, where echoes depart,
I search for the spark that once lit my heart.”

Celebrating My Community

Nita

Age: 12

"I drew this drawing with the subject of "Celebrating My Community".

I drew a girl on the 17th of February (Independence day of Kosova). The girl is in a field under the moonlight, holding the Kosova flag, to celebrate and honor my Community: Kosova."





Teuta

Harmoni

Age: 13

“This first painting is called “Teuta” which I made with my friend Bora Cibukciu, she goes to the same school as me. Teuta is an Iliran queen of Albania.”

Skenderbeu

Harmoni

Age: 13

“This second painting is called “Skenderbeu” Which he represents an Albanian and European figure. Hope you like my paintings that represent my community!!”



Issa



Okobi





Rea

Age: 13

“This painting feels like an explosion of perception - an eye at the center of vibrant colors, suggesting vision as a gateway to emotion, imagination, and inner truth. It’s as if the eye is both seeing the world and releasing its own spectrum of feelings outward.”

The Sunday Fisherman

Josue

Age: 16

“This photograph represents a nice and relaxing hobby to start my day. The American flag is a symbol of our democracy that gives all of us a voice. Some countries don’t have that.”





Basque Country

Jon

Photos of:

1- Trip to the mountains

2- Intergenerational activity

3 - Awareness action on Equality - March 8

When One Door Closes, Another Opens

Gina

Photo in Bali



Justin



The Famous Cat Gathering

Bora

Age: 12

“This drawing is about friend/family gatherings with each other but in a chaotic way, where everyone is special and has their own silly side. As a huge cat lover, I decided to show my art with cats as different personalities.”



Bailey



Anonymous Submission

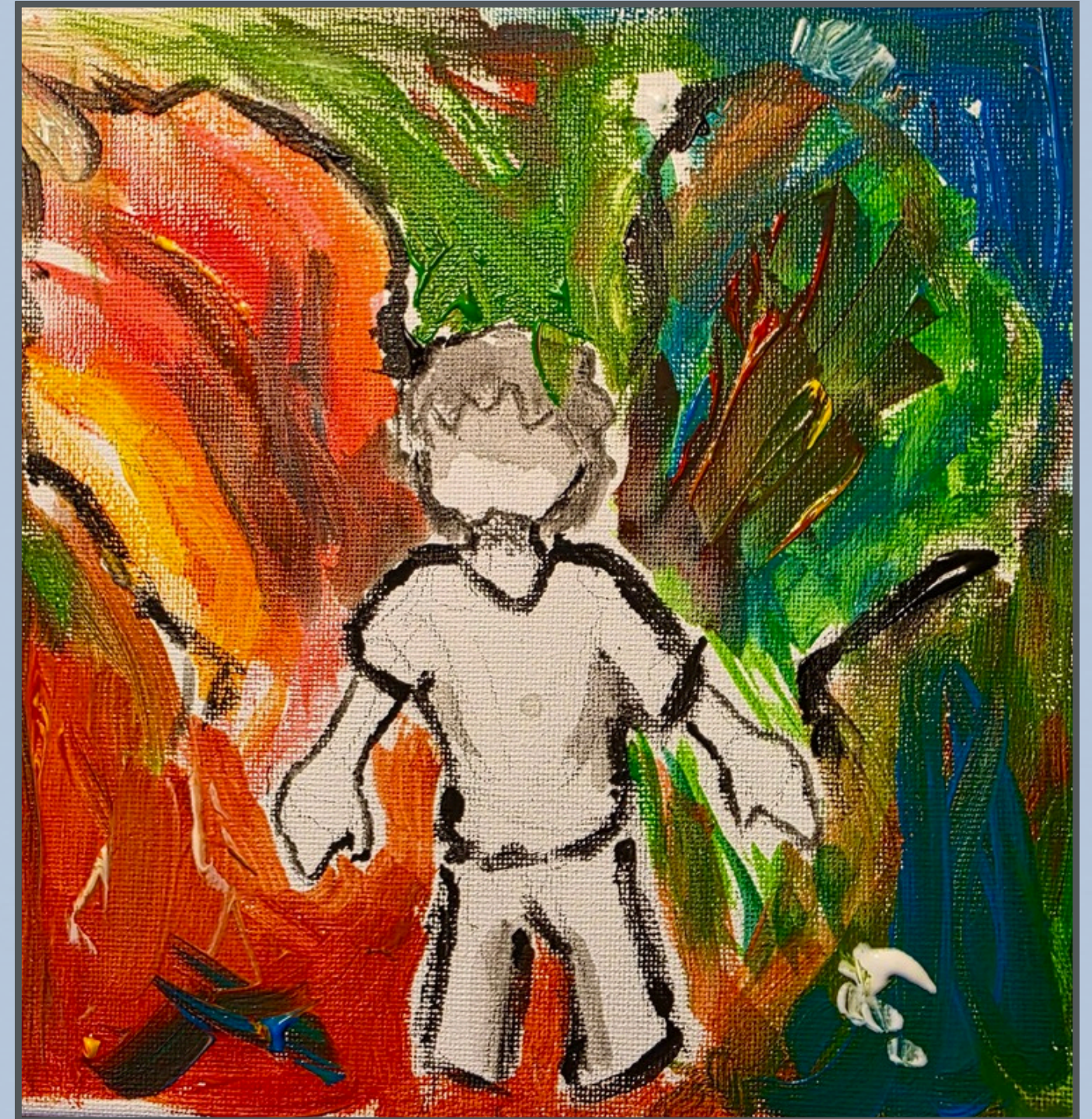


Imagination

Don

Age: 12

"The mind is a safe. Only artists have the real key to it."

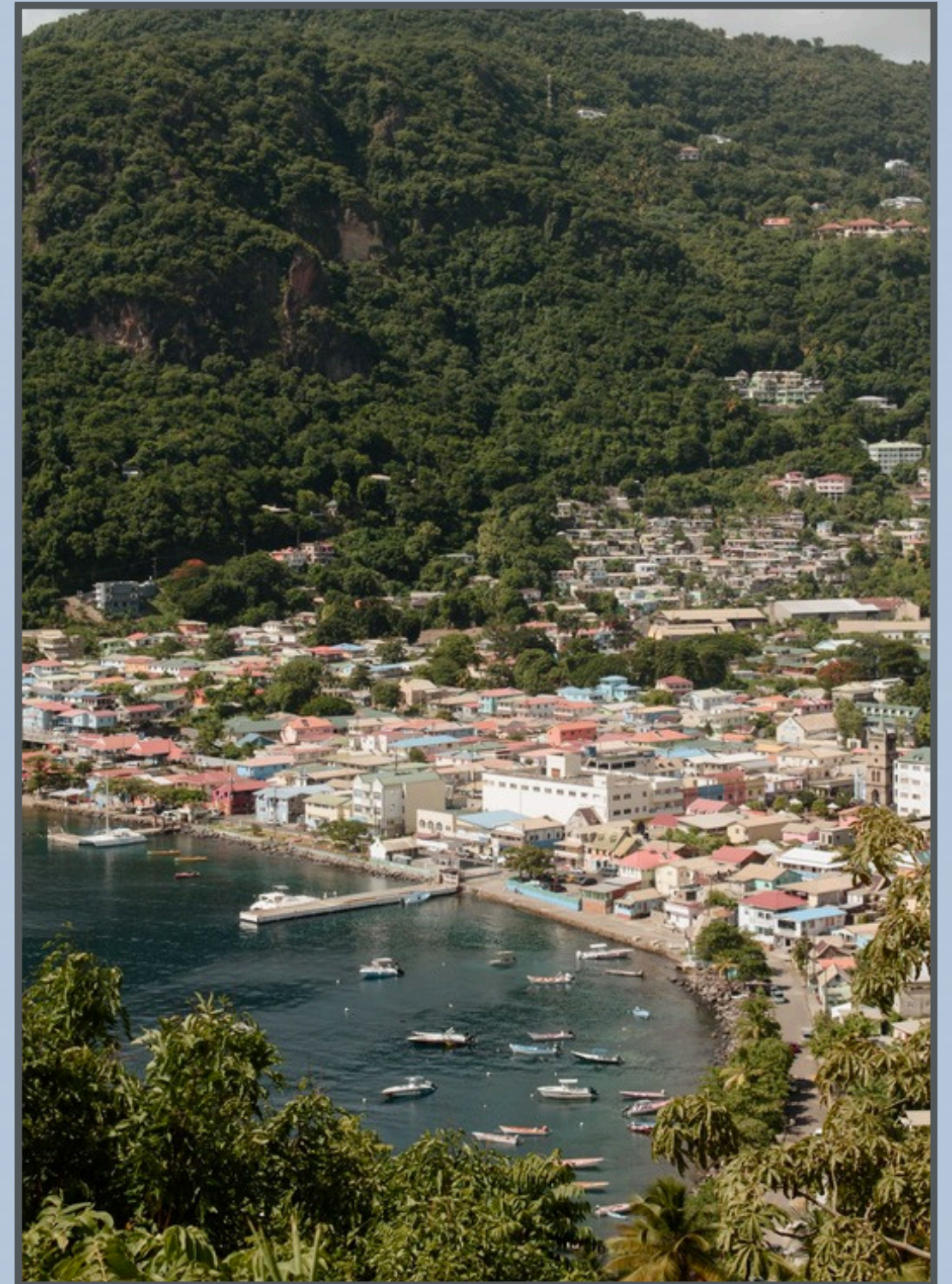


Soul at Sea

Emily

Age: 30

“There is so much life, community, and love in humanity when we open ourselves up.”





The Future Generation to See the Next 50 Years of YAP's Impact

Jessica

Jess is a past intern who has found an excellent new person to wear her YAP Global Youth Voices t-shirt!

Dr. Veronica Muller

"Dr. Veronica Muller from Brazil, in Chile, explaining to children what equality, equity, and freedom are."



Cooperar nos eleva. Sólo somos con los otros.

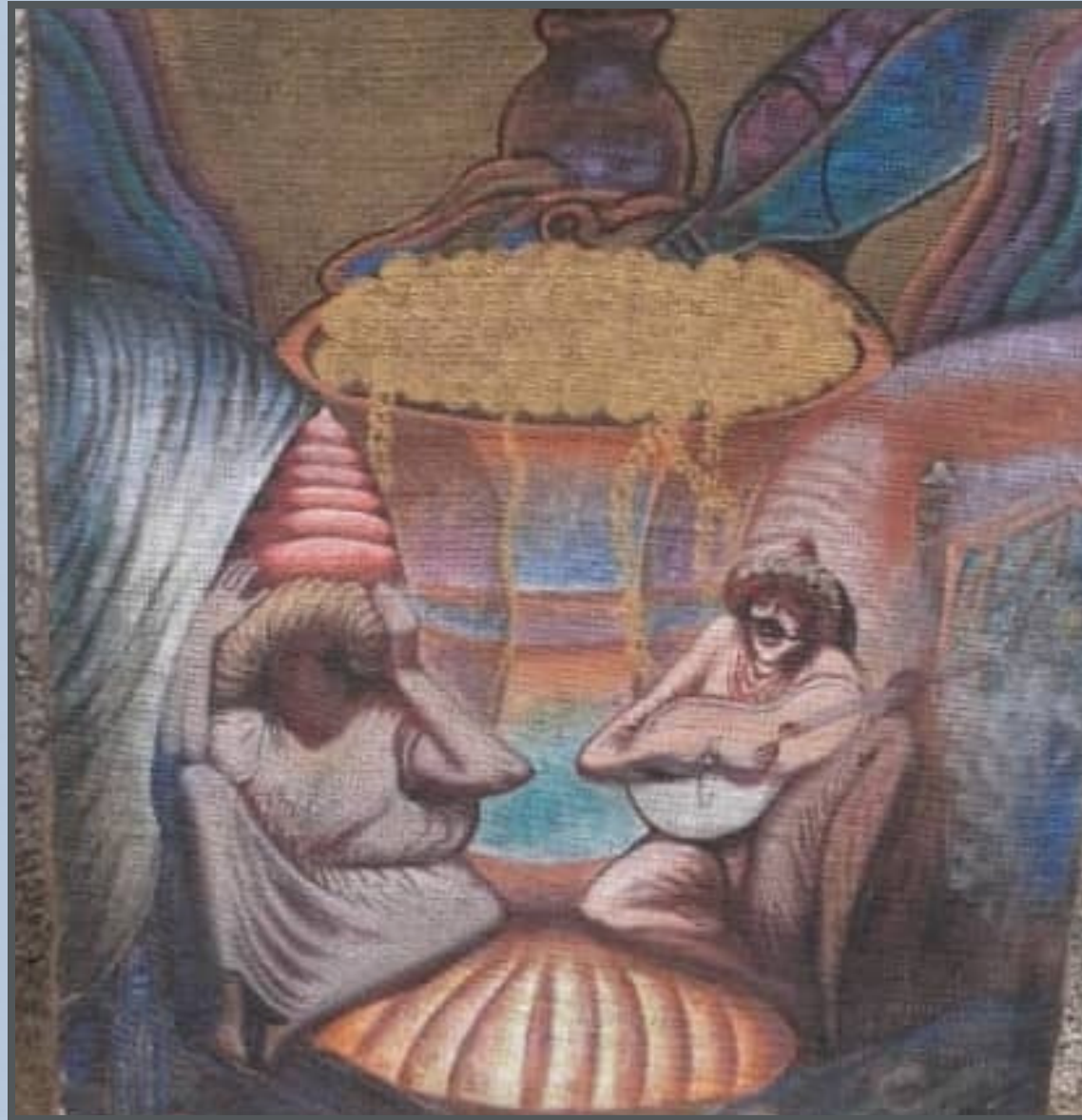
Jon



“Equipo proyectos
socioeducativos de
Asociación Navarra Nuevo
Futuro”

Happy Birthday, YAP!

Fabien



Seeds

María Cristina Garrón Barrero,
in collaboration with children and adolescents from
Alalay

Age: 40

“The world is like a vast field, and human beings are like seeds in search of good soil in which to grow. I believe more and more people spend their lives looking for their seed-tree. At Fundación Alalay, we strive to be that seed-tree — we know that every story matters, and that vision weaves a larger tapestry that tells the great story written between them and the sky.

This piece was created with the idea of the sense of community built from the focus that Fundación Alalay provides. We know that every child has a story to tell — and that is important, it is vital. Thinking of art as a medium of expression, we collected photographs of some of their paintings, their photos, and even images of children who were once beneficiaries of Alalay and are now key members of their communities.

Each photo is a seed, a color, a shape that forms the great seed-tree that is our Alalay — our generator of stories — and makes art our safe place.”



Dollyland

Stephanie

“I made this drawing to show the world who I am. The butterfly represents that I’m sensitive. The bear represents my soft side. The house represents my dream. I dream to be happy.”





Azure Blossoms

Madeleine

“Blue flowers have always symbolized serenity and inspiration for me. In this watercolor, I let intuition guide my brush, allowing each petal to unfold organically. The result is a celebration of calm, creativity, and the quiet beauty found in nature’s simplest forms.”

El Caracol, A.C. – Mexico City

"Dignidad-El Caracol works with people living in street situations and has collaborated with the local authorities of Mexico City to create an area of the historic Panteon Civil de Dolores cemetery where people who have lived and died on the streets of Mexico City can have a final resting place with peace and dignity."



"Ofrenda-on the occasion of the Americas Network of Dynamo International meeting in September 2025, member countries created una ofrenda to people the CDMX-based organization El Caracol has worked with who have lived and died on the streets of Mexico City to honor their stories, their struggles, and their humanity."

Redfern Community



Anonymous Photography Submissions



Self Taught Artist

Joshua





Shine Bright

Lynette

“I did this during the COVID lock down. I dried rose petals and painted them to create this playful picture.”

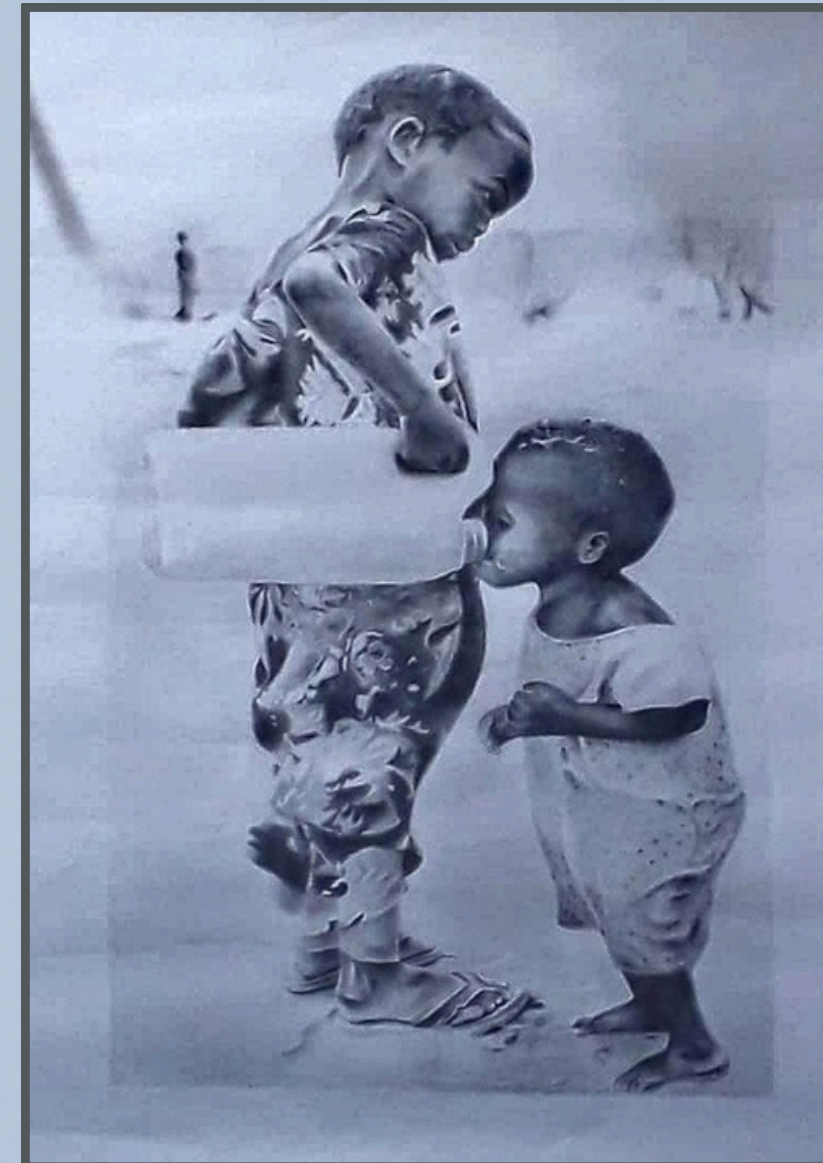
Suenos que Iluminan (Dreams that Illuminate)

Reinaldo



The Water We Share

Issa



Happy Anniversary From Outdoor Office Day

OOD Founder



Outdoor Offices: Including Nature in the Anniversary Celebration!



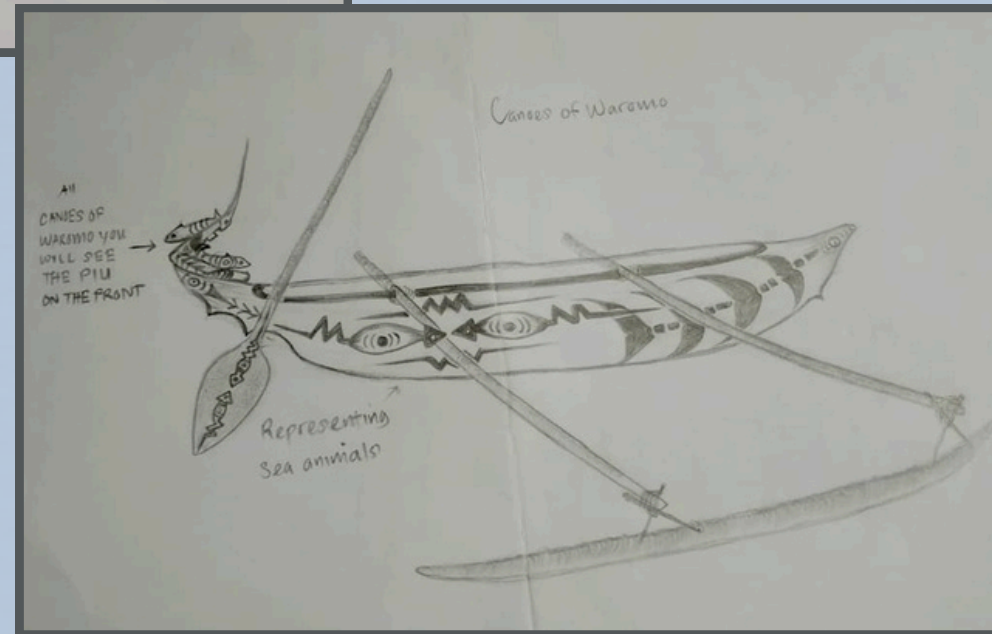
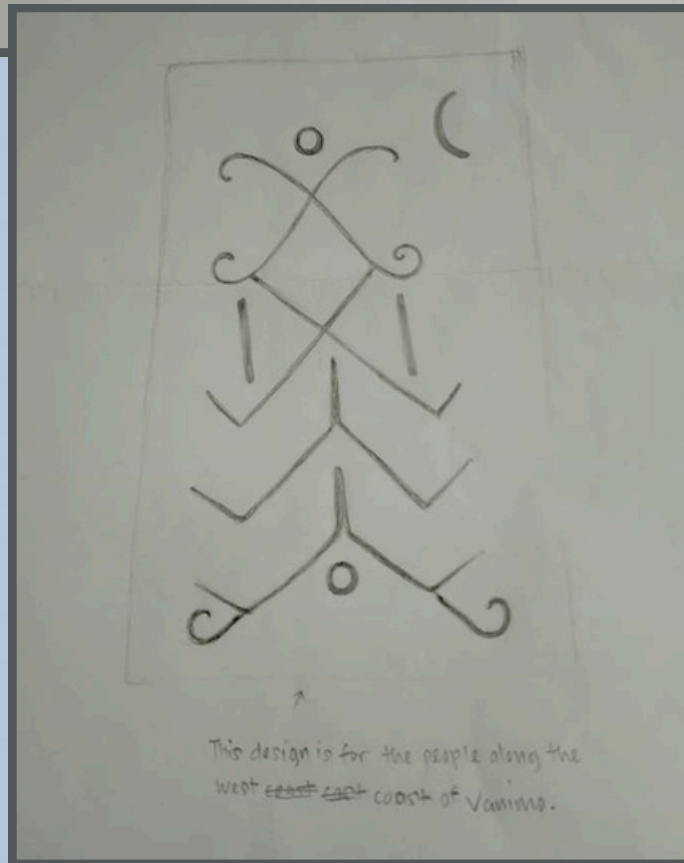
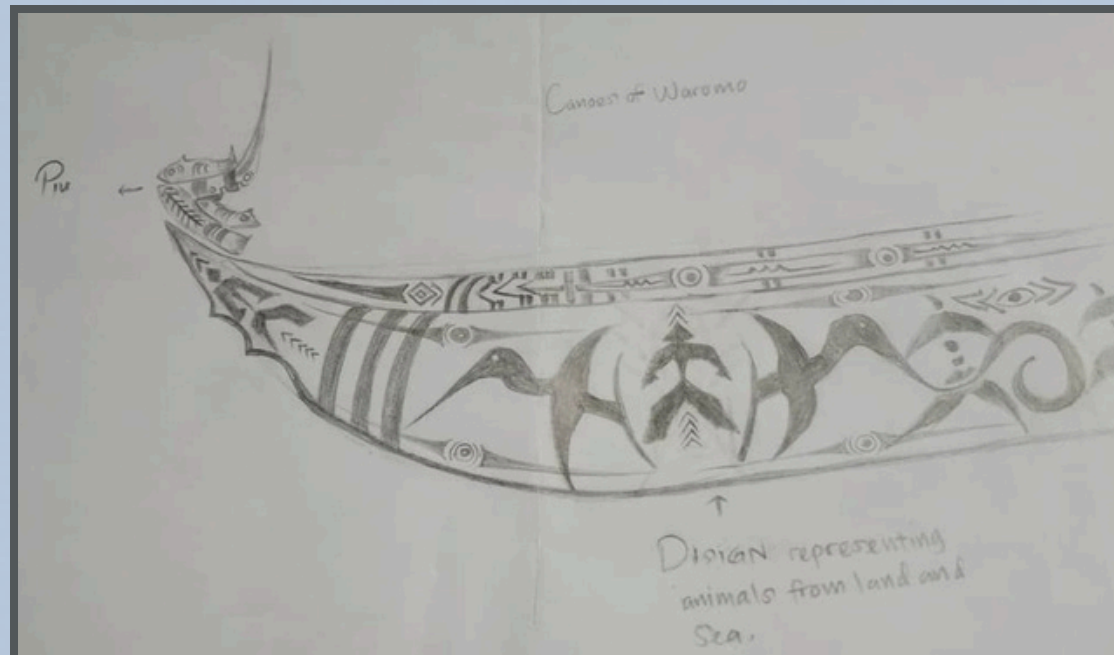
Traditional Drawings

Achielus

"Pencil drawing by a Grade eight (8) student of Holy Trinity Junior High, in Vanimo West Sepik, Papua New Guinea.

These drawings are traditional designs carve into canoes has shown, one canoe has land animals while the other has sea animals.

While the other drawing is their traditional marking (tattoo) that is passed down through women. Women carry the mark of the tribe. This is the mark from Warumo Village of Vanimo."





Thank You!

See the entire collection at the online gallery www.yapinc.org

