

Bayside High School Winter Art Exhibit for 2024

I'm Professor Neill Slaughter and as one of the jurors for the Bayside Historical Society Exhibition competition this year, speaking on behalf of my colleague and co-juror Professor Dan Christoffel, we congratulate all of the talented students who have dedicated themselves to creating some very interesting and otherworldly "surrealistic" images in a variety of media. The artwork presented in your virtual online exhibition is indeed taking us to unfamiliar territory to explore and ponder the expressive forces these talented students have created for this exhibit.

All the artwork we viewed was impressive, however, there are ten or roughly half, which I would like to highlight, while also encouraging all these students to go on to higher education. I hope these students will continue to embrace fine art going forward and may consider becoming a fine arts major in whichever college or university these particular students may attend in the not-too-distant future.

"Appreciation" a drawing by Hank consisting of Asian bowls full of savory looking noodles and other tasty looking ingredients defy gravity as they energetically hover in a topsy turvy surrealistic floating fashion including the ladle with the flowing broth enveloping the cook... all aspects contribute to this strong composition with a good range of values to create the feeling of volume and atmosphere.

"Temporary Relief" by Jennifer, is a well-crafted painting appearing to be making a social commentary on pollution with a bit of magic oasis being held up like a gemstone to be admired by the viewer that is juxtaposed to the dark and menacing dark polluted sky of the great metropolis belching dark smoke full of soot.

"Hello Stranger" a nocturn painting by Lyn, has a female shaking hands with a hot soulmate...reminding this viewer of the great song by the Doors, "Come on baby light my Fire...Try to set the night on Fire". He certainly is burning brightly for her!

"Lost Souls" is an effective apocalyptic cartoon by Marcus of a figure wearing a gas mask, sitting atop a tower, staring out at a nuclear explosion in which the top of the mushroom cloud consists of balloon like skulls... as if it's a comic tragedy.

"The Lost World" by Natalie is a most effective painting of a little innocent girl sitting in a dark gray dried out wasteland, with a polluted cityscape behind her, standing in stark contrast to the lush green living world full of wildlife and clean water, popping up out of her book where she can dive deep to escape reality.

"Skylight" by Mathew appears to be a digital photo manipulated to create an almost hypnotic dome like structure, full of linear patterns, eye catching enough to invite further investigation.

“Mushroom Cabin” by Rayna is a lush surrealistic digital illustration of a magical world reminiscent of one of those classic fairy tales....like the “old woman who lived in a shoe” only the Converse All Star shoe updates this to contemporary times. The attention to detail invites the viewer to linger in this magic mushroom world, which also gives new meaning to a log cabin!

“Identity” by Shimon has an effective energetic quality because of how it is drawn and there is also a somewhat unsettling quality if one considers that one’s identity is being morphed or transitioning into a semi-robotic state.

“A Dab of Color” by Yuki is a cute innocent illustration on one aspect of femininity.

“Thoughts in the Deep End” by Yumi presents a less innocent and somewhat darker aspect of going off into the Deep End.