



THE SIGNATURE ART PRIZE

SHINING A LIGHT ON STUDENT & GRADUATE TALENT

JUNIOR SIGNATURE ART PRIZE 2023 FINALISTS

FINE ART | GRAPHICS | PHOTOGRAPHY | FILM | TEXTILES AND SCULPTURE

FINE ART

Calissa Chapple | Brighton Aldridge Community Academy

DEAD AND BURIED

42cm x 23.7cm

Paper, ink, dip pen, brush

About the Work:

In my free time, I love to draw and listen to music... and so very often my artwork is very closely linked to the music that I listen to. I started properly trying to draw from the age of 9, and since then I have improved lots not only in the way I work, but my art style too and so allowing me to introduce more personal aspects into my artwork. Not only this, but I also love to paint patches in my free time for my jackets and clothes and even sell them- something I love doing- but in the end I cannot think of anything cooler than to be a tattoo artist.

This piece is one very dear to me as it was very exhausting to complete... but overall I love so much the composition and textures which I have included. I made this using a pot of ink, a dip pen and carefully sized paper to suit the composition, and I have chosen to include one of my favourite singers, 'Nik Fiend', as I just love the way that he presents himself. I liked the idea of him being all sprawled out and messy all over the floor, being bombarded with so much chaos and so I decided my idea needed to be put on paper.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I would just like to see, kind of, what it's like to make and sell art in the real world. Do people like my art? Would anyone buy it? and so by submitting my art for this competition in a way I am surrendering my questions which I have always wondered for the longest time.



William Towler | Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

Nowhere

84 x 59cm

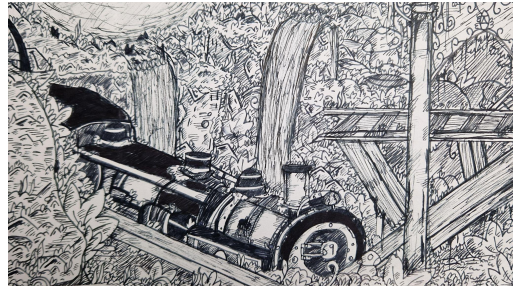
Fine liner on A1 cartridge paper

About the Work:

I'm 16 years old, I'm a pessimist and I struggle with anxiety, and stress. I do art as a release. I never thought myself to be as good as I want to be, and I constantly doubt the work I do. I get stressed easily and it was a way to release my imagination, since I'm a very active energetic person, and I have a creative constantly engaged mind when creating art.

The piece was made because I enjoyed the game Hollow Knight. Our theme for year 11 was 'Identity', and whilst I was dealing with mental health issues, I never liked expressing myself in art. I was being pressured to look at more inventive, creative artistic themes, but I preferred simple black and white hand drawn work, since it was what I was familiar with. I never liked how we had to interpret other people's work, since we never got a chance to do EXACTLY what we wanted to do with our own art. This potentially limited our creative ability and, especially for me, made me feel as though art wasn't right for me. I still never got over this, and I never consider most of my art to be good and would burn most of it if given the chance. However, I like this piece. Regardless of my talent or the rushed, misinformation I called a 'background' to get through the art GCSE. I made the piece because I felt it was so distant from what was expected and praised, but I didn't care about the approval of others, since I was making the piece because I wanted to. It felt personal and I felt independent with the piece. So, in conclusion, the piece was made because I wanted to make it, and the idea that art must have a meaning to be worth something should never be the case, otherwise art would always drag us back into reality, something which I believe art was made to help us escape from.

I am entering this piece because I like it!



Alexandra Pasarica | Duke's Aldridge Academy

Rose

34 x 30

Pencil

About the work:

I like the simplicity of this picture. I like the way that the coloured pencil stands out.

I like traditional drawing techniques. I do enjoy learning about other forms and styles of Art though. I am currently studying GCSE Art.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I think I need to develop my confidence.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Alex Blas | UTC@MediaCityUK

Tokyo Japan Temple

29.5W x 42H x 0.2D in CM

Fine Line pens, Acrylic Paint, Sandpaper, Paintbrush, White tissue paper, Cartridge Paper, PVA Glue

About the Work:

Its my first artistic piece that i may have ever submitted for an art competition. I took inspiration and the design from Ian Murphy and used practically the same instruments for work as he had done for his.

This is what the title says that it is the Tokyo Japan Temple. I'm a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the temple that I have drawn here is the symbol of our faith. We see it as the House of the Lord and where we perform what are called saving ordinances so that we can live with God again our Father in Heaven. The temple is to help strengthen our spirits, give hope, serve, love and do our Father's work, overall changing us into better individuals and who God wants us to be. Ultimately we in the Church know that we must become like our Saviour Jesus Christ (eventually), whom the prophets had testified would come into the world in following his Example. I've found it for myself to be one of the most enlightening and awe-inspiring places I can be and I would consider it to be the best place on earth to get closer to our Father in Heaven (God). I rejoice in the temple and feel an overwhelming amount of love and peace that I don't think I can get anywhere else because when I forget myself and focus on my Saviour Jesus Christ, well for me he lightens my load greatly. I thought I'd do the Japan temple after Ian Murphy with his fine art around Japanese/Chinese Pagodas.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

It's my first one and this piece of work is important to me and in glorifying my Father who is in Heaven.



Daniella .J. Tugume | Duke's Aldridge Academy

Her Freedom

40cm x 53cm x 1.5cm

acrylic paint and watercolors on canvas

About the Work:

As a black person in UK, I often find it hard to get opportunities and through my art piece, I want to portray gender discrimination that not only takes place in UK but also around the world. Women are given the least opportunities because they are seen as inferior, menial and feeble. For example; how many female prime ministers has UK had over the years?

Only 3 of all the 79 that have held the position. This shows how desensitized and callous we've become because of the male patriarchy dominance in society today.

The vibrant colors on the turban represent the sovereignty that every woman should proudly have.

I want to help stop gender discrimination and also this is in honor of Mahsa Amini.



Michelle Jasmin Komenda | Kensington Aldridge Academy

The Human Body in Colour

59.3 x 83.7 cm

Oil Pastel on Coloured Card

About the Work:

I first started creating art when I was in primary school, as I was able to explore art through painting images of sunny landscapes with pretty houses, but I only came to find it as a hobby under the mentoring of my father who helped me start to develop my skills and supported me in starting to create art more independently. This is also why my father is one of my main inspirations, because from a very young age I would often see him doodling or drawing, and he would always help me with any school homework if it required any drawing, and the more I grew, the more time I spent creating art, whether or not that was independently or with my father .

Personally, I enjoy creating art as it allows me to explore a different side to my creativity, because as a dancer, I am also able to express myself through movement, however the ideas or emotions I can neither put into words nor movement, I can draw. This allows me to also feel a degree of satisfaction, something I crave as a form of validation for myself as an evolving human in the process of exploring their own identity.

Although I don't have any favourite techniques, as I tend to experiment with any art forms I come across, whether it's from on social media or from an art exhibition I have visited, The media's I tend to use the most include dry medias, like: graphite, charcoal, chalk/oil pastel and more, because they are the medias I am most comfortable with and I find they most align with my skill set.

I was inspired to create this piece after visiting the In The Black Fantastic exhibition in London, where I was introduced to the work of Sedrick Chisom for the first time - more specifically The Hero of Dionysus Emerged Inching Through Umbrage (2020) - who was able to influence me with his use of colour and focus on the human figure in his pieces. Building up to my final piece of producing an artwork of a human figure, I focused on creating realistic recordings of specific body parts while using vibrant colours to replace the natural tones of human skin. I mainly focused on drawing the hands, (which are actually the most symbolised part of the human body, most known for symbolising: strength; power & protection; generosity; along with other things) and the feet (a symbol for respect; reverence and subservience), which then allowed me to envision the rest of the human figure, which is identified in many religions as being the Divine Power. While exploring colour, I also came across Andy Dixon and his style of art, from which I was inspired by his use of colours in creating tonal variations to show highlights/warm tones and shadows/cold tones in the skin. Following this, I was able to draw together all of my ideas to use both of these influences to create a drawing of my own body, using oil pastels to create a smooth but textured bright skin tone, which therefore also allowed me to look upon my body from a different perspective.

My intent for this artwork was to honour the human body and allow it to be looked at from a different light and therefore, when looking at this artwork, I would like people to try looking at the human figure from an alternate angle, and in more of a glorified way, which will hopefully be translated by the contrasting colours.

I have chosen to submit this piece of work because I had worked a lot on experimenting with brightly coloured oil pastels and creating texture, which would allow me to produce a realistic recording of my own human figure, which I had been inspired to do after being introduced to Sedrick Chisom's work.



GRAPHICS

Elliot Hine | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

Charlie.B.Grim

21 cm X 29.7 cm

Photoshop

About the work:

I made this piece in a graphic art lesson with the theme of a coffee company in mind I used photo montage to create and develop my piece I wanted to mix victorian decor with modern elements like the coffee cup.

My name is Elliot Hine Im 16 nearing 17 years old and I live in Darwen, Lancashire. I attend Darwen Aldridge Studio Were I take the subjects of graphic art, photography and Film. I've always Had an interest in Photoshop since I was in year 7 from videos of people making amazing art with the app but i've never been able to use photoshop until I started attending Studio this year (2022). Prior to going to studio I went to Darwen Aldridge Community Academy(DACA) And studied Performing arts(Drama) and film studies, but drama wasn't for me but I really enjoyed Film but I couldn't continue at DACA because of the lack of students going into that subject so I went to studio and I'm really enjoying it. I love films and tv It inspires most of my creative styles and pieces of art I create.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I chose to submit this piece as I really enjoyed the creative development and it was my second time using photoshop ever which is why a-lot of effort is put into it plus I'm really proud of the way it turned out as it was fun to create.



Eva Davies | UTC@MediaCityUK

Inside the disguise

Two A4 vintage pictures, stuck together then ripped and cut apart, then distorted in photoshop

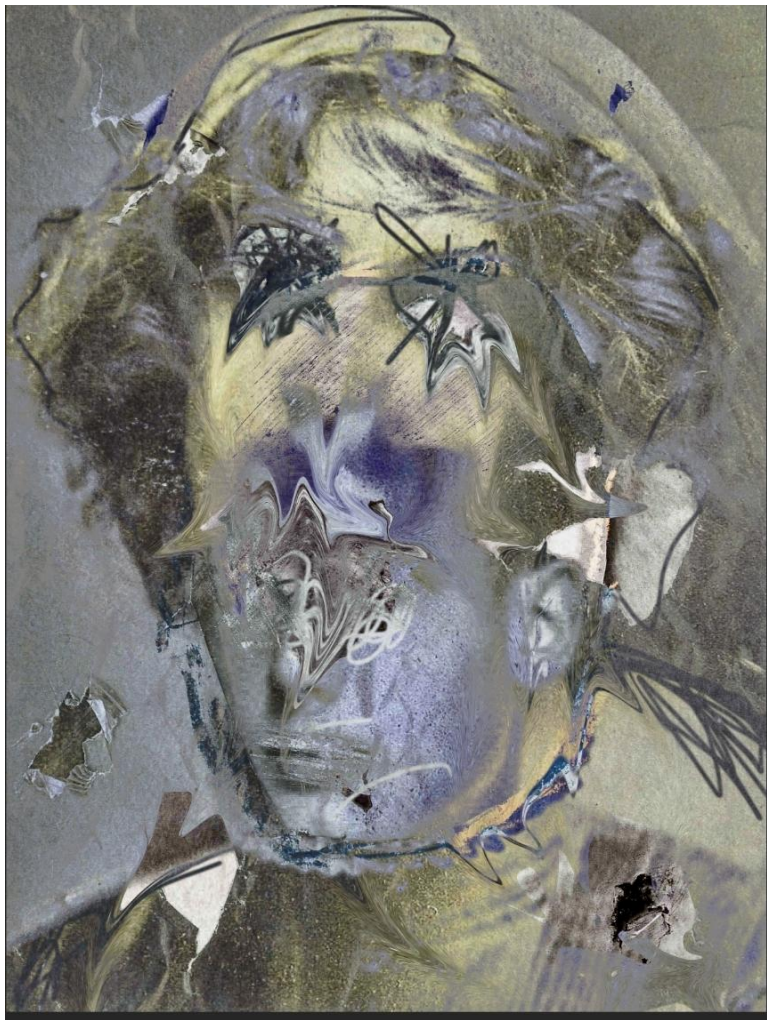
About the work:

I wanted to show the theme of disguise in my image. I took two people and distorted them until they were unrecognisable.

I'm 15 years old and live in Manchester with my mum, 2 brothers and my cat. I love walking, reading and creating art. I like making art that I gift to family and friends, as I enjoy when my art makes others happy.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I think it represents the best of my artistic ability and I think it looks really good.



Pip Kosyl | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

A Series of Unfortunate Events, Part 2

65.62 x 92.82

Adobe Photoshop, and several reference images sourced from Google.

About the work:

For this particular project, I chose to retell one of my favourite books, that being Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning". I adore this book series, but knew I wouldn't be able to create an image for each of the thirteen books. And so, I chose to focus on the first. I split the story up into six images, with this one (Part 2) portraying the moment the Baudelaire siblings arrive at the villainous Count Olaf's house. I took visual inspiration from the illustrator Saul Bass, but also decided to include plenty of detail, as an ode to the book's illustrator, Brett Helquist.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I have chosen this piece of work as I believe it to be the best of the six images. This is the piece where my love for character design is allowed to flourish, where I began to experiment with colour, texture, and detail. In truth, I wish there was a deeper explanation as to why I like this image, but there is not: this image is my favourite because I enjoy looking at it.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Aaron Lynch | UTC@MediaCityUK

Abstract Orangutan

17 cm x 50 cm

Illustrator, paper, pen

About the work:

I made it for my A level I'm doing about making things for a fictional zoo being built in Manchester. I drew out the outline with paper and pen making sure not to add too much detail or the overall look of the finished product will be too crowded and messy. After scanning it in to illustrator I traced the lines with the pen tool making the lines thick and changing the uniform to width profile one. This makes the lines look sleek and sharp making them stand out against the colours that I will be adding later. After all the lines are done I wanted to add some shape to the piece so to match the sharpness of the fur of an orangutan so I used triangles, changed the colour to a certain colour of orange to add inconsistencies' in the colours. After adding enough triangles to fill the orangutan I add blue to the face in oval shapes, I then added a light orange background to finish the piece. And boom done.

My name is Aaron Lynch, I have been working with graphic design for 4 years now and got my GCSE for it. Now I am doing and A level but I've been doing art since I was little and could never put the pen down.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I have chosen to submit this piece because this is the first piece for the project that went right. Not that the other ones I did are bad, its just this piece went right from the concept art for it to making the shapes. Its overall the most ecstatically pleasing piece that I have done in this style and its eye-catching and universal to be used for any advertisement but could also be put up on a wall for decoration purposes.



Alisha Dearn | Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

Searching the Web

16 x 21 x 1.5 cm

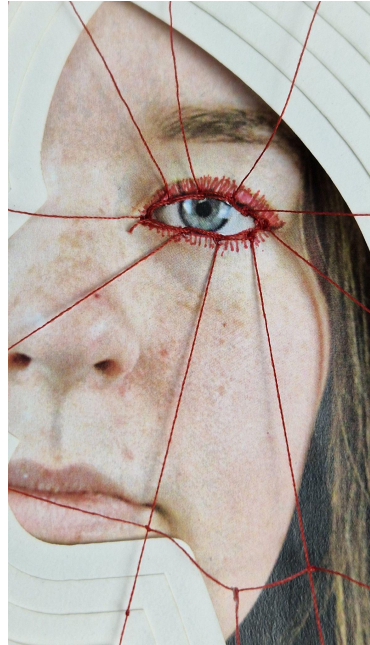
Laser cutter, card, string, red fine liner and photography

About the work:

I first started photography, just over two years ago and have been fascinated by it with the never-ending capabilities of what you can create within a subject and how so many people can look at one image and have different perceptions or ideas about the photograph, for example what the meaning behind it is. I was inspired by my brother to do photography as he also did it, and each time he would show me a piece of his work it intrigued me as to how he created it or just even the process that led him to create it in the first place. My favourite technique to use in photography is contrast, this is because it allows you to make things that would normally blend in to stand out and be the main viewpoint of the photograph it could also gain the power to alter the meanings and emotions being expressed.

The web is to represent the girl trying to hide behind her layers, so she doesn't fully reveal herself to society. As she would be feeling like she is losing her sense of security and is trying to use every part of herself, in this case her eye, to prevent that from happening, this is so she can keep herself and her layers together.

I find this piece to be intriguing and has so many perceptions towards it as to what the meaning is behind it, and to help attribute to what depression can feel like, to create a better understanding so that it will help society to understand.



PHOTOGRAPHY

James Maynard | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

Falling

59.4 cm x 84.1 cm

Canon EOS 500D

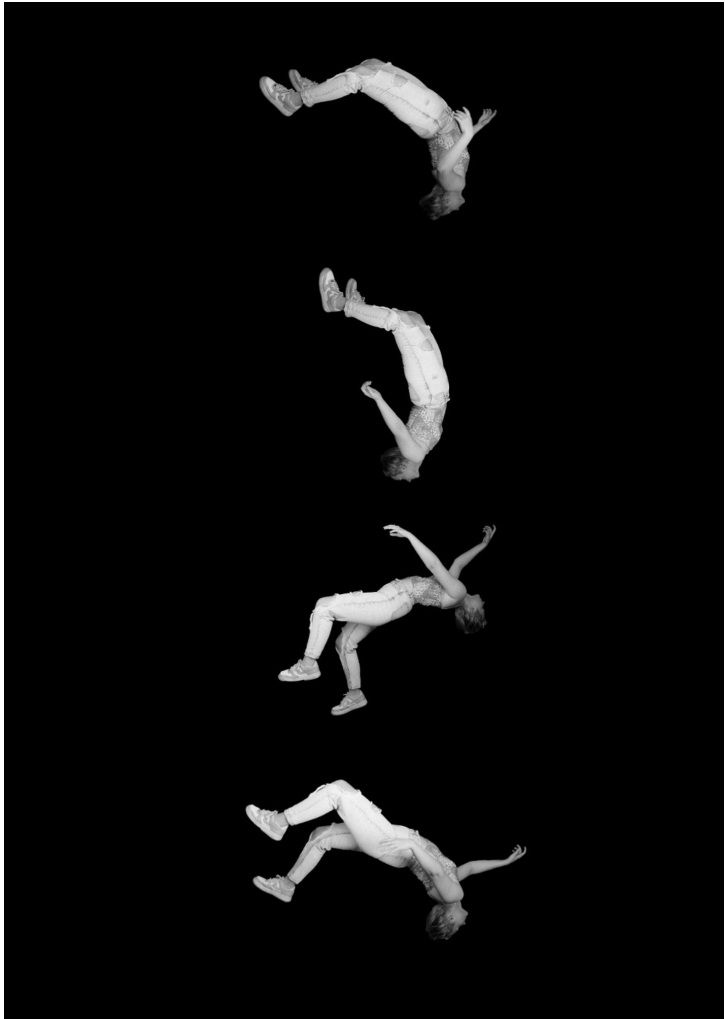
About the work:

'Falling' is based around the notion of flaws and incompetence. Fear, terror, and anxiety that comes out of losing grip over significant things the feeling of falling may represent a sense of helplessness.

I'm a A Level student at Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio, studying Photography and Film. Photography has been detrimental in enabling me to explore my creativity and develop my skills for a future career with the knowledge learned from this fascinating subject. I am deeply passionate about this art form and being able to develop my practice. My experience with photography has lasted 5 years so far and with each day my interest grows and I learn more.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I feel that this piece is my favourite due to its personal nature and the emotions I have attached to it. It was also from one of my favourite projects to develop, not only in terms of technique but my own artistic practice. I found my signature style.



Abigail Birney | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

Thé Fantaisie

59.4 cm x 84.1 cm

2000D Canon Camera, Photoshop

About the work:

I created this piece for a college project in which we were tasked to create a design for a made-up coffee brand. I decided I would incorporate my own fantasy theme so I could create this design using my own art style and original ideas. I had always been fascinated with the idea of medieval dresses and just the aesthetic in general, so I went out of my way to buy a dress to fit the theme and pitched out a suitable location to shoot in. To additionally add to the fantasy theme, I decided to name my piece 'Thé Fantaisie' which translates to 'Fantastic Tea' in French because I strongly correlate France as a place of magic. I had already planned the ways in which I would edit the images in photoshop so all I had to do was pose in various different angles to make the editing process a lot easier.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I came to the ultimate decision that the design I had submitted was my favorite overall because everything ties together through the theme of fantasy from the butterflies, to the dress and the glowing highlights. More than anything, this photoshoot I would easily label as one of my most successful throughout my time studying photography, little things such as the green background against the red dress really clash well together and the expressions really set a mood over the piece. Additionally, growing up in a town with little to no opportunities to thrive in the creative industry, I feel that the Signature Art Prize opens new doors for a chance to do well in the creative arts that is often not taken as seriously by society as it should be.



Nusaybah Yousaf | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

Odd One Out

420 mm x 594 mm

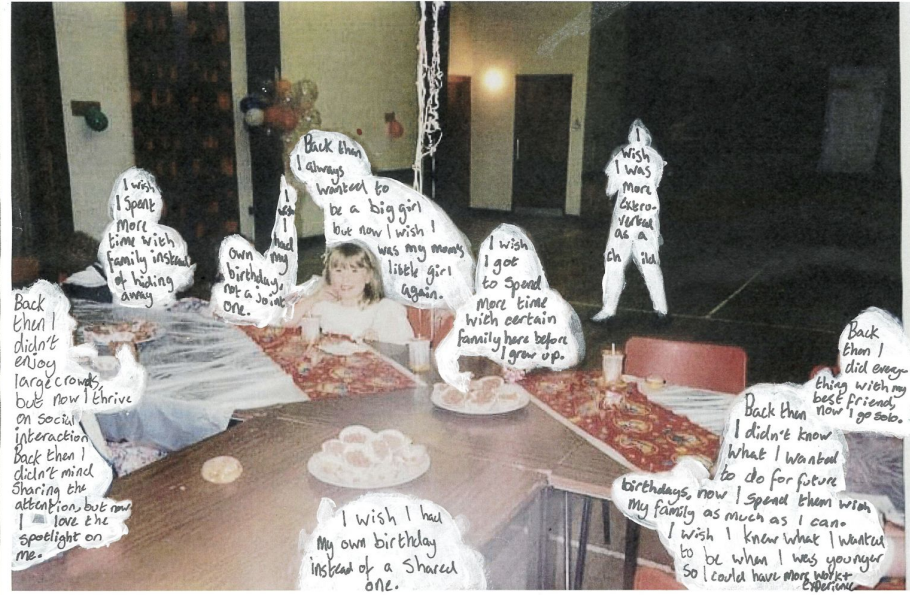
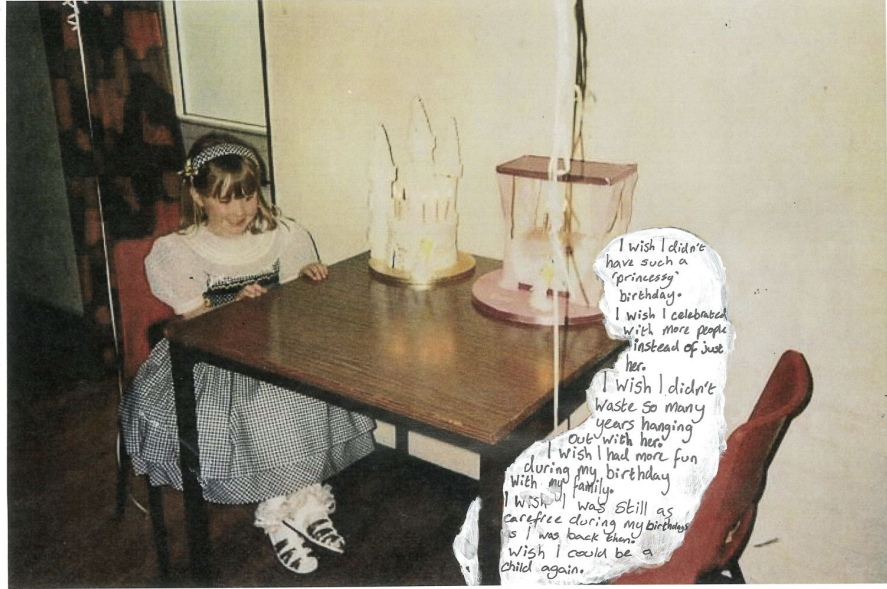
White paint, Fine liner pen

About the work:

I created this piece to be part of a series during my A Level 'Collections' project, for that project I was going for the collections of others memories and how they felt about them self back then and how they wished they could change things. They also compared how they were back then to how they were now whilst whiting out anyone else in the image, making them appear to be the 'Odd one out' as the title of the piece makes clear. By removing the other subjects in the photograph and singling out the main subject, the audience is forced to recognise the 'odd one out' in the image. We are pushed to explore our own memories and that daunting feeling of being the 'odd one out.'

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I personally chose to submit this piece of work because it is some of my most recent work, whilst in past submissions years before I was still quite new to the subject I feel much more comfortable and experienced now and my work has significantly improved since my first submission to this art prize. It also highlights to some events taking place in the world right now, with memories of times before quarantine during the year 202 and how people wish life could be as simple as it was when they were a child, my work focuses on those times and creates a sense of serotonin to the viewer remembering their own past and the joys of certain times during it.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Jodie Quinn | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

Hidden nature

59.4 cm x 84.1 cm

Canon 7D

About the work:

This piece was shot for a flaws project with the concept of covering flaws with flowers, this image was taken and transferred onto a computer where I have taken it into photoshop and experimented.

I have always loved camera's and the moments they can catch, I have been so inspired ever since when I was a little girl, the art of photography has inevitably been so mesmerising, its just so beautiful and every picture so unique. I started photography classes 4 years ago and it has changed my world and how I see things in my daily travels, with no intention photography has made me pay more attention to the world and allows me to notice the little things. I have chosen a future within the police force therefore paying attention to the little things really matters and will help me a great deal in this profession.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

I have chosen this piece because I have recently been in a process of completing a series called flaws and my whole idea is to cover these flaws with flowers to hide natural flaws with natural beauty. I very much enjoyed this outcome and decided to take these images and enter them into this contest as its my latest work.



Mark Nemeth | UTC@MediaCityUK

Root of The Pining Tree

aspect ratio: 1:1

Canon EOS Rebel T5 / 1200D

About the Work:

My name is Mark Nemeth and I am originally from Budapest, Hungary. I have lived in several locations such as my hometown (Budapest), America, and now England Manchester. By doing so, I have had the opportunity to explore/experience environments, cultures, and behaviors that are different from my own. I have been inspired by my mother's brilliant work and curiosity to travel around the world. Wherever we visit, we travel to iconic places such as Las Vegas, New York, London, Stonehenge, and many many more.

These places have inspired me to explore different areas and tour the world further. I found to be a very natural intelligent and creative person. I am an actor and do photography as a hobby. Film making is my profession, which involves studying cameras, visuals, and the implications of storytelling. My pride comes from being at a School such as this where I can use my skills and be able to network with more industry professionals. I have decided to join this 'Signature Art Prize' as it would be an amazing opportunity to share my work with other aspiring people. And to also get feedback and experience more of the Art industry. I have studied the foundations and meaning of Film and Photography for over 5 years. I approach life from the perspective of self-worth, calmness, and intention. I'm a very curious guy, and find anything interesting. I don't like classical work.

A piece of work that is copied from one person, most common on social media. It is unique to me, and I can only create it myself. In other words, I put the meaning in my own words. And that's what I see as Art. Not just some weirdly designed piece of painting splatter. It's more than that. Rather, it is the mindset, mentality, and the emotional connection that are focused on what you hope to pursue and become great at and create. Where you don't see other people based on different assumptions. But interested in how life is out-formed throughout them.

I don't know who's reading this text... or have you been reading up to this point at all? Questions that have no meaning of output in the current situation. We as artists (people) can become obsessed with a particular culture, way of living, and career. How you meet that objective is what makes it truly yours and unique. And if you have taken the time to read this lovely long text, Thank you.

This photo was taken in September 2021 in the Highlands of Scotland. During my week-long visit to Scotland, I took a few pictures to capture the environment and tradition. This picture in particular is about a wishing tree 'embarked' with coins. As we walked through the forest I saw this one with a glimmer of sunlight glancing through the empty spaces of the branches behind. and I quickly snapped a photo. As there were many trees around, I took this one in particular due to the singular aspect of the story that's displayed here and a cascade of trees with sunlight shining through in the background.

As this picture is titled 'Root of the Pining Tree', I will tell you the intent of it. Coins were hit into the pith of the tree back when people believed that all of their illnesses would pass through the root and into the earth, leaving their souls empty of any disease. But if one were to take it out, they would no longer be healthy, wealthy, and would have a great loss of tremendous luck. Even in the Afterlife. Pining is referred to as wishing, but I have specially used it for the deliberate use of onomatopoeia to represent the sound of a coin. *Ping*. With the word 'pin' it can also invoke the action of 'pinning' something somewhere. Or in this case, hitting a coin into a tree.

The lens size is a 20mm giving its widely figured scale, bringing the background and the coin tree into one. The use of pushing the camera at a slight slope angle perpendicular to the plate of the coin tree, gives it its permanent value of travel. Meaning that the coin tree and coins itself look big and the background small with the coin tree extending like a physical path to walk on, violating the muddy trail over it. The lighting is natural through the sun directly above shimmering through the leaves giving its greenish tint and natureisitic mood. This work represents a trail of luck, wealth, and a calming environment exhibiting the contrast of nature and history through mankind.

I have chosen this picture in particular, as of how the ideas and imagination were all formulated while taking the photo. I also like its natural lighting and is my favorite nature photo I have ever took.



FILM

Louis Barker | UTC@MediaCityUK

Apathy

Film

FILM LINK: <https://vimeo.com/787749516>

About the work:

I am an aspiring filmmaker, incredibly interested in all aspects of filmmaking from cinematography to lighting, sound, and editing. I am incredibly passionate about film with my dream of being able to direct my own TV show and even my own Godzilla film. That franchise is really what got me hooked on film when I was younger and learning about how those films were made in the 1950s and 60s inspired me as I grew up to become a filmmaker.

Apathy is a film about mental health. I like to think the film is incredibly interpretive as it follows our main character, Riley as they struggle with their mental health, through trauma as a child that has hurt them as an adult leading them to do inhumane things such as murder. The film feels almost not real, like a dream sequence as we see the world through Riley perspective, simple but beautiful until reality hits them with what they have done.

Jake Fradley | UTC@MediaCityUK

Consequence

Film

Blackmagic cinema pocket 6k, Canon G40, Adobe Premiere Pro

FILM LINK: <https://jakefradley40.wixsite.com/jakefradley/portfolio-collections/my-portfolio/consequence-identity-short-film>

About the work:

Consequence is a short mockumentary film centred around the theme of identity. The protagonist, Owen Webb, tells the audience how his actions caused him to inadvertently kill his own grandfather and how this has affected him mentally. I worked as the co-scriptwriter, director, cinematographer, main actor and editor of this film.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

My short film 'Consequence' is my favourite piece of work I have ever created. I spent three months working on this film, from emailing mental health charities to ensure the film was as accurate as possible, to the filming process which took multiple late night shoots, and finally the editing process which took over two weeks to complete on Adobe Premiere Pro. The final result is an emotional rollercoaster of a film which will shock audiences and make them pity the protagonist.



TEXTILES AND SCULPTURE

Jack Wilding | Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

Un-stitched

18 x 18 cm

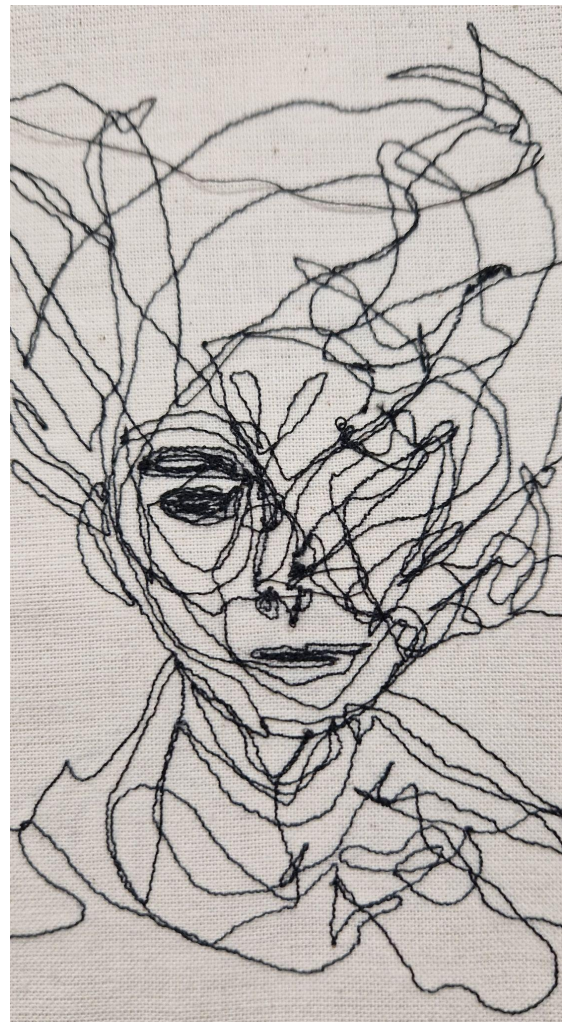
Calico and free machine embroidery

About the work:

Art gives you a sense of freedom and individuality and I have always enjoyed expressing myself in this way. I have always admired animation but when I started my GCSEs I began to explore many more different techniques including working with 3D and stitch.

This piece is an expression of the inner turmoil we all face. At some angles we may appear ordinary and fine, yet from another you might be able to see the strain, stress and disorder that could be mere moments away that can cause us to become unravelled.

I am really proud of this piece of work as I was focusing on mental health and looked at the work of Adam Riches who does amazing portraits in scribble for inspiration. I wanted to emulate his work in a different medium and decided to try free machine embroidery. This piece was actually my first attempt, and I am impressed with how it turned out. The image clearly shows a controlled, expressionless face that explodes into chaos.



Hiway Polat | Duke's Aldridge Academy

Balconies

w=33 inches H=38 inches D= 26 inches

Recycled cardboard, glue gun. some copper wire

About the work:

I completed this piece at the end of year 11. I had been researching architecture in different countries and liked the style of Japanese and Chinese buildings, especially the old traditional buildings made in wood. I had the idea to try to make a 3D building in this style. I started to experiment with a simple card technique and it just started to grow, I kept adding layers to build it up and increase the small details to show the many different types of balconies and railings on the buildings. I wanted to keep the finish rough to show the influence of the original wooden houses.

I have always enjoyed drawing and painting and draw a lot in my own time, during my GCSE Art I started to work in other materials and using different techniques. In year 11 I started to experiment with different 3D techniques, like clay and wire modelling. I am very happy now to be continuing my Art Education in College.

*Why have you chosen to submit this piece of work to the competition?**

This was the first time I had made something using this technique and to this size, I enjoyed the process of building up the layers of small detail. This is a piece of work I am very proud of. I wasn't sure how it was going to look when I started but I was really happy with the different details I was able to add to it.



Mia Counsell | Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

Inner Sanctuary 1

40 x 150 x 26 cm (approx. on the mannequin)
calico, felting and machine embroidery

About the work:

I've studied and practiced various techniques of art throughout my life, always enjoying creative outlets that allow me to express myself and my views on current societal topics. Art allows me to help educate the wider public on issues they otherwise wouldn't consider in everyday life. I am currently studying Art History at Aberystwyth University and taking interest in the Renaissance, Romantic and Rococo style.

I chose to create this piece in order to express the beauty of the inner sanctuary. Typically, the initial reaction of the public towards the inner mechanisms of the body is that it appears to be grotesque, an attitude ignorance to the true intricacies of the human form and how it not only gives us life but also our own unique form. Each body can be both modified and melded into a person's individual features which can have both negative and positive internal effects. The piece creates an abstract visual effect mirroring both the beauty and horrors of the human form and its alteration, leaving the viewer to decide if it's truly grotesque or wonderful.

I have chosen to enter this piece as it represents my fascination in the human form and how it depicted in art. I wanted to make the viewer question whether the human form is grotesque or beautiful and this piece provides that question.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Abigail Hawkins | Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

Reincarnating Alice

55 x 150 x 40 cm approx. on a mannequin
Mixed media - Textiles, Print and Stitch

About the work:

I first found my interest in art at a young age when developing painting and drawing skills very early on. I would spend time with family and friends creating pieces of fun artwork at the table. I developed this further by choosing to continue with an artistic subject in high school and then in sixth-form. I find art to be a way of expressing your thoughts and feeling, a story or message to an audience – it is a powerful skill that allows all artists to voice their opinions without physically speaking. I am currently at UCALN continuing my creative journey studying for a degree in Fashion Promotion and Marketing.

Whilst developing a portfolio based on a single idea I chose to investigate 'flaws'. Flaws can be described as many different things, however I chose to look at it in the way of what society expects from women. I explored aspects such as social media and mental health but wanted to conclude with a piece of work based on a protest against everything I had explore within my work. The blazer I had created included words and phrases that showed how women especially were expected to act, speak and look a certain way. I then photographed a female modelling this jacket as if she was protesting and fighting against this. When designing and developing the blazer I took inspiration from the V&A exhibition book 'Alice: Curious & Curiouser ' which discussed many versions of Alice from 'Alice in Wonderland'. I wanted to create my own version of Alice, therefore designed the blazer based on her appearance within the story.

After learning and developing my skills throughout my academic school years, I found that techniques including types of printing, painting and sewing were the ones I enjoyed the most, and therefore put together a final outcome showcasing these techniques. This piece of work alone took months to complete and I am proud of the way I have constructed a physical item of clothing based on the written, digital portfolio I created as it portrays my ideas through it. After months of hard work I had finally completed the piece and I think it deserves the chance to be seen by others.



Tamta Giorgadze | Kensington Aldridge Academy

Voice

50 x 50 x 0.3cm

modeling paste, acrylic paint on canvas, gold papers

About the Work:

My love for art is from birth, in my memory there are interests in art since childhood, The idea of making this work with this material and this structure suddenly came to me, I have never tried anything like this, my art interests are not only painting or only textiles or anything specific, I think it is very diverse in my mind. And I always try to discover something new and different. I try to get caught up in all kinds of work and various details, strange news and ideas suddenly pop up in my head, and I always try to implement them all.

I created this work in December 2022, against the background of increased violations of women's rights and violence in the world. Even in the 21st century, the violation of women's rights and violence has not decreased, but rather increased, which is a very disturbing and shocking factor. Globally, an estimated 736 million women – almost one in three – experience physical and/or sexual violence. Most violence against women is perpetrated by current or former husbands or intimate partners. In one year, 81,000 women and girls died worldwide, with approximately 47,000 (58%) at the hands of an intimate partner or family member. My work focuses on women who are victims of domestic violence and harassment, who do not have freedom of speech, the right to express their opinion, the right to express their desire, or the opportunity to ask for help. When you look at the artwork, you can see the lips and the usual letters on them, but if you look closely in one part, you will notice that the words 'HELP' appear from the letters. It is with this part that I am trying to convey the situation of that woman, who tries to secretly inform us in various ways that she needs help – help to survive, help for life, help for freedom. She is trying to let us know that she needs help in a usual, non-suspicious way, acting normal, but in that normality there is a part of her trying to ask us for help. It is very likely that very many of these 47,000 dead women did not have the opportunity to ask anyone for help. And I'm sure if any relative, friend, acquaintance, or stranger had been able to find out about this woman's condition, she would be alive right now. People should be able to get this message from these women and not ignore their situation, and should be able to help them properly. If this happened, the world would not have such a high rate of violence.

It was really new for me to do this kind of work, I think it expresses my point well

