



THE SIGNATURE ART PRIZE

SHINING A LIGHT ON STUDENT & GRADUATE TALENT

# JUNIOR SIGNATURE ART PRIZE 2022 FINALISTS

FINE ART | TEXTILES | GRAPHICS | PHOTOGRAPHY | FILM

FINE ART

# Layla | Kensington Aldridge Academy

## **Keep Me Safe**

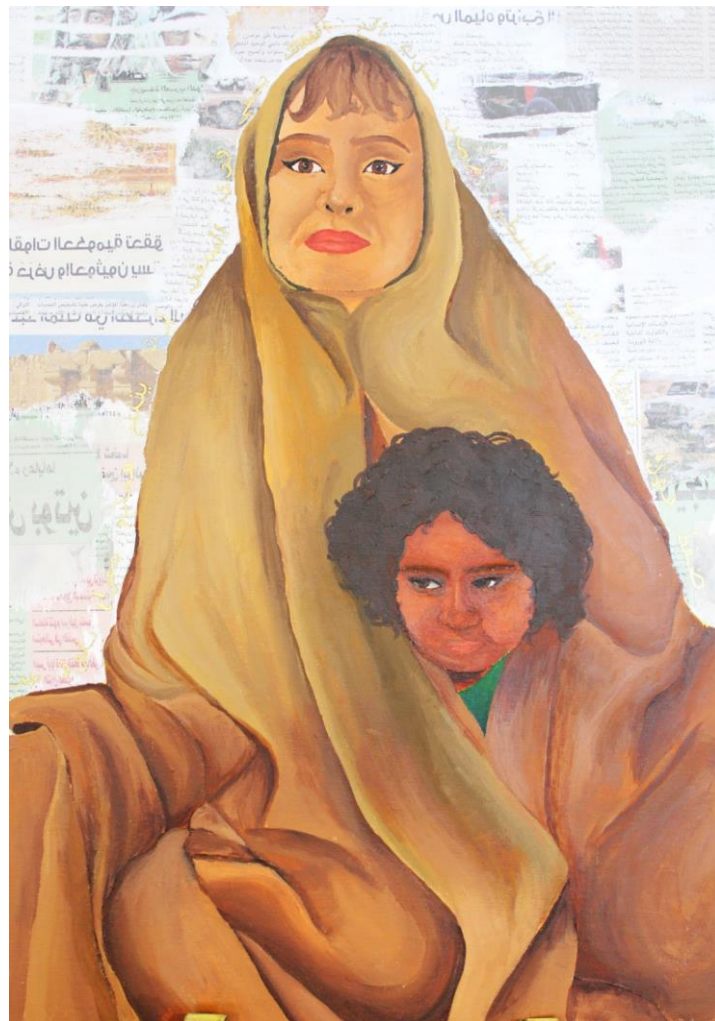
H= 59cm , W= 41.7cm

Acrylic Paint, Metallic Ink, Arabic Newspapers(Background)

## **About the work:**

I chose to submit this piece of work as my signature art piece as I feel it strongly presents an expression of my emotion and may be relatable to others. I created this piece during February after visiting the Mosaic Rooms in January, which had on an exhibition called "Stateless Heritage", focusing on Palestinian refugee camps in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. I felt a strong connection towards this exhibition as my family are originally immigrants from Palestine and Egypt due to war and genocide. I have always felt a deep interest in art based around North African/Middle Eastern culture and historical art from this part of the world as it is something I grew up around, which is also the focus of the Mosaic Rooms' exhibitions. Those living in the region have always had to cope with the volatility of the politics there. My family were from the city Haifa, in Palestine, and had to escape in 1949 to Cairo, Egypt due to Israeli forces invasion of their homes. This further inspired me to create a portrait of my own family in a 'Madonna and Child' style pose. In most biblical imagery, baby Jesus and Mary are portrayed as white, which would have in fact not have been the case as they were from Jerusalem, Palestine in the Middle East. I think it is time to challenge these eurocentric views and interpretations, and reclaim, and portray this style of art in the way they arguably should have been from the start. My art is special to me as it portrays what Mary and baby Jesus may have looked more like in reality. Another aspect of this reclamation is through pride in language and culture. There is Arabic scripture also surrounding the portrait with words that associate in my mind to immigration and the aftermath of it, for example 'family', 'pressure', 'strength', 'love', 'war' etc. This is extremely personal to me and I intend for it to feel relatable and create understanding to other children who come from immigrant backgrounds and are 1st or 2nd generation immigrants in the type of emotions and ideas brought up by this art.

I have studied art for GCSE and am now taking it for A Level. I have always been extremely interested in the subject because a lot of my mum's work involves art and she has always encouraged my creativity. I have often used art to express feelings and ideas which I may not speak about, or find easier to express through creativity.



# Manar | Kensington Aldridge Academy

## **Baghdad '99**

595 mm x 420mm (59.5cm x 42cm)

Oil paint on canvas

### **About the work:**

I created this piece in the beginning of 2022 after looking through my grandparents photo album of their original photos from Iraq, before the war. The photos showed me a different side to Iraq that I was yet to have seen, and the media was yet to see. The photo was taken in 1999 of my brothers playing happily in the garden in the sun. I feel like this breaks the stereotype often portrayed upon Iraq and a lot of the Middle Eastern countries as being uncivilised and violent, and shows that it wasn't always a war torn country, but a country that has a strong history and culture like any other. I wanted to portray the beauty in my culture and contrast to the current situation now of war and illustrate how war can destroy a country and the happiness of the people in it. This relates to the reason I blurred the faces, because this experience is not a single person's, but most people's from Iraq. Despite losing the majority of its luxuries, they continue to surround themselves with the joys of immaterial wealth and do what they can to live a content life. I think this applies to many of us today as we live in a society so caught up in materialistic goods and should learn to surround ourselves with things that will benefit us internally and mentally.

I am currently pursuing my passion for art by taking it for A-level. It has always been an interest of mine ever since joining secondary school and my passion for it has only ever increased since being exposed to it. I've loved the way in which art is used to communicate ideas, I think it is a good change from communicating with literature which we are all so used to. It's interesting how it can be interpreted in different ways to fit each individual's imagination, allowing it to be personal to each viewer. Being exposed to so many different styles and forms of art has been a privilege for me; it's allowed for my creative skills to develop even further - aiding me to apply my thoughts and feelings about the world into a more creative context.

# Manar Zaini | Kensington Aldridge Academy

## **Baghdad '99**

595 mm x 420mm (59.5cm x 42cm)

Oil paint on canvas

### **About the work:**

I chose to submit this piece as I wanted to raise awareness on the ongoing issues the Middle Eastern people have been facing for some time now - a lifetime for many. I wanted to highlight the beauty of Iraq which unfortunately has been torn to pieces by the media. Growing up, I would listen to stories of Iraq which my family had the pleasure to experience , however since moving to London I have only ever heard negative connotations revolving around the Middle East. As a result, I decided take this opportunity for myself to educate others of the joy and happiness it once had ; to emphasise the pride that others should have to come from a country with so much culture and history which has influenced many today.



# Zeina | Kensington Aldridge Academy

## **Distortion of Heritage**

29.7cm x 42.0 cm (A3 paper)

Mixed media: Watercolours, Charcoal, Fine liner

### **About the work:**

My name is Zeina Homsy, I am 16 years old and I am studying A level Maths, Physics and Art. I really like this mixture of scientific and creative subjects because it allows a space for both in my mind. I have not studied art in such a precise way earlier, art has always been a small hobby I liked to check up on from time to time, draw a sketch or two, use some paint. But also photographing objects and things in my surrounding that I found pleasant for the eye. It could be a nice looking vase, or just simply a nice organised bookshelf, small things like that which made life seem more "romanticised". Earlier, art for me was mostly about projects in school that were more crafty rather than artistic. So when I decided to study A level Art I started to view things a bit differently. Suddenly anything could mean everything and everything could mean nothing, it is all about how a person views the art piece and the connections they make themselves. What also made me enjoy art is the range of media and the freedom available for the individual when creating an artwork. A person could create anything from any idea at all, whether it's a common idea or a completely new and very different one.



# Zeina | Kensington Aldridge Academy

## **Distortion of Heritage**

29.7cm x 42.0 cm (A3 paper)

Mixed media: Watercolours, Charcoal, Fine liner

### **About the work:**

My piece is based on a photograph of me and my sister outside the doors of the Aleppo Citadel which is considered one of the oldest and largest castles in the world. It is based in Aleppo, Syria which is the origin of my family. I remember visiting the citadel with my grandfather, he was the one who took the photograph of us. By looking at the photograph many memories came back to me, memories of me and my sister jumping around and my grandfather making us pose and take a picture every time we passed a new part of the building. "It will be a nice memory" he said, and he was right. Considering the situation in Syria today, and the ongoing war, the citadel has taken damage and is not the same as it was in the photograph. Which is what I want to communicate with my piece by making the actual representation of the building distorted and unclear, representing the effect of war causing change. But also the fact that it is an old memory from my childhood, and that fact makes it distorted itself. Another thing about my piece is the two figures that are represented by a blank space with no colours, it creates a sense of absence in my piece which links back to the idea of the war. War makes people flee and leave their country behind, hence the absence of people.

I chose to submit this piece of work because I want to draw awareness to how war affects not only the people but also the buildings, especially historical buildings. Aleppo is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, which means that many of its buildings are historical heritage that should be conserved and protected for generations yet to come. But considering the war, this has not been the case. Not only Aleppo, but Syria together with several other countries in the Middle East have been the starting point of many early civilisations that has helped to shape this world to what it is today and have therefore left several historical legacies. But despite this fact, no one ever hesitated before destroying and harming these precious and valuable heritages.



GRAPHICS

# Benjamin | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

## **SLJ.Pop Art**

30x30cm

Illustrator

### **About the work:**

This is an image that convey all my progress ,I have made in creating illustration in this pop art like style. In addition I have chosen Samuel L Jackson as my subject for image because he is one of my favourite actors.

I chose this image because it was a style which I used to create quiet a-lot of images and this image is in the top best of the images. In addition I chose this one because I put a-lot of time and effort into creating this image from scrap.



# Ellie | Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

## **doodle cluster**

A4 (21 cm x 29.7cm)

pencil for sketch, black marker, alcohol markers

## **About the work:**

This piece is a collection of various items, animals, monsters and other things that can be seen in the world around us all jumbled together.

Typically I draw using alcohol markers and I try to make my work stand out brightly, I take lots of inspiration from street art, cartoons and sometimes fashion.

i like to create pieces like this because i think it's really eye catching to have so much going on in a small amount of space and it shows that individually these doodles wouldn't be that noticeable but all together it creates a dynamic piece of work.



# Euan | UTC Media City

## **Ukraine**

W = 34cm H = 24cm D = ?

Hand collage and photoshop

## **About the work:**

A collage made about the current crisis involving Russia and Ukraine.

I usually like to draw images in my spare time using my pencil and sketchbook, however in recent times I have discovered and experimented in different types of art during my graphic lessons. From knowing little to nothing about certain softwares such as photoshop and illustrator, I have learnt and improved my skills by creating various types of different work and art, using these softwares.

I have chosen this piece because I like it's look and political meaning behind it.





PHOTOGRAPHY

# Riley | UTC Media City

## **forth world view**

24.5cm x 47.41cm

snapseed

## **About the work:**

It was taken at st james square tram stop.

I grew up with only one photographer in the family so I instantly took to the art of photography I also love editing as I love ot make films so I love editing photos too.

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

To prove myself I can do something good and in my opinion it looks my best.



# Skye | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

## **Black Magic**

84.1 x 59.4

Canon Camera, Adobe Photoshop

### **About the work:**

This was one of my first pieces for my horror project in Year 12, where i was doing multiple series inspired by different horror scenarios, but projected in my own way. This specific piece was trying to show the use of Black Magic, I decided to go with the more abstract way of showing it, and it took around two hours to edit, with the trial and error of the lighting and the editing process.

I was always interested in artistic subjects such as art and photography, and I was also always very broad minded about my work, and how I can interpret my thoughts into art in the most creative way possible. My work always comes straight from my head, and my thoughts, and I often project my feelings and interests into my work to really make my art my own.

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

It is my favourite and most dedicated piece I have spent the most time on, and what i'm the most proud of.





# Riley | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

## **Solemn Loneliness**

A2 - 42.0cm x 59.4cm

Canon 500D

### **About the work:**

This piece is from my 'Encounters' project. Inspired by Stanislav Stankovskiy, the piece is about feeling of overwhelming loneliness in modern society. It portrays the subject in a suit alone at night in dimly lit areas with a skateboard. The skateboard representing wanting to stay young and spend your life as a teenager with your friends and the suit contrasts to this as it represents being forced to grow up and officially become an adult causing your social life to fade and lose the friends you had made before this point, hence the loneliness.

My name is Riley Parker-Thomson and at the current time of writing this I am a student in Year 13 at Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio. I have been studying photography since I was 13. I have always been drawn to the dark, gritty side of the profession and have always been drawn to the 'sadder' pieces which was a heavy inspiration towards this piece. I often use my own mind and feeling at the time to help influence my work too, which was also a huge inspiration as I recently realised youth is fleeting and I am unaware of where the future will take me.

I have chosen this piece as I believe it is my best work yet and has the most effort put in to it overall.





FILM

# Holly & Ella | UTC Media City

## **SPIKED**

it is a film

Sony, Adobe Premiere Pro

FILM LINK: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qqT2Brj6m4B3WZ8xowJ4Vu2IEi2KFHcZ>

## **About the work:**

This is a short story about a young male being spiked at a party. We did this to subvert gender roles.

We are young and aspiring filmmakers who wants to leave the audience on the edge of their seats with everything I do. We have always been creative and grew up around a very creative scene which really influenced us growing up and helped us expand on our creative skills.

We believe this is a well filmed and interesting short film which will interest our audience as well as give understanding that males are can also a target to being spiked.



# River | UTC@MediaCityUK

## **Memories**

1,920 x 1,080

Premiere Pro

FILM LINK: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S9VNWLCv0S8x0d4BJ0m\\_GLOLxC6oTzgK/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S9VNWLCv0S8x0d4BJ0m_GLOLxC6oTzgK/view)

## **About the work:**

This music video was an attempt of my own interpretation of the song 'Memories' by Maroon 5. The song is about the loss of a close associate of the band, as Adam Levine sings the lyrics of the song it's dedicated to his pass. My interpretation is based off his tragedy and the grief following the main character through this sequences of locations and emotions.

I'm a young upcoming filmmaker with a passion to succeed in the industry, filled with creative stories and narratives I want to share with the world and my generation.

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

This is one of my favorite are more personal projects which I can relate to from my experiences in the loss of a friend.



# Skye | Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio

## **An Interview With An Astronaut**

Camera, After Effects CC 18

FILM LINK: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/19EU2pod5E7md\\_FAf5KcWoa0hJnFB3Tix/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19EU2pod5E7md_FAf5KcWoa0hJnFB3Tix/view?usp=sharing)

### **About the work:**

This piece was my first official film that i spent the most time on, it was an interview with an astronaut that went missing after being taken on a top secret mission to an unknown planet recently discovered, which he also brought his dog. The interview is basically him talking about how time movies weirdly on that planet, compared to earth.

I am an aspiring post production editor, I am a very proud editor of motion graphics, and I hope in the future I can become an editor where i can use my self taught skills to my advantage to pursue a job i will enjoy and succeed at. I started studying film because of my love for post production and filmmaking in general, to hopefully put my skills to good use and show how talented I can be.

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

It's my favourite film piece i've ever created, i'm extremely proud.



TEXTILES



# Mai | Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

## **Family Portrait**

55 x 70 cm

Calico, water colour, machine and hand embroidery

### **About the work:**

Being of Chinese decent, but living in England, my cultural heritage has always intrigued me, especially how it differs from Western culture. Whilst looking into my two cultural backgrounds, I decided to investigate the significance of flowers and how they hold different meanings. I was inspired by the work of Jessica Tang who incorporates traditional Chinese prints into her portraits but chose to include our British heritage by using the British flowers associated with the months of our birth to represent each member of my family.

I have always loved being creative and opted for art at GCSE, and both Art & Design and Photography at A Level. I am currently completing my first year at the University for the Arts, London studying Fashion Textiles: Embroidery. Being Chinese British, my cultural heritage is important to me and a great source of inspiration in my work.

This piece of work is very personal to me as the photograph of this family portrait hangs with pride in our living room. The scale and level of detail, although time consuming and at times, laborious, was completed in homage to my family as they are very dear to me. Embroidery is what I have chosen to study at university so this fact, along with being a dedication to my family, is the reason why this is my signature piece.



# Natasha | Kensington Aldridge Academy

## **Womxn**

34cm x 54cm

Thread , embroidery machine

### **About the work:**

I picked out the word Womxn because it has a very deep meaning to me . In my piece I have used the sewing machine to sew out a figure of a woman's body . This womxn's body type isn't the ideal body type which is usually a thin , hourglass figure that you usually see in the media . I wanted to highlight that all body types are different and unique and special and we have to accept and love our own body as we still live in a fat-phobic society . This textile piece is dedicated to the upcoming international women's day . As I already stated above I wanted to devote this to women who have unfortunately struggled with their appearance because of the beauty standards in this generation . I called this piece Womxn which is the alternative spelling to Woman this is to avoid perceived sexism .

I was born in London and raised with both my parents but I lived with my mum in the my early teen years which has meant that I have embraced my femininity even more . I started to create art when I first went to school because it gave me opportunities to express my art . Moreover in primary school sewing club took place which allowed me to learn new techniques on how to sew .

I chose this piece as it represents my skill in textiles which is just experimenting on the sewing machine and I felt like this brings out the outline of women's physique. Moreover this piece is special to me as a young feminist also urging young female teenagers that their body is beautiful .



# Lauren | Darwen Aldridge Community Academy

## **Hold Dear**

120 x 100cm approximately

Repurposed clothing, photographic transfers, embroidery and mixed media

### **About the work:**

These garments belonged to my grandparents and photographs of their history are sewn into them to try to capture them in place. Memories are so important and these two garments represent the deterioration of memories and how they can become distorted and blurred but are no less poignant and impact on who we become as a result of them.

I love creativity! From painting, to photography, clay, drawing to embroidery.... After completing my A Levels at DACA in Fine Art, Photography and Graphics, I submerged myself in more art by attending a fulltime Art Foundation Course at Blackburn College. I am currently waiting (impatiently!) to hear back from universities to find out which fashion course I will be throwing myself into to come September!

This piece represents my Grandad and my Nana - two of the most important people who I hold very dear to me. My Grandad is sadly no longer with us and I really miss him. I owe my love of creativity to him. As an avid artist himself, I learnt a lot from him and still admire his ability to create beautiful paintings. When dementia set in in old age, this impacted on his ability to produce art and his love of creativity, and this really upset me. This is my signature piece as it really encapsulates the aging process and the effects dementia and old age has on a person as well as being a poignant representation of two wonderful people. "

