Young at Art!
REGIONAL YOUTH ART CONTEST

"Reach for Yore Memories" by Monica Kennedy, Grade 12.

EXHIBITION YOUNG AT ART!
INSPIRED BY MEMORY
ON VIEW MAY 27 - JULY 4, 2022

Sponsored in part by Bank of Cooperstown, a unit of Wayne Bank, the Black Family Foundation, NYCM Insurance, and Stewart's Holiday Match.
Local students in grades 6-12 were invited to participate in an annual art competition, *Young at Art! Regional Youth Art Contest*, in Oneida, Herkimer, Otsego, and Delaware Counties. Students learned about art related to this year’s theme, memory, and drew on this inspiration to design their own works. A panel of artists served as judges for the contest, selecting artworks for special awards as well as to comprise an exhibition. More than 320 young artists participated in the contest this year.

The variety of local art students is reflected in the colorful assortment of works featured here, with the *memory* theme thoughtfully represented throughout. Award-winning works include Monica Kennedy’s painting, “Reach for Yore Memories,” which illustrates Monica’s growth toward inheriting her family’s legacy, including its memories and traditions. Brynne Livelsberger’s painting, “Photographic Memory,” invites the viewer to ponder a series of hands painted with exquisite realism, serving as symbolic synapses as they relate memories preserved in the whimsy of the intellect and imagination. These striking works offer a glimpse into the colorful, creative minds of the next generation of artists, whose powerful representations of *memory* move and stir.

Taking the time to revisit the rich landscape of our memories and expressing these memories anew changes the nature of our relationship with our past, present, and future. By drawing from memories to create works of art, we create new memories. We re-envision the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves, and we are transformed. We re-envision the stories we tell ourselves about the world, and the world is transformed.

Through these important works of art, these extraordinary students share the stories of who they were and who they have become. In the light of these reflections, artists and viewers grow together.

*To Love and To Cherish* by Nan Zar
“This charcoal drawing depicts the horticultural history of my family. This picture of my grandmother’s hand gifting me flowers represents more than the passing of horticultural knowledge. It holds old, precious, and formative memories and relationships, which I will always reach for and hold close to my heart as I grow and flourish through the sunshine and the storms that life brings.”
Young at Art!

Photographic Memory by Brynne Livelsberger
Gilberstville-Mount Upton CSD, grade 12

“I have always wanted to be an artist. I gravitate to the surreal and enjoy exploring the border between realism and fantasy.”
Young at Art!

Untitled by Aidan Connelly

Little Falls CSD, grade 12
"I drew this using charcoal for a foreshortening project in art class. I chose to draw my bicycle, which I fixed last summer and rode with my brother to my grandpa’s house. Those are happy memories."
“Photographic Memory” by Talie Hanson

Cooperstown CSD, grade 11

“Memory often appears like flashing images in the mind. Memories can also be captured through photography. In this painting, the black and white represents the past and the color represents the present and future. The polaroid strip symbolizes the many times, places, and experiences embedded into my memory.”
“A soul turned grey and dull
His tears still pure as snow
Though men are seen as strong and bold
We are human
We all have stories yet to be told.”
Reflection by Rose Melo
Little Falls CSD, grade 12

“My Grandpa planted a magnolia tree in my front yard when I was a little girl. He taught me of nature and seasons as we waited and waited to finally see the flowers bloom. Every year since, we came to that same spot to see the green seeds transcend into beautiful pink flowers. In the long cold winter months, the tree lays barren with twiggy branches coated in snow. In spring the tree begins to sprout as rain pours down. Summer at last, the tree is in full bloom. Just as quickly, the leaves and flowers fall to the ground in autumn. I learned from the Magnolia that every season is beautiful and there is an inescapable somberness to change. My papa is no longer there standing next to me to watch the seasons change and the falling leaves are a reminder of my loss. Soon, the flowers will bloom again and I know that he will be watching them with me from above.”
First Love by Marlo DeAngelo

Utica CSD, grade 12

“For as long as I remember my grandparents have made homemade raviolis around Christmas time — a tradition of my Italian heritage. This photograph represents my relationship with my grandparents and the long hours of making raviolis and memories together. With the transition of going to college next year, capturing this photograph eases my fear of the future.”
“With this project I wanted Lexie’s memory to live on through art. I used her obituary as well as a picture of her to portray that she still lives on.”
“Sometimes the best memories—the ones that make your heart warm and your chest tingle—start to fade over time. Once you notice tiny fragments of these memories disappearing, it feels as if it is only a matter of time before the memories disappear forever. If only these memories were filmed so that we could watch them over and over again.”
The Promise Land by Brianna Barton
Dolgeville CSD, grade 12

“As I created my piece I thought of how to make it grow. Including book pages, clay, popsicle sticks, wire, string, and lights made this sculpture come to life. The branches symbolize the people that I love. My message for this piece is to cherish every childhood moment that you can, and hold on tight to your memories.”
Tree Swing by Olivia Loomis
Mount Markham CSD, grade 10

“This sculpture depicts a fond memory. When I was younger, I was always outside with my family, playing near the swing on the tree in my yard.”
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Untitled by Hannah Rockwell
Dolgeville CSD, grade 8
Memory by Zooey Bartow
Delaware Academy, grade 6

“My experience of memory consists of lights — memories — shooting towards the brain. These columns light up when memory is being used.

The materials used in the paintings are gesso, pencil, acrylic paint, watercolor, and paint pen. I stretched the canvas and painted this to represent my vision of memory.”
"Like reading a book, memories can be good or bad. Life can be magical... or not."
I GOT IT by Connor McCutcheon
Herkimer CSD, grade 7

“I created this piece from one of my favorite pictures. It was from the first time I successfully wheeled my four-wheeler. This is something I was trying hard to do. I’m glad I could create this piece to reflect one of my best memories. This piece was digitally created using an iPad.”
“This art piece is reminiscent of birthday cakes. Blowing out candles, making a wish, and getting the first piece of cake was one of the most anticipated moments of childhood.”
The Shattered Mind by Kailah Davis
Gilbertsville-Mount Upton CSD, grade 12

“Art has been the central point of my life ever since I was very young. My mom made and sold paintings in order to make extra money and I loved watching her create her pieces. Throughout my life, making art has served not just as a hobby but also as a coping mechanism, a form of personal examination, and a way for me to understand my emotions. I hope to one day become an art therapist.”
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Untitled by Annabelle Monk

Dolgeville CSD, grade 11
“In this drawing I combined my passion for the human body and how it works with my interest in art. For me it conveys memories I have made both in the classroom and on the court, and those I will continue to make as I pursue a career in medicine.”
“I spend most of my time with my horses. This photograph was taken early in the morning before exercising one of my horses. It is crazy how my favorite memories come back when I look at photographs from those mornings. They remind me of passion and dedication.”
“My most cherished memories are late nights with my family and friends. The gold in the mirror looking back represents how the greatest memories are even more golden looking back.”

Nothing Gold Can Stay by Matthew Verri
Little Falls CSD, grade 9
“My painting reminds us not to forget those who died fighting for our country. When kneeling, we remember the people who knew the risks that came with fighting but still sacrificed their lives to make the world a better place for us to live in.”
Unseen by Matthew Golden
Utica CSD, grade 11

“My work explores a battle between the body and the mind. What starts out as a feeling of self-revelation and truth soon becomes debased into a sense of loneliness and exhaustion. Overall this work symbolizes the experience and memories of being looked at but not truly being seen.”
"This drawing was made to represent how memory is shaped by events in time. It shows my house, the weight of time on me, and more."
The importance of this painting is the memory of my father. When I was younger, my father welded me a metal swing. It was uncomfortable — it was only about four inches wide — yet it had my name engraved on it. Although my dad was not around much, I still swung on the swing because I was so grateful that he had made that swing for me.“
“My sister and I are two years apart, but we might as well be twins. When we were younger we would put on our plastic heels and princess dresses and stomp around the house. This graphite rendering expresses a core memory I have of me and my sister. I am who I am because of my family. As I grow older, I realize that our memories help to define us and continue to shape who we are.”
"I made this barn as a replica of my old barn. The same barn that my father built up from ruins into this castle for our animals. Inside our little barn was every animal and personality that you can think of. Mostly goats, some bunnies, chickens, ducks, cows, and Cat. I remember the smell of manure, hay, and grain. I remember going into the barn at 7 sharp, washing buckets and getting the goats into their milking stands. I remember trying to keep up with mom as she filled a bucket to the brim in 3 minutes, while I was still trying to figure out the fastest, best way to do it. I remember when I actually started to get good. My mom released the milking chores to me while she found loads more to clean and feed. But it was not work for me because I would rather be in that old barn shoveling poop than doing anything else. But mostly from that barn, I remember the beautiful, huge, mysterious creature that stood in the stall. His name was Cat. My parents traded their new refrigerator to get me this gentle giant. A beautiful American Paint with the sweetest personality, but would not wait to buck you off as soon as you started to feel uncomfortable on his back. That was the thing, he taught me how to ride instead of being afraid. I remember the four-hour long rides of me laying on him in the pasture, relaxing and at peace. The trust I had in this huge, unpredictable creature is a core memory that I will never lose. Every time I look at this barn, I look at my old life. The barn is long gone now that we sold the property. It was torn down to install a useless intersection for the traffic that the old town in Oklahoma did not have. But the memories of this barn will never die, even though it is not there anymore and Cat has long passed on. I will still think about that place every day until I see Cat standing in my barn inside of his stall again."
Reminiscent by Niamh Casey
Central Valley CSD, grade 8

“This painting is inspired by three famous works of art. One of the happiest moments of a young artist’s life is a visit to a museum. Wandering around the museum and discovering art pieces for the first time is truly amazing. This adventure makes you realize the possibilities ahead!”
“My Teal Truck is made of clay slabs. I cut the slabs with a carving tool using drawn paper blueprints. After it was fired, I painted it with acrylic paints to get the colors just right. I made Teal Truck in response to the theme of memory because that’s my baby. It’s coming back — I’ve already spent five grand on it. It was my very first truck.”
“We all have one memory we want to hold on to forever. Mine is about a little girl named Thumbelina. This story inspired me to create this sculpture, because I remember when my mom would read this story to me almost every night and it never got old.”
Award For Outstanding Participation presented to
Senator Donovan Middle School, Utica CSD
85 student entries coordinated by Ms. Jessica Pasqualicchio

*Child Dreams* by Eric Gay
Donovan Middle School, grade 8

“The art I drew from memories, dreams, and experiences jumbled up into one mess. I dreamt of dinosaurs, school, and unknown figures. I had a memory of a big butterfly. All the art is a piece of my life.”

*Untitled* by Sher Tee Mwee Soe Henderson
Donovan Middle School, grade 8

“I drew an airplane because I remember when I moved to America on a plane.”
Meet our Judges

A professional fine artist, Andrea House finds inspiration in the lush beauty of the local landscapes. Using oil paints on wood panels with photographs, memory, and process as guides, she recreates encounters with nature. The paintings are built up slowly in layers and become progressively more detailed. Attention to line, color, and light keep the pictures rooted in representational imagery, while active brushwork and emphasis on abstract patterns invite the eye to linger and the mind to wander.

Andrea (Andie) Alban is a professionally trained illustrator and is the current course instructor for the Visual Communications and Media Technology class at ONC BOCES in Milford, NY. Andie’s work is focused on traditional illustration as well as graphic design, specifically logos, advertising, and marketing design. In her free time, Andie enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, spending time with family and friends, and acting.
Meet our Judges

Jonathan Pincus has exhibited his artwork in numerous venues in the U.S. and abroad. He has authored art education curricula for NYU and the NYC Department of Education, and in February 2020, was invited to be the Keynote Speaker and present the Regional Scholastic Awards at the K12 Tejas Cultural Arts Organization in Dayton, Ohio. A classically trained professional artist, he divides his time between an active studio art practice, university teaching, and research on the use of art in medical humanities. He was awarded fellowships at The Macy Institute at Harvard University, The Stanford University Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE) and has an MFA cum laude from The New York Academy of Art. Additionally, Jonathan studied at The Ecole des Beaux Arts, L’Academie de la Grande Chaumiere, the Warburg Library and British Library Incunabula collection. He has copied old master paintings and drawings at The Metropolitan Museum and the Louvre. Prior to moving back to New York, Jonathan was the Artist-in-Residence at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and taught a variety of classes at Wright State University and The University of Dayton.

Participate

Please feel encouraged to contact Michelle Bosma, Manager of Youth Programs, to learn more about participating in Young at Art!

Michelle Bosma, Manager of Youth Programs
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