



Nature and Me

The 2022 International Art Portfolio

“It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement: the greatest source of visual beauty, the greatest source of intellectual interest, the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living.

....We need to learn how to work with nature rather than against it.”

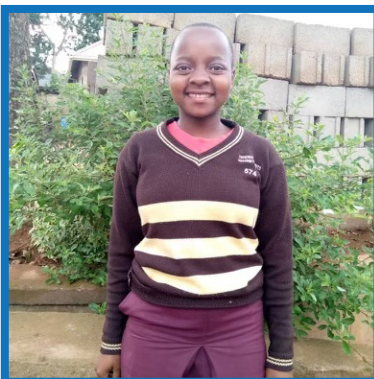
David Attenborough, ‘A Life on Our Planet’, 2020

This year we asked ArtLink students to create pieces of art to exchange with their international peers that captured the interrelationship between their natural surroundings and their own daily lives.

This portfolio showcases a thought-provoking sampling of the many hundreds of art pieces created by young artists from 18 countries. We hope you will enjoy their creativity and insights.



Collecting Firewood, Hasitah, age 14



"In my piece, I am collecting firewood. It takes place in the forest. I am on my way back home with the firewood. I am illustrating domestic work. Nature is included in my piece in that there are trees, a river and wild animals in the background. I live harmoniously with nature.

In order to preserve nature, I plant trees.

I like music and dislike gossiping. When I complete my studies, I want to be a lawyer"



I'm Changing The World For The Better, Eugenia, age 13

"My painting shows an exhibition hall with paintings. Two girls in the picture restoring the pictures in frames. They paint over the spoiled, dirty, abandoned world and paint the land where people care about the surrounding nature.

I am illustrating how everyone can help to restore nature and our ecology in different ways.

I love my parents and my little sister. I like to participate in contests and school activities. For now, I study art at school and try my best to participate in all of the events. I'm not sure what I will be in the future."



Jungle Girl, Evelina, age 10

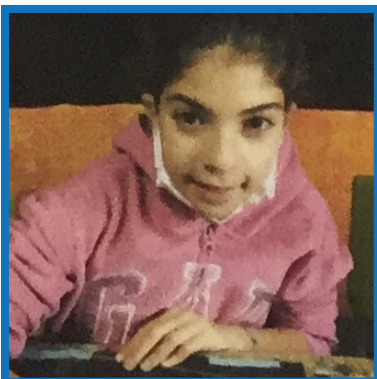
*"I am in my piece. I am dreaming that I am in the jungle and made friends with a dove.
It is important for people and animals to be friends.*

*In my spare time I love to be in nature and clean the environment.
I preserve nature by not littering and recycling.*

*I like unicorns, recycling and pasta. I dislike broccoli, science and flies.
When I grow up, I want to become a nursery teacher, singer and a vet."*



Air Pollution, Hanlade, age 9



"There are mountains in the background but there are no trees. There are lots of factories and cars that are causing lots of air pollution. People have to wear masks because the air quality is so bad.

I am illustrating the cause and effect of air pollution. I want to stop air pollution so that we can preserve nature.

I love dogs and dislike bananas. I want to be an architect when I grow up."



Fishing and Hunting, Oluwatomi, age 10



"There are three people in the scene, including me. We are at the seaside where a hunter is trying to shoot a bird and a fisherman is fishing. I was admiring how smart the birds were to fly away.

I preserve nature by planting trees, allowing wildlife to survive and building animal orphanages.

My humble nuclear family is hard working and very responsible. My parents make sure we have a good education. I like playing with friends and meeting new people of color. I don't like roaches and untidy environments. I want to become a successful banker when I grow up."



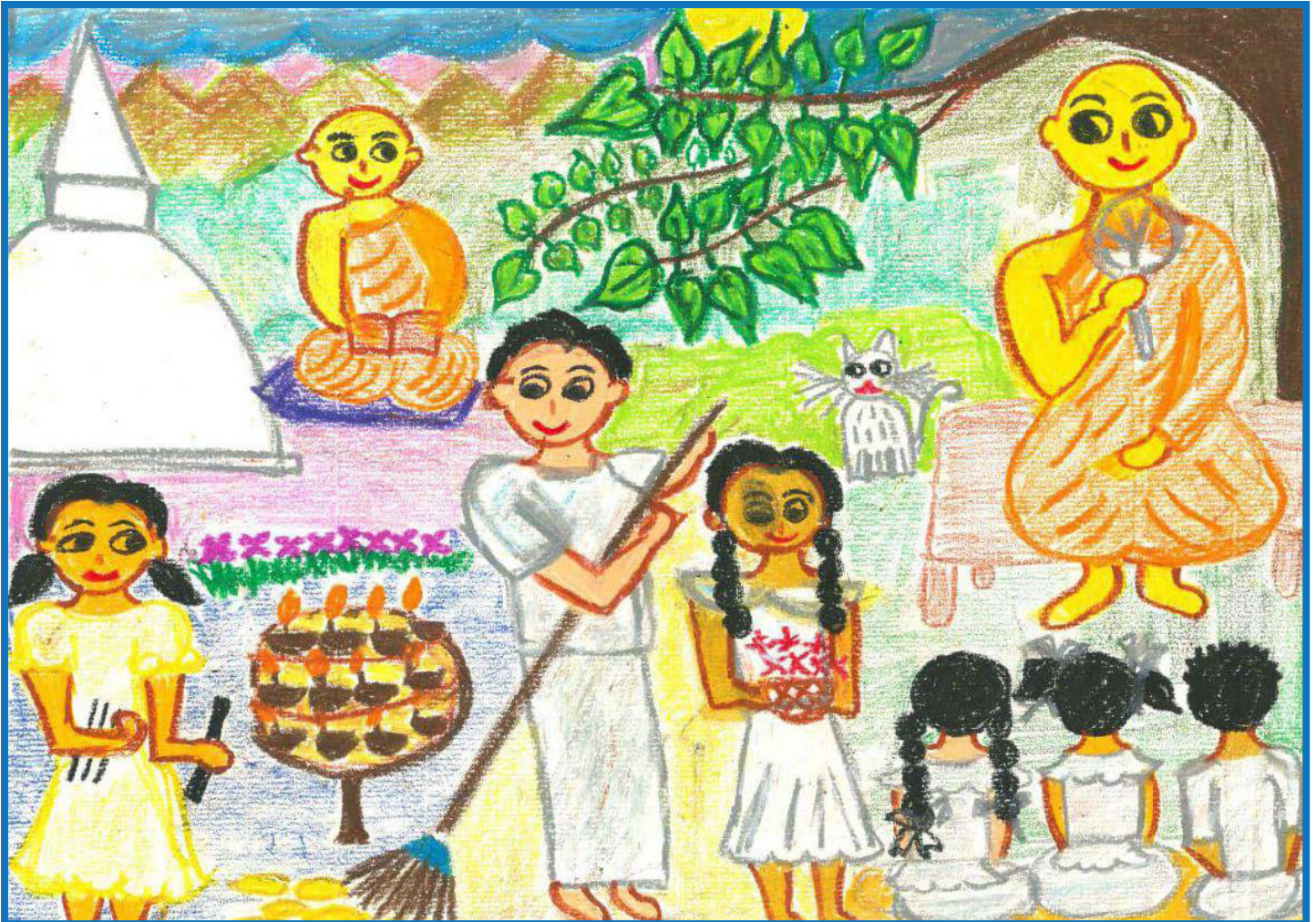
The Columns Street in Jerash, Nour, age 15

"You can see the columns and behind them there are the buildings and houses of Jerash. You can also see the beauty of the sunset behind the city. The light gives a beautiful color to the stones and buildings.

The columns were built in 7500-5500 BC. They have great historical importance to my country. There were thousands of columns in the city but because of natural disasters, like earthquakes, there are only 71 columns left.

*I usually babysit for my brother but when I have free time I draw, watch anime or help my sister.
My likes are drawing, reading and having fun with my family. My dislikes are sleeping until noon and summer time.*

I want to pursue my interests in art and someday become a great fashion designer."



Peace Of A Religion, Esandi, age 7



"The elder Buddhist priest is preaching Buddhism and the children are listening. The younger Buddhist priest is learning Buddhism. A boy is sweeping the ground of the temple, one girl is offering flowers and another girl is lighting incense sticks at the temple.

The peace, patience and happiness offered by a religion are showcased in my artwork. The bo-tree is worshiped by the Buddhists as a religious emblem which helped Lord Buddha to become enlightened.

I water the plants and speak to them to grow.

I like to sing and cuddle with my parents. I don't like to fight and eat junk food. When I grow up I would like to be a lecturer, a singer and a chess champion too."



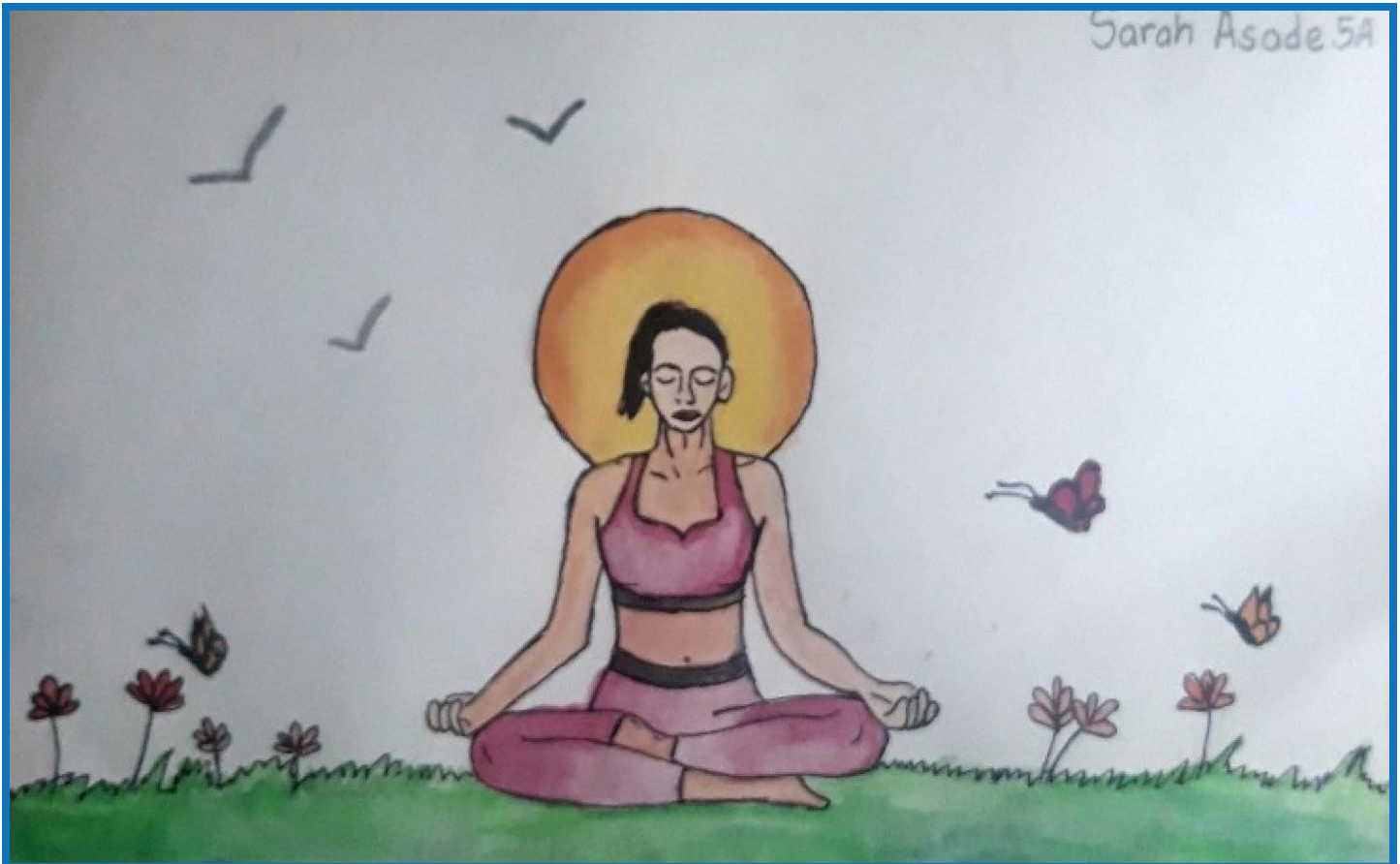
Planting Trees, Mutheu, age 11



"My mother and I are planting trees.

Trees are good for the environment. The trees that we plant give us fruit to eat. By planting trees, it helps prevent soil erosion.

I like honesty and I dislike theft. I want to be a farmer when I grow up and plant crops."



Nature and Me, Sarah, age 10

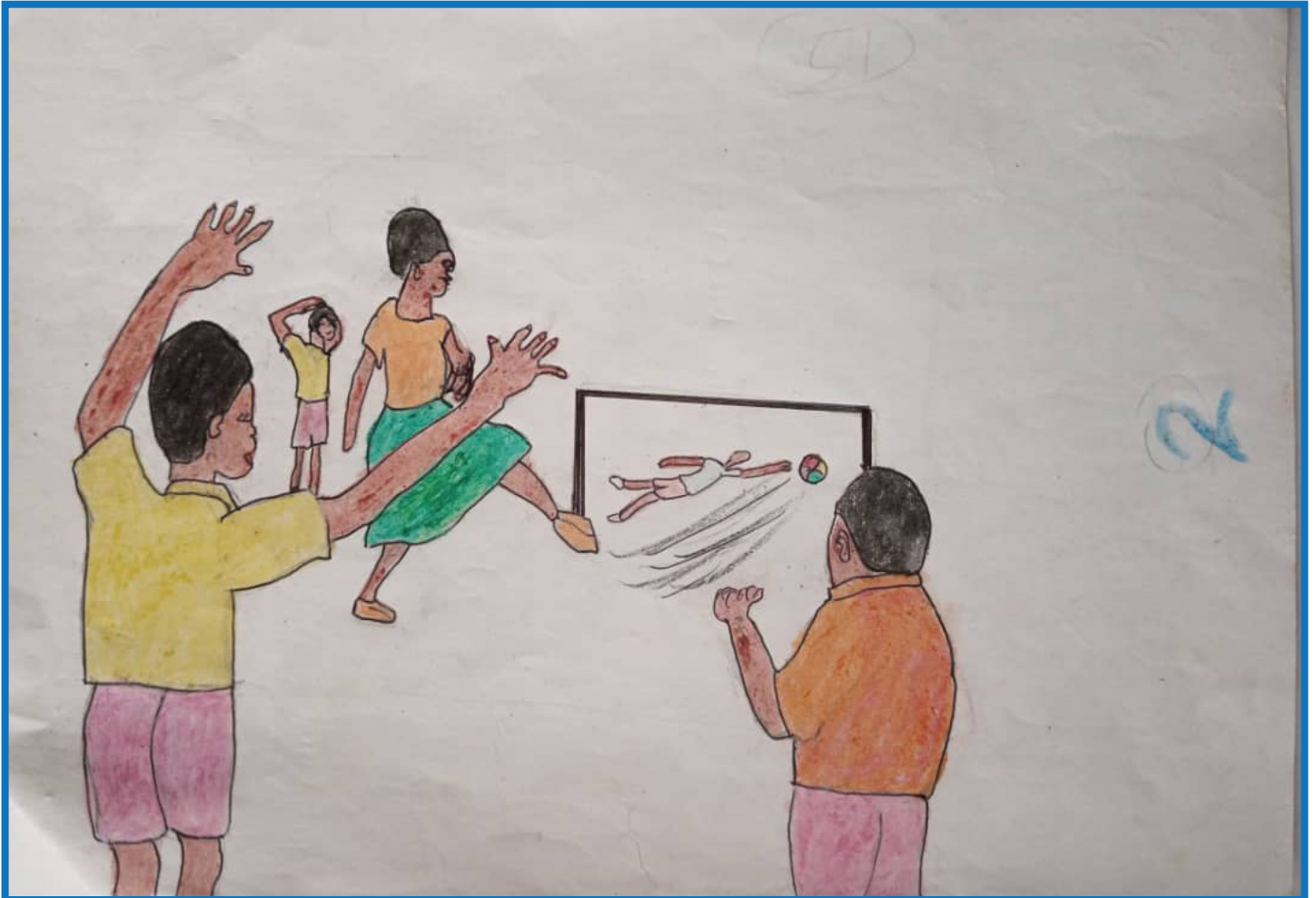


"There is a girl doing yoga in lush green grass at sunrise. The fresh air and peaceful setting improves her physical and mental health.

I can help preserve the environment by planting trees, using less plastic and throwing trash in the dust bins.

I like to paint or make miniature things. I love basketball, sketching and singing. I don't like untidiness and chaos.

I want to be an architect when I grow up."



Soccer, Paulina, age 10

"In my picture, I am playing soccer with the boys in my school. I am the girl wearing the green skirt who kicked the soccer ball and scored a goal.

The value that I am depicting is gender equality. I can play soccer just as well as the boys.

In my free time I like to listen to music. I also like to play soccer."



Rainy Days, Sarah, age 8

"I'm jumping in puddles. I am illustrating my love for nature. I preserve nature by simply breathing. It helps to feed the trees.

I like getting wet and I dislike cats. I don't know what I want to be when I grow up. I'm too young to know."

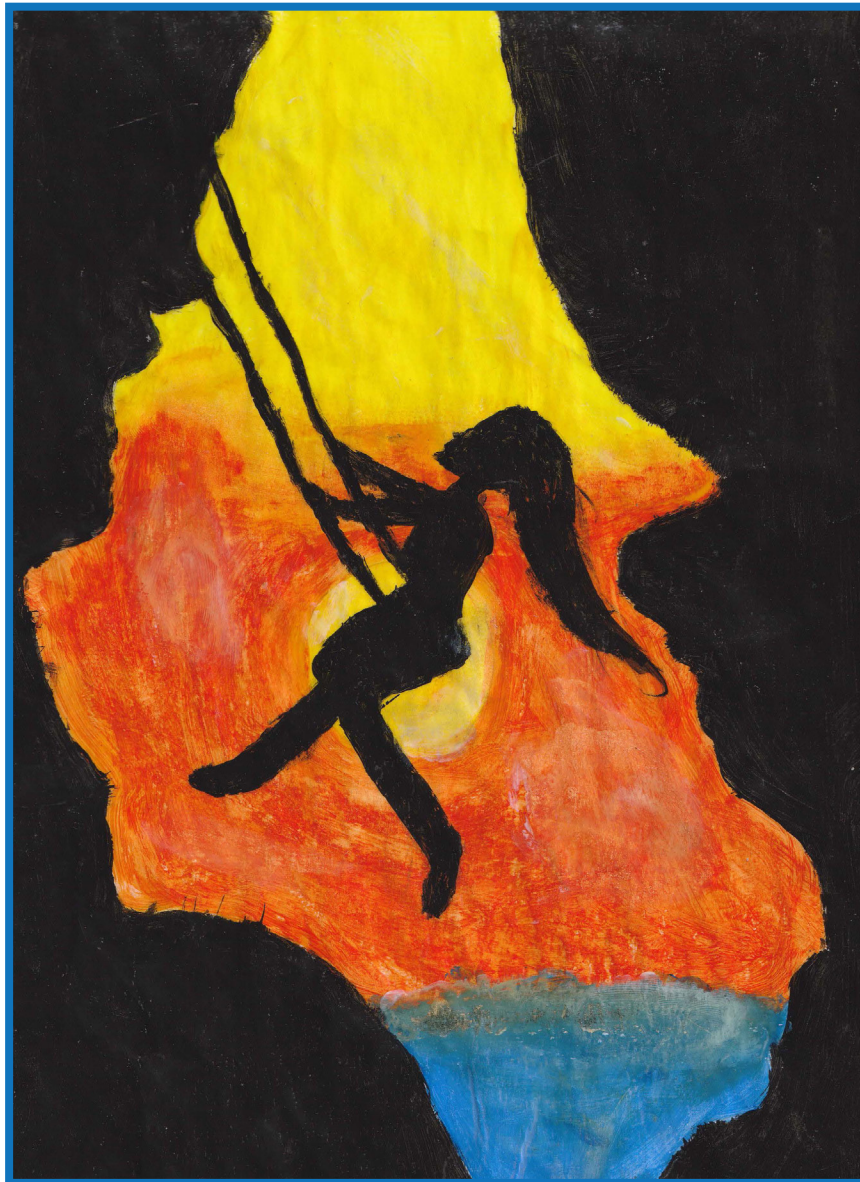


Playing with Plastic, Karlina, age 14



"There is a small child looking at her toys. She is not playing with them but rather contemplating how the toys are made. In my piece, I am illustrating how nature is used to destroy nature by mankind. In my artwork, nature is in the background but the girl is oblivious to it."

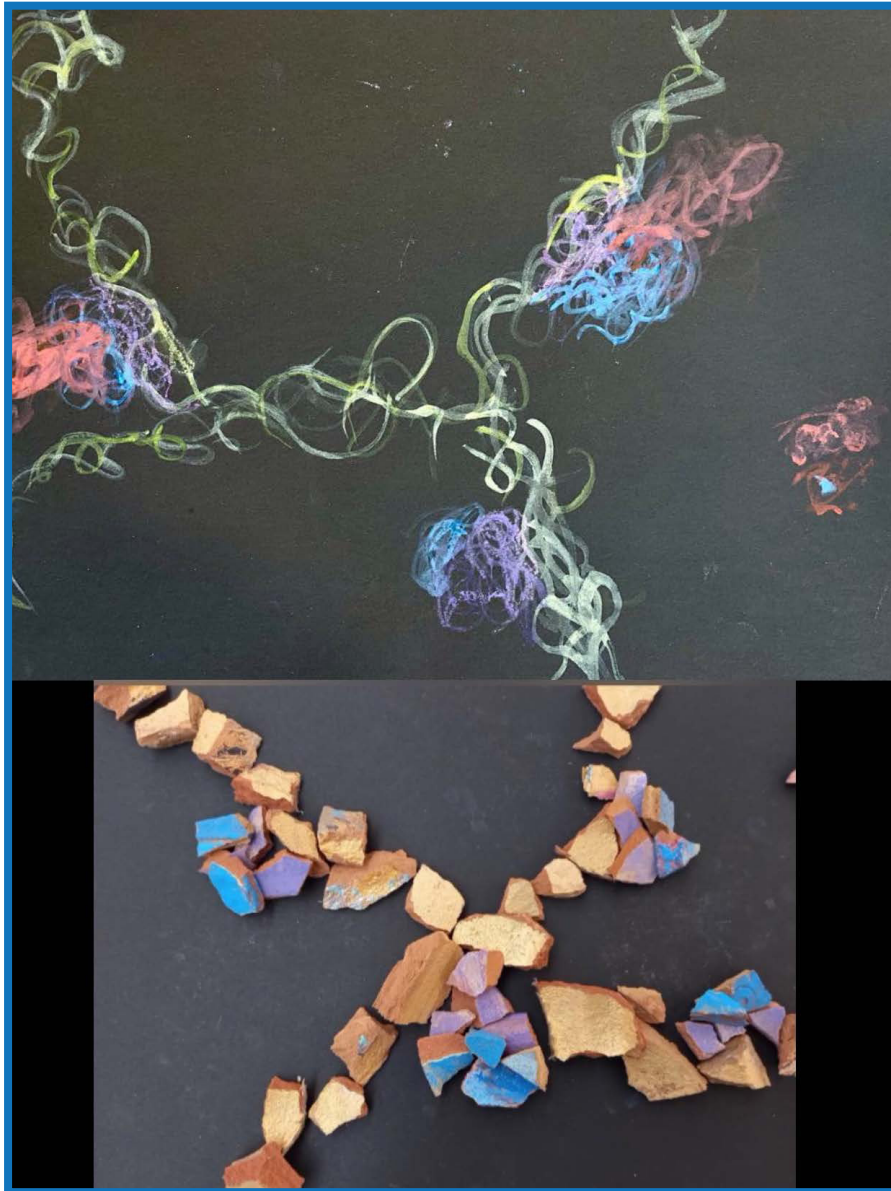
"My family enjoys playing board games together. In my free time I enjoy playing chess, reading and hiking. I want to be a marine biologist when I grow up and help save the planet."



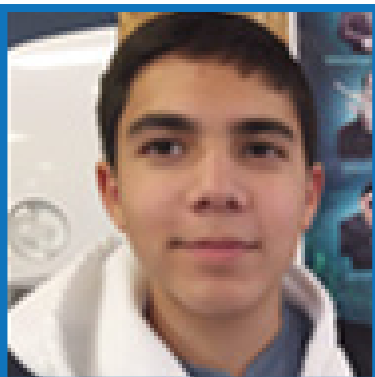
The Life of Living, Theresa, age 16

"My peace is represented by my love for living life as it is. This piece resembles joy and peace above water and below it. The values that I am illustrating is how important peace of mind is and loving earth. My piece shows that we need to care and love the environment.

I live with my mom and two sisters. I'm the youngest. I love to read and write in my free time. I like singing and I dislike people who bully. I want to be a doctor when I grow up."



Order by Tears, Daniel, age 14



"I tried to capture something I noticed in nature. With every time a creature eats another in nature, it seems to us as "more cruel" and competing, but in terms of energy in the biosphere, it gets only more organized and ordered.

Nature is always there...however we see it. My relationship to nature is indirect. All I know is that the balance remains; nature gives, nature takes.

I keep reducing, reusing, recycling, and whenever I'm traveling, I never leave a grain of trash behind.

I can't stand inefficiency, it's my life mission to make systems more efficient. I want the school systems to be more efficient and not a waste of time."



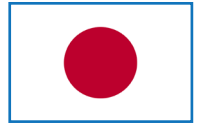
Beach Cleanup, Amie, age 9



*"In my piece, I am on the beach cleaning garbage off of the sand.
Every day my family and I come to the beach.*

*I am illustrating the importance of keeping our environment clean. I
preserve nature by picking up trash.*

*I like the beach but I don't like the trash. When I grow up, I want to be an
artist and my goal is to travel to every beach I know."*



My Youth Today, Hinano, age 15



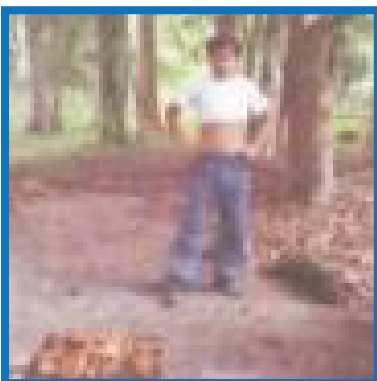
"I would like to express that nature will be inherited from the present to the future by painting a blue sky, airplane, and a girl."

I am illustrating that nature should be preserved so that all may benefit in the future. Cherry blossoms are a big part of nature in Japan. I love and respect nature.

Sometimes I play games with my two brothers, but it's difficult for me. I like tomatoes and I dislike cheese and beans. I would like to be an illustrator, as my side job, when I grow up."



Working With My Dad, Eliseo, age 13



"In my scene, I am at the mountain helping my dad to get wood to build a house. The environment where I live has many trees and animals.

The value I am depicting is the importance of working to help our families. To help preserve the environment in my community, I do not litter.

In my free time, I go to the forest. When I grow up, I would like to be a policeman."



Taking A Walk, Emma, age 13



"I am walking in the woods, listening to music on my headphones all while enjoying the nature around me. I am illustrating my love of music and nature.

*In my picture there is a bunny rabbit, trees and birds flying around.
In order to preserve nature, I recycle at home.*

*I hate Kit Kats (chocolate candy) and I love my pets.
I want to become a doctor when I grow up."*