SOLEBURY SCHOOL

FINE ARTS NEWSLETTER

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

WORK FROM THE STUDIOS

OCTOBER 2025

FALL TRIMESTER

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COVER IMAGE: LILA PALLESEN, AP ART
THIS PAGE: NURI SMITH, THIS MONTH'S FEATURED STUDENT

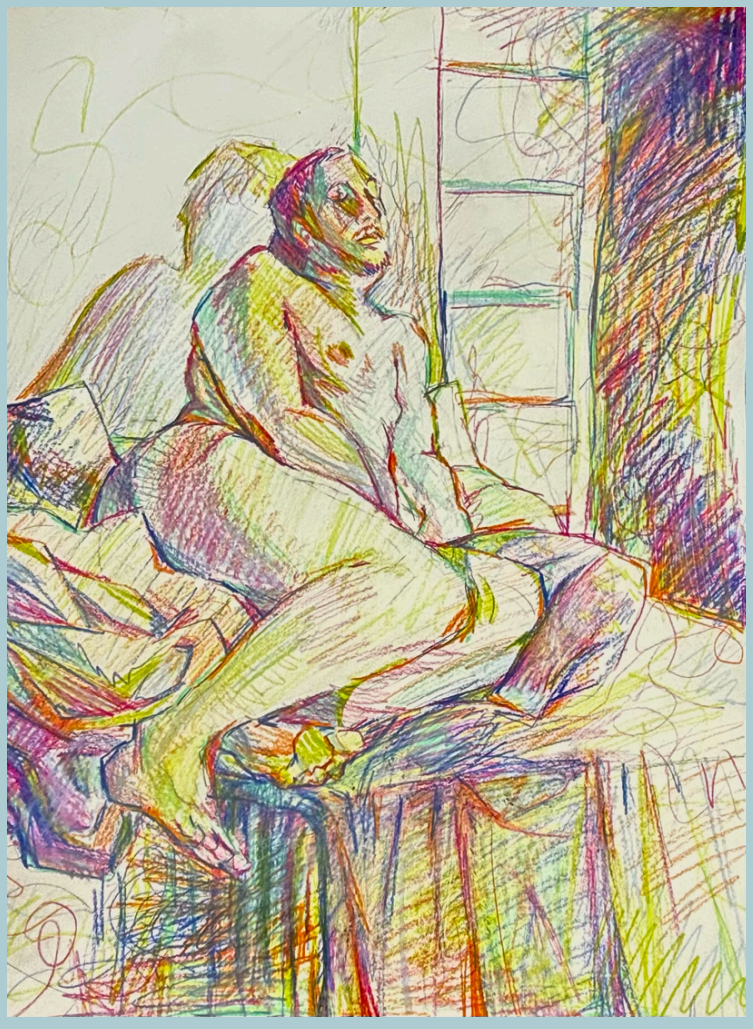
FROM THE EDITOR

How do you engage your audience?

It's a question at the center of every creative process. We've all seen visitors wander through galleries, glancing briefly at the walls. But what makes someone stop—really stop—and connect with a work of art? What makes a short film hold attention through the final frame, or even invite a second viewing?

Creating work that truly captivates requires curiosity, skill, and thoughtful intention. Our students have been exploring these "tools of engagement," experimenting with composition, movement, and meaning.

We invite you to spend time with their work and experience how each piece reaches out to engage its viewer.



HEIDI TORGERSEN, AP ART

AP ART

CHLOE FLETCHER

"I made this piece to practice drawing backgrounds and scenes. I want to go into illustration and make comics and children's books, so this is an important thing to practice. I hope to get better at this in the future. I had a lot of fun making this and my favorite part was either the pigeons or the light. Thanks for looking at my piece!"

ALI HARRIS

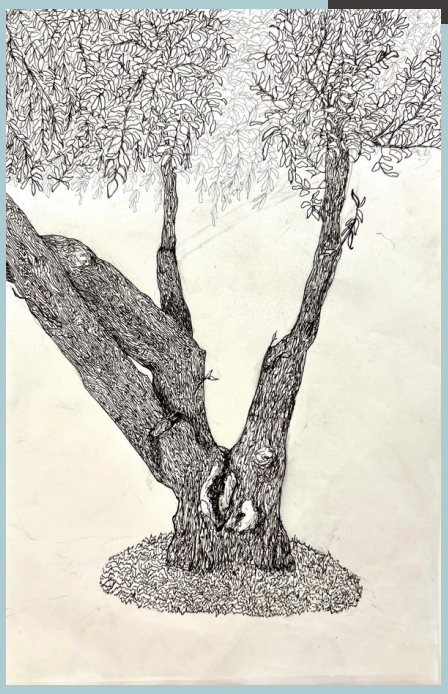
"The idea for my AP portfolio is... complicated. And pretty hard to explain. I think that this piece in particular is exemplary of intense human emotion - something that is very dear to me, and also essential to the collection of works I hope to create. Thing is, I also want it to be kind of funny, or puzzling; What's happening? Why's this guy a weird red star, and why is there neon green in the background, and why does the other guy look so sad, and why does it say MI-RAGE? I wish to utilize colors, but also words alongside them in a way that can be taken both emotionally and almost stupidly. Part of my goal is to explore human social-emotional feelings without being too obvious or psychoanalytical, and to lack any empiricism whatsoever. This is kind of strange!
If there's a lens through which you feel this within you, I'd encourage you to take it with a bit of sardonicism as well."

MISCHA LOKHANDWALA

"The art that I create is centered around translating a feeling into something larger. I explore themes of my own mental health and try to translate them into my art to start conversations and better connect with my community. I draw some of my main inspiration from artists such as Tillie Walden, J. C. Leyendecker, as well as Hokusai. I mainly dabble in graphite, pen & ink, and colored pencils. You'll probably find me somewhere down in the art department, most often hunched over a new project."

AP ART

LILA PALLESEN



Although I don't intend to pursue art in college, I do always want to engage with it in some respect. My project for AP is centered around solitude and drawing subjects in isolation.

OLIVIA SMITH

For my AP Art portfolio, I am exploring the intersection of religion and sexuality. I'm experimenting with painting and other mediums I haven't used in the past, such as gold leaf. I am studying different works of religious art, from catholic iconography to medieval illumination. I wanted to explore things that are uncomfortable. This particular piece is about incest in the church. In college, I want to pursue music production and songwriting, as well as continuing my visual arts journey and hopefully making a graphic novel some day.

FI PUGH

"I plan to minor in some form of art. Possibly pursue art history. But I am still deciding what I want to do. I hope to continue art all throughout college though :)"

AP ART

HEIDI TORGERSON

“This piece is about figurative rebirth and the people who support me. This is one of my many portfolio pieces I've been working on outside and in AP art! The piece itself was created on my iPad Pro with Apple Pencil in Ibis Paint. It took around 9 hours (all hand-drawn). It will also be part of my AP Portfolio with the theme of angels I've been working on.”

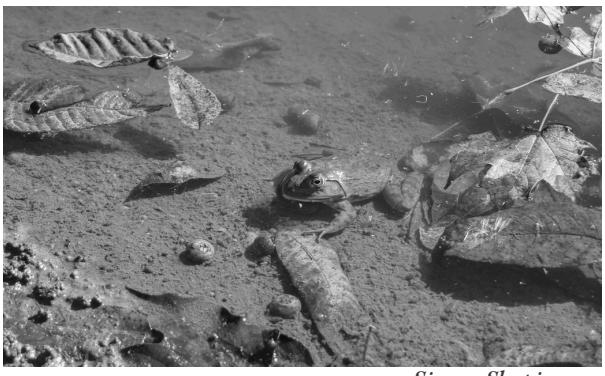
SLOAN MILES ~ ADVANCED INDEPENDENT STUDY STUDY

advanced photography

The Advanced Digital students were sent on a visual treasure hunt in the pretty riverside village of Stockton. Equipped with their cameras, they had to find an old clock, a rusty object, take a portrait of a local, and capture an interesting window and reflection. Their findings were very beautiful and interesting and demonstrated how great these students are at capturing even the most mundane or overlooked of objects, filtering them with their creative mind's eye and recreating something unseen.

Kailey Goldberg

Kailey Goldberg



Sienna Shapiro

Sienna Shapiro

Harper Hara

Harper Hara

advanced photography

Sadie Morgan-Kendall

Sadie Morgan-Kendall

Sierra Cohen

Sierra Cohen

Obie Taylor

Obie Taylor

advanced photography

Katherine McIntosh

Katherine McIntosh

Pierce Clavert

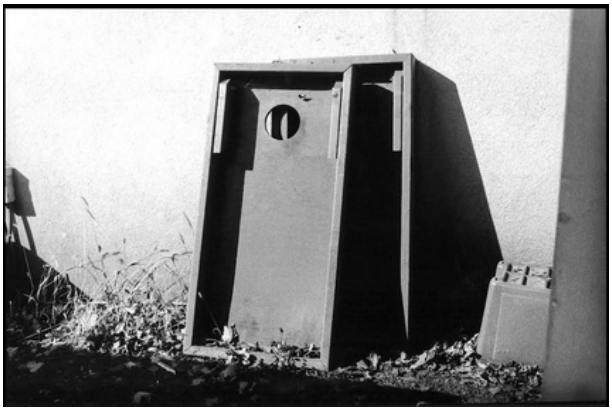
Pierce Clavert

featured student

When we, as photographers, light our subject, we have to ask ourselves how much do we really observe light & shadow together and their symbiotic relationship. Sometimes we forget the role that light plays in our subject matter, and that, at times, the subject is not the most important object in the photo; sometimes it is the intensity of the light and the diametric shadow created by the former.

Nuri Smith's 35mm film work from her Photo II class demonstrates beautifully the aesthetic relationship between light and shadow. Her use of composition, negative space, and cropping highlights perfectly the art of selection and creative decision-making when painting with black, white, and grayscale.

Enjoy her work on the following page:

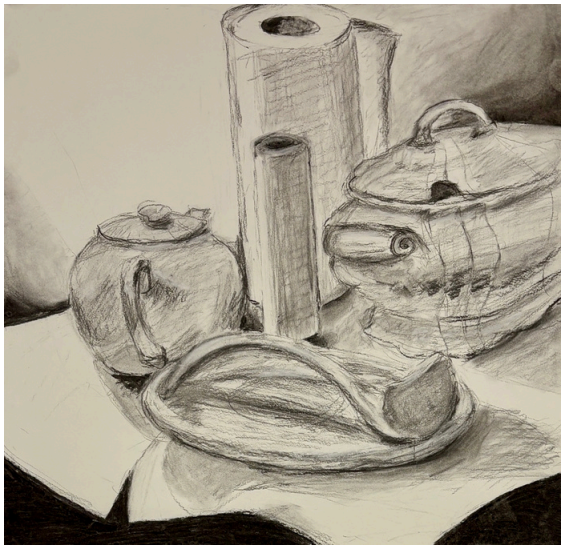


intermediate painting & drawing

Omar Reed

Glenn Clausen

Key Gottlieb



Liv Price

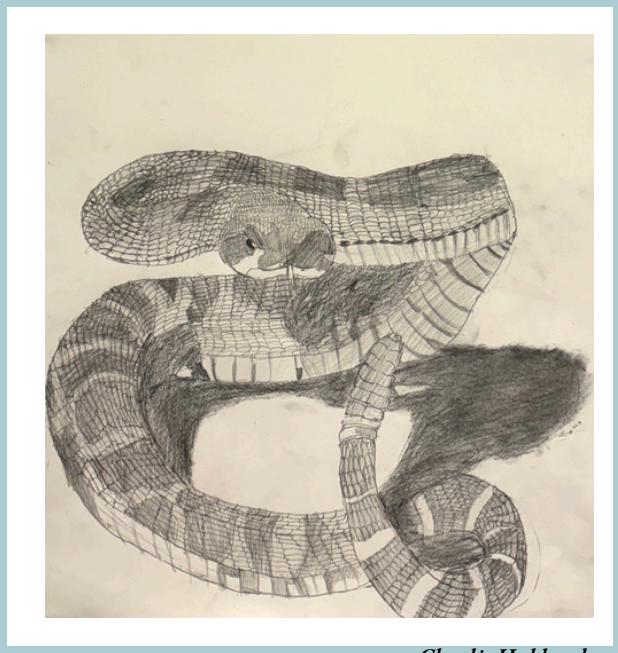
Blake Shpigel

Charlie Hubbard

Omar Reed

intermediate painting & drawing

Nico Downie



Charlie Hubbard

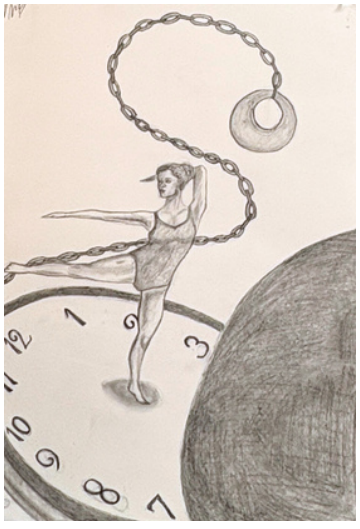
Adela Dong

Gabi Ruiz

advanced painting & drawing

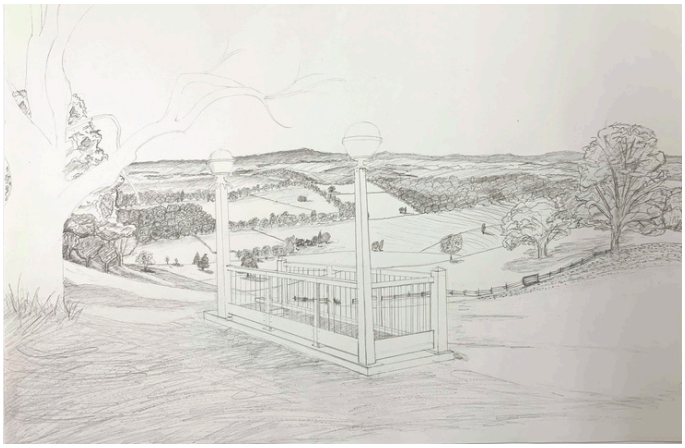
Mavis Wang

Bella Lopez



Vivienne Bickett

Rye Dunham



Caelan Costello

Maddox Bilt

advanced painting & drawing

Maya Groch

Nahid Karimi

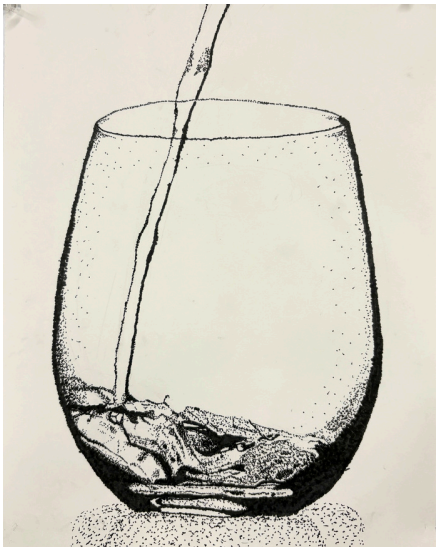
Paige Mussolino

Eryn Starke

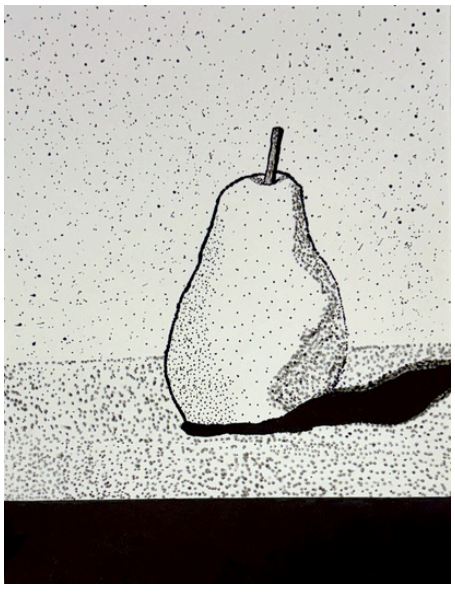
foundations of art

Olivia Joseph

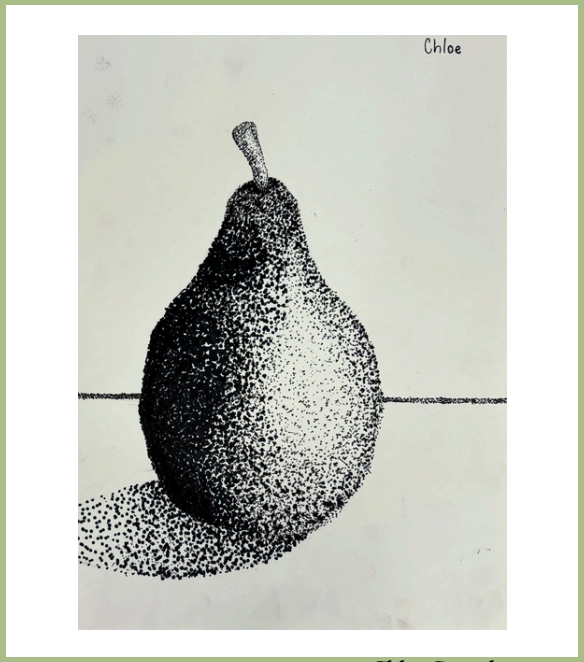
Shay Proctor



Clem Zimmer

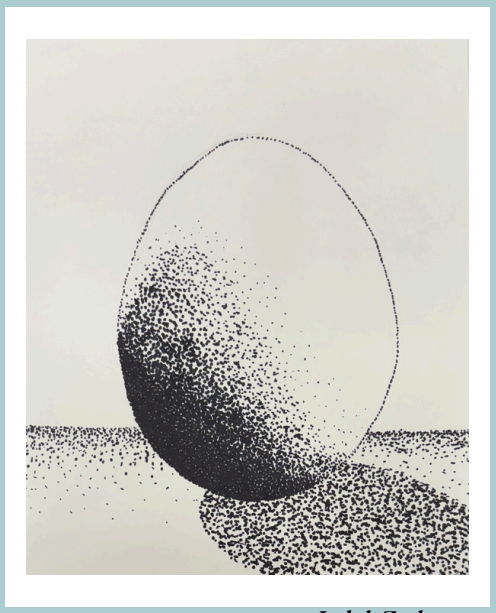


Jocelyn Freer



Chloe Coppola

Jack Breeland



Judah Zaslow

foundations of art