

# THE POPPY



Volume 4. 2025

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## Editor's Note

We are honored to present this edition of The Poppy Magazine, a student-led publication supported by the Art Department at Ramallah Friends School. This magazine serves as a platform for our talented students to share their artistic voices and creative expressions.

At a time when our Palestinian community continues to face hardship and uncertainty, the importance of self expression becomes even more essential. Art gives us the space to process, reflect, and communicate what often cannot be said aloud. It allows us to hold on to our identity and express our resilience.

Within these pages, you will find a collection of our students' artworks that speak to personal stories, cultural identity, and emotional experiences. Whether through painting, photography, or other forms of art, each piece offers insight into the perspectives and inner worlds of our student artists.

We are thankful to every student who shared their work. Your voice matters and we hope you continue to create and inspire!

—Marissa Ackall, Senior Art Editor

### Senior Art Editor

Marissa Ackall

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Xowan Alsharif

### Faculty Supervisor

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## Canvas of Culture

Hana Shqairat, Staff Writer

*Every brush stroke an event,  
Twisting and turning,  
What could it present?  
What are we learning?*

*Colors of fabric,  
Hues of embroidery,  
As though you have it  
In your hands, physically.*

*Lines diverge and converge,  
Telling a tale of people  
Whose lives reemerge  
Along the canvas, incredible.*

*Whispers of culture  
Strings of memory and destiny  
A child and a mother  
Embracing tenderly*

*Reflections of a value and a voice  
Revived, on a lens or brush  
Here they rejoice  
No longer suppressed with a hush*

*Beneath my fingertips, I find  
A force of freedom and vivacity  
Art and heritage intertwined  
Flowing as the waves of the sea*

*In every touch, in each space  
Individuality depicted  
Struggle and glory painted, never to  
be displaced  
And never to be constricted*

*A smile reminisced, once static  
There, in the contrast  
Beaming again, electric  
Restored, at long last*



Nada Musleh, The Souls Dwelling

12th Grade

Oil

The Soul's Dwelling represents a lively and soothing living room where a family spends time together, it's the soul of a home and the source of warmth. It is based on the idea that a home can still be considered comfortable even when it's small and cluttered.



Lamar Zaher

11th Grade

Acrylic

Technical study of Henri Matisse

Yellow Cat Playing with Water





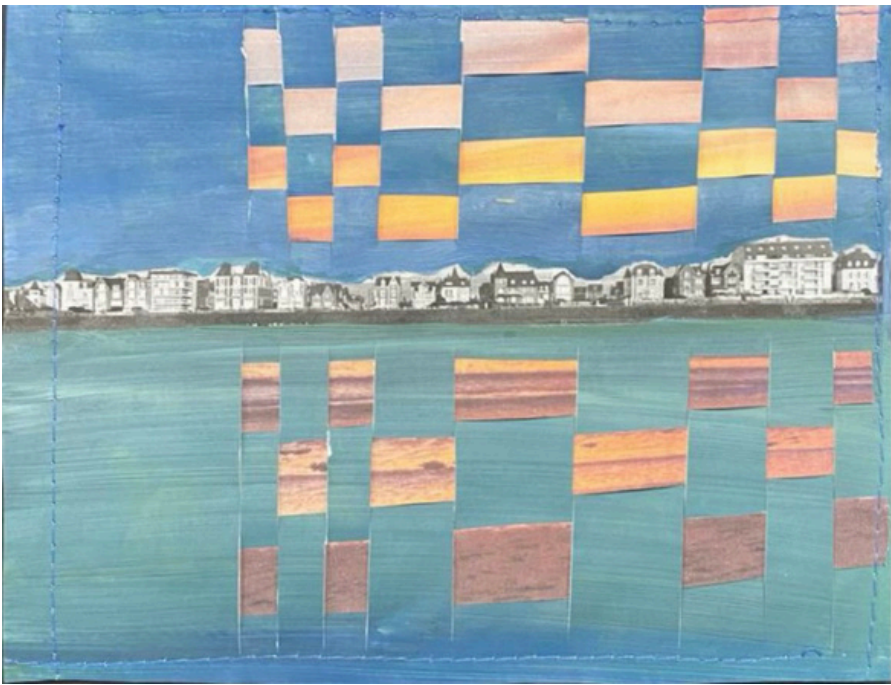
**Nicole Ackall, Birthday Party**

12th Grade

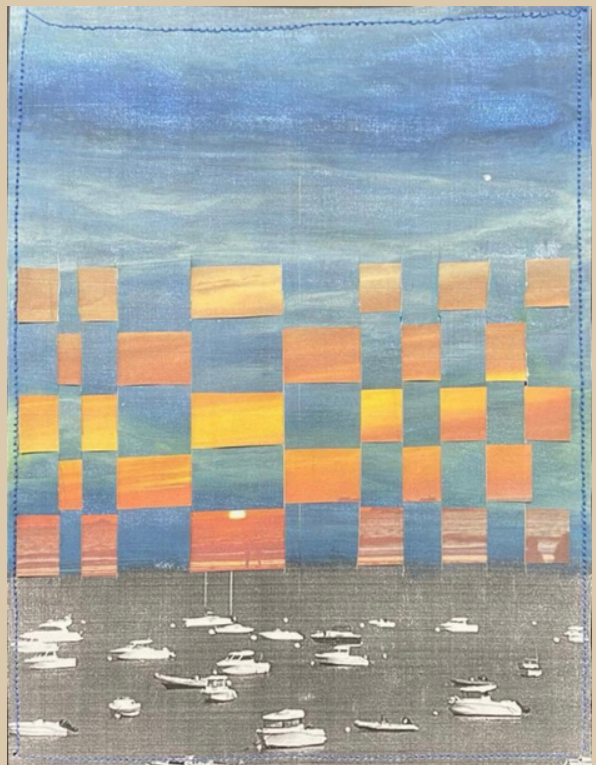
Acrylic

“Birthday Party” entails a narrative of continuous change, belonging, and hope. By connecting elements of nostalgia, the present and the future, I am able to interpret the constant pressure of growing older as a teenage girl, while simultaneously showcasing hope of a delightful future. While it might be hard to adapt to this constant change, in our bodies, minds, and self, it is also a beautiful thing. It is simply an image of my state of mind with both frustration and hope.





Maram Eltibi, Sunset Collection  
12th Grade  
Mixed Media







**Nejwa Aker, Nights Like This**

12th Grade

Chalk Pastel

Everyone has a moment or multiple ones in their life where it feels like a total dream and you want it to last forever. It keeps you awake at night thinking about it, smiling while recalling the feelings, thoughts, and the scenery itself of these moments.





Dalia Khoury

11th Grade

Acrylic

Technical study of Brenda Ferguson, An Apple a Day



Taj Shinanah

11th Grade

Acrylic

Technical study of Vincent Van Gogh, Vase  
with Irises Against a Yellow Background



Laial Habil

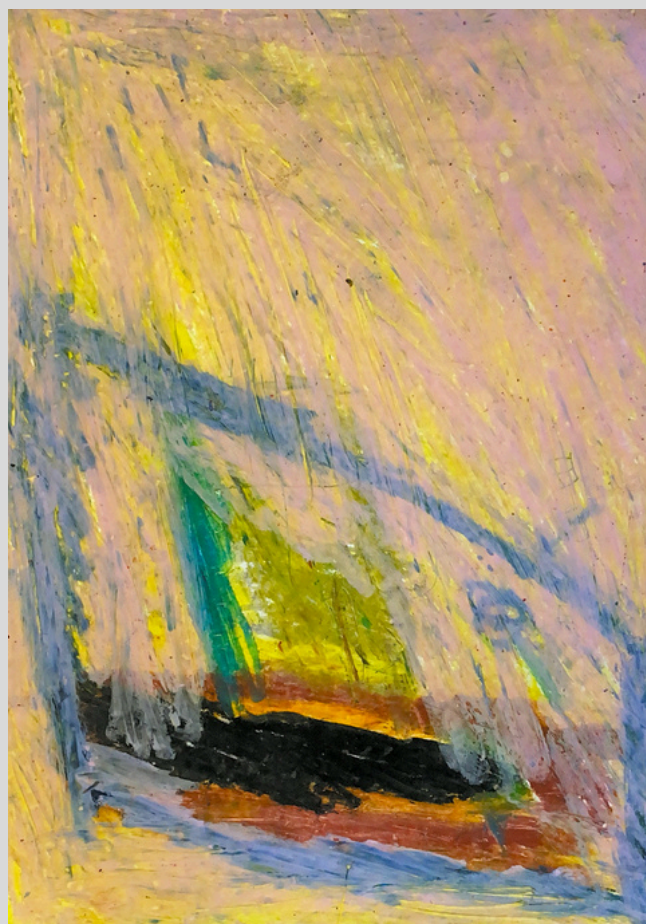
8th Grade

Oil





Amar Nour  
12th Grade  
Acrylic



Abed Al-Muttaieb Arafat  
12th Grade  
Oil Pastel



Seleen Darwish  
12th Grade  
Colored pencils





Tariq Ghazawi, Al-Manara

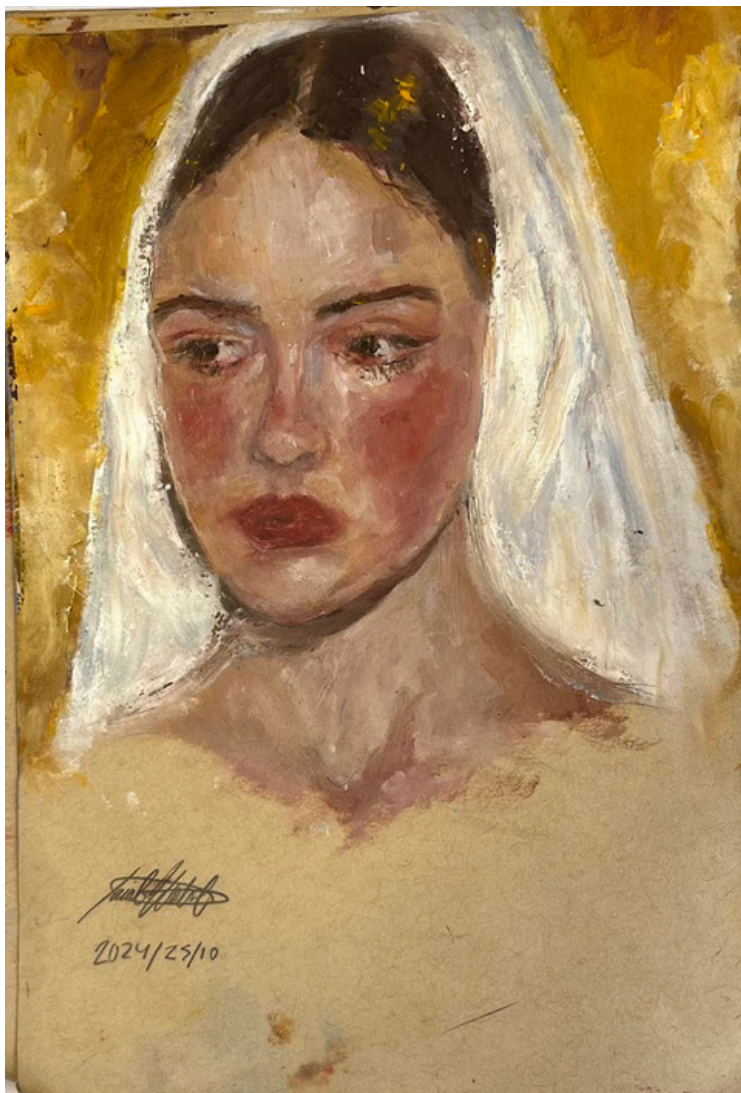
12th Grade

Acrylic

This artwork is based on our surroundings and personal connection. Al Manara Square, located in the heart of the city of Ramallah, is an important monument physically and conceptually, as it leads back to our ancestors and heritage. I decided to paint this painting as it is an important monument that I see every morning when I am going to school. It's a reminder to remember the occupation and political conflict. Yet, I am adding the things we see everyday and the things we don't, such as the sea.



Marissa Ackall, Grapefruit  
11th Grade  
Ceramics



Laial Habil, The Veiled Woman  
8th Grade  
Oil

A devastating story swept away behind a cloth, 'The Veiled Woman' is Laial Habil's take on a stolen future. This painting is inspired by a real-life woman, a model who had an expression compelling and symbolic enough to be painted on a canvas. Recreating the intricacies of the woman's demeanor was not easy by any means, but she alluringly conveys the story of a young woman who was once excited for a dream-filled future, yet has been swept away into a life of marriage under a white veil. Laial says 'art is everywhere you look,' and in this reinterpretation of a captivating countenance, she's proved her point!

Text By: Hana Shqairat





Nicole Ackall, Al-Andalus Streets

12th Grade

Oil





Jennah Aker

12th Grade

Oil



Dana Anani, As Time Passes

12th Grade

Acrylic and Pen

The theme explored in this artwork is nostalgia and the rapid passage of time as a person ages. The intention for this artwork is for the viewer to think of the apples as a human being when the viewer first gazes upon this artwork. The hands of each clock symbolize different time periods of a person's life and since each clock's hands are set on a varied time of the day, the symbolism occurs in that detail. As for me, while I was creating this artwork, emotions such as longing were evoked because I was reminded of my grandparents' home that I spent so much time at when I was little. Even though the wallpaper in the upper section of the background is not necessarily similar to the one in my grandparents' home, I wanted to add Palestinian elements like oranges which grow in the city of Jaffa.





Sireen Halim, Desert Nomad  
11th Grade  
Acrylic



Miral Abu Latifeh, *Roots in the Highlands*

12th Grade

Acrylic and Oil Pastel

This painting captures the rugged beauty of the Venezuelan mountains, a place of deep personal connection. Born from the land where my mother grew up, the vibrant landscape represents the powerful bond between my maternal heritage and the earth itself.



Lujayen Tannous, *Hibiscus Bloom*

12th Grade

Acrylic

The hibiscus flower represents me in this artwork; flowers bloom as they grow, merging all past experiences and seasonal change into something beautiful. This represents how my past experiences helped me emerge from my struggles and turned myself upside down and inhibited a mentality where I accept myself and surround myself only with good thoughts. This is the key to a happy life as beauty comes from the inside.





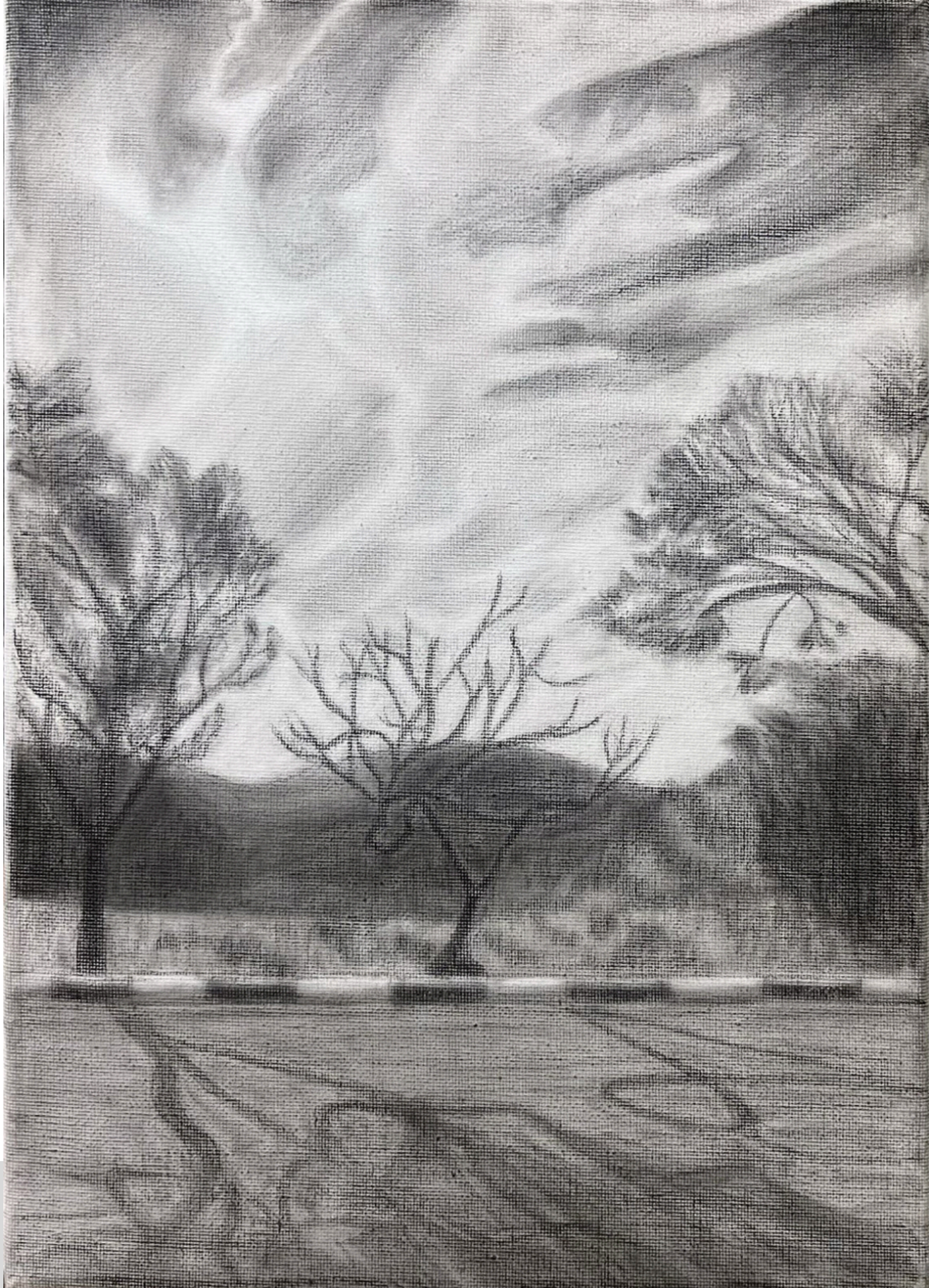
Wisam Tannous

11th Grade

Oil

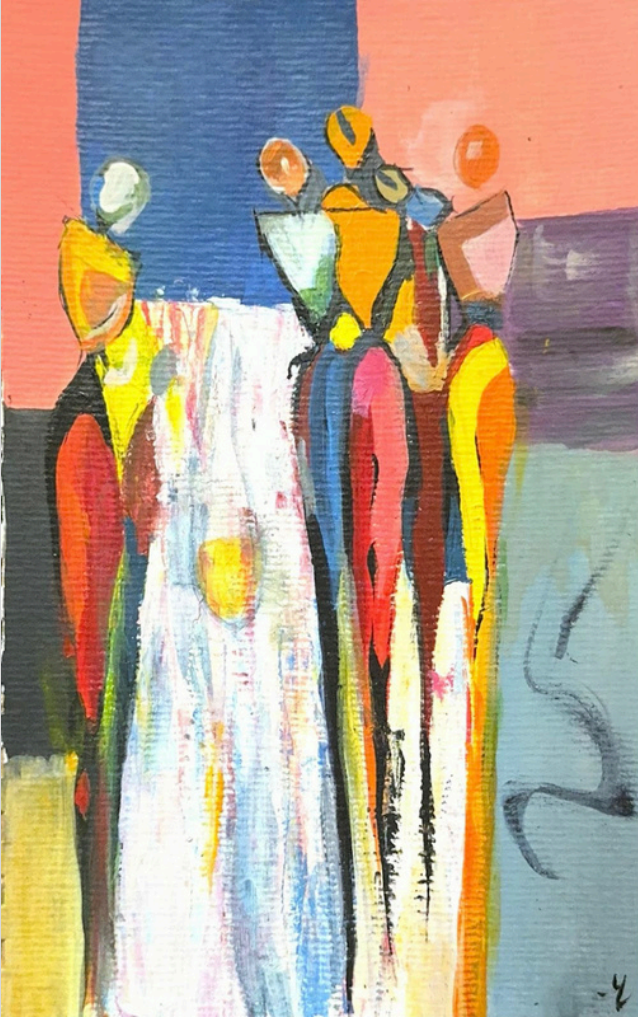






Marissa Ackall, Twisting Shadows  
11th Grade  
Charcoal





Amar Nour

12th Grade

Acrylic



Montaha Kamal

9th Grade

Pencil

Dana Anani, *The Heart of Life*

12th Grade

Acrylic

Making this artwork was an emotional journey for me because my grandfather had passed away only a short time prior to the artwork's creation. The aim of this art piece is to honor the memory of my grandfather who held a special place in my heart. On the other hand, I painted my grandmother alongside my grandfather to shed light on the perseverance of their marriage despite the many hardships that they went through in all the years of their lives as Palestinians. The vintage style of this artwork gives it a timeless quality that tells a story about their days as a young wedded couple.







Salma Osaily  
11th Grade  
Acrylic



Salma Khalifeh  
8th Grade  
Pencil





Nada Jaawan, Garden by the Sea  
10th Grade  
Acrylic



Taleen Quraan  
12th Grade  
Cross Sticking





## Leen Nawahda, Peace Doves With No Wings

12th Grade

Acrylic

This piece represents resilience and the pursuit of freedom. The flower's white petals transform into wingless doves surrounding the yellow sun, symbolizing hope and liberation. Despite their limitations, the doves convey the strength to dream and break the impossible, embodying humanity's unwavering quest for freedom.



## Leen Nawahda, Seeds of Resilience

12th Grade

Acrylic and Gouache

Inspired by the spring season of Palestine, Leen Nawahda's artwork, titled 'Seeds of Resilience' is a symphony of symbols. In her depiction of poppies and wheat, often found growing together on hills near her home and representing martyrdom, she beautifully articulates the awaited end of war, and introduces us to the first placid morning of freedom by uniting these elements with the dove, a symbol of peace, the spring season, representing renewal, and the sun, whose beams of freedom caress the earth. Though striving for uniqueness proved to be challenging, Leen leaves a mark of hope and remembrance on us through her painting, which she calls 'a language that reveals emotions and stories without words.'

Text By: Hana Shqairat

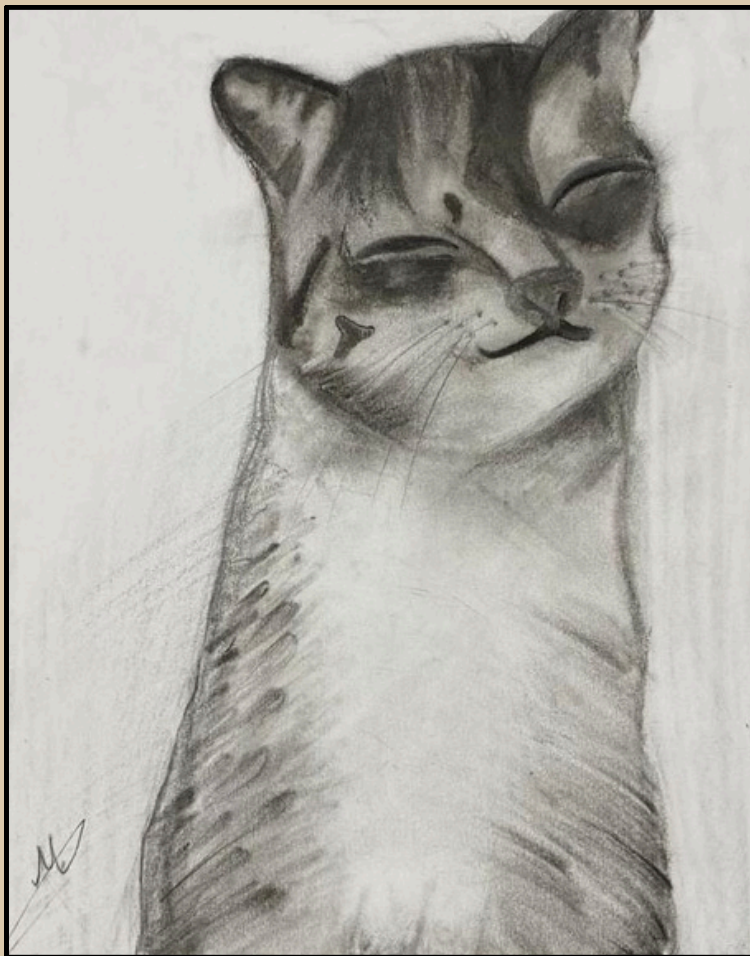


## Maria Hindaileh, The Silent Watcher

12th Grade

Acrylic

Although snakes are not typically considered emotionally demonstrative, the silent watcher's eye serves as a window to its internal state. The look in the piece's eye can shift between signs of hostility or tranquility based on circumstances. Learning to read these subtle cues helps humans develop a deeper understanding of snake behaviour and challenges common misconceptions about this remarkable creature.



## Mai Ziadeh, The Cat I Wish I Had

8th Grade

Pencil



## Maria Hindaileh, The Enigmatic Expresser

12th Grade

Acrylic





Melissa Musleh  
10th Grade  
Markers and Pencils



Laila Amro  
11th Grade  
Acrylic  
Technical Study By Pablo  
Picasso, Marie-Therese  
Walter



## Nejwa Aker, When You Go Away, I Still See You

12th Grade

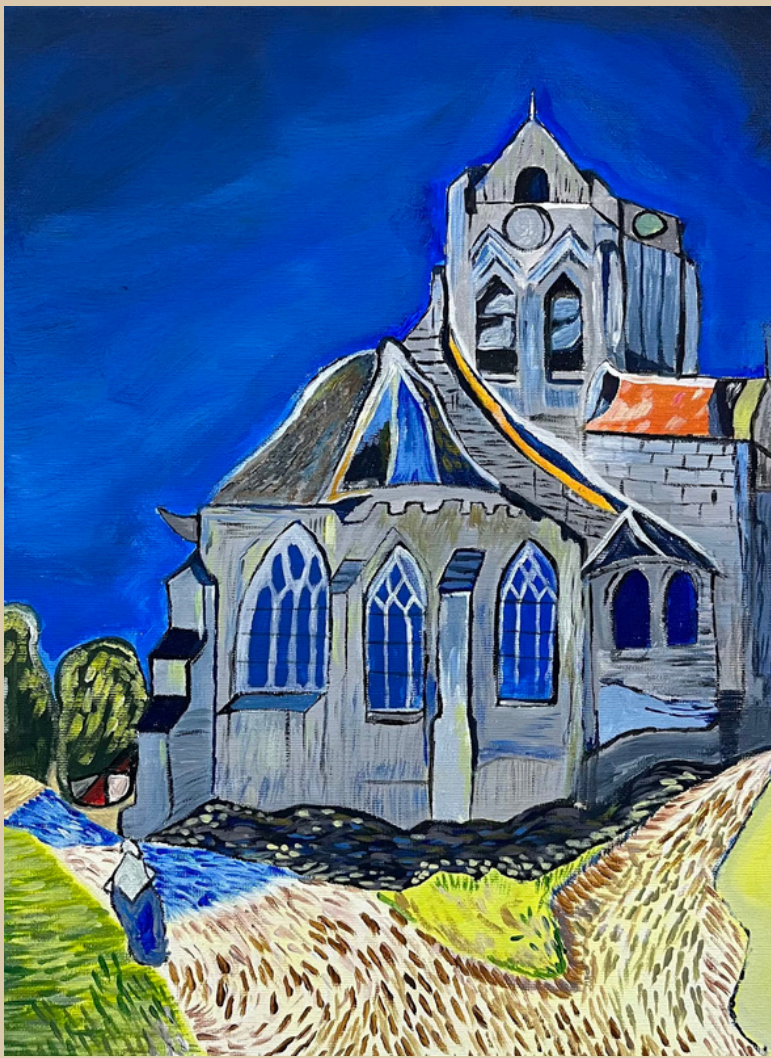
Print Making



In both these artworks, I want to communicate a sense of surrealism, reaching for something that is not there. Both artworks visually depict a sense of longing for something. Both artworks focused on the use of negative/positive space to communicate my concept. I was inspired by Kilmr's visual representation of connection (as seen in *The Kiss* and *The Embrace*) for both of these artworks.







Tia Khoury

11th Grade

Acrylic

Technical Study Of Vincent Van Gogh, The Church of Anvers

Nada Musleh, The Heart of Home

12th Grade

Oil

This artwork is based on the idea that a kitchen is the main component to a comfortable home, where the food is served and the family meets. Hopefully, my viewers will feel satisfied with the positive essence of the home, the same way a person is satisfied when they leave the kitchen.



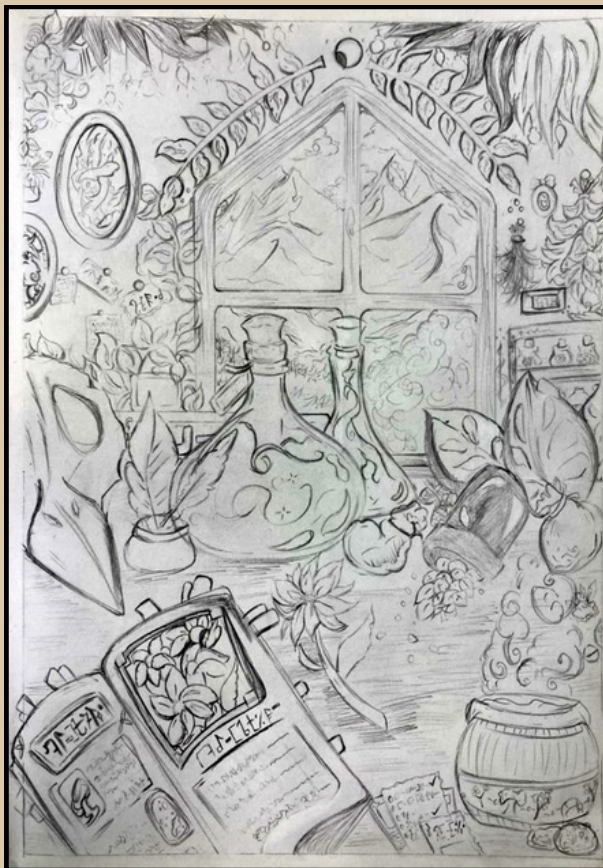




Naya Jamous, Silent Peaks

12th Grade

Oil



Mai Ziadeh

8th Grade

Pencil



Leen Khalil

6th Grade

Photography



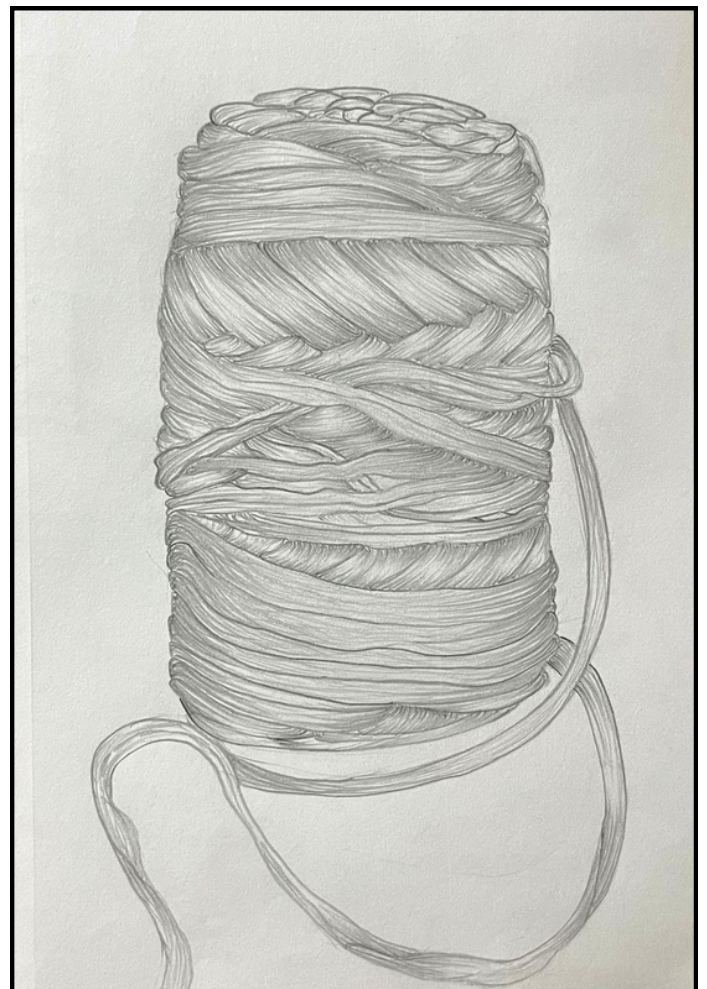


Noor Musa

11th Grade

Acrylic

Technical Study of Henri Matisse,  
Portrait of Madame Matisse



Marissa Ackall, Unwinding

11th Grade

Pencil





## Wisam Tannous, A Palestinian Sunset

11th Grade

Oil

In Wisam Tannous' endeavors to depict the wonders of Palestinian landscapes lies a perfect example of a learning journey. 'A Palestinian Sunset,' a loose name given to this artwork, is the fruit of various colors and gradients, presenting the spirit of a Palestinian sunset landscape. The painting is his first landscape; it set new challenges due to the absence of a figure or person as the main muse. And yet, Wisam defies the odds and shows us the use of brushstrokes and color control techniques that set it apart from ordinary landscapes, further displaying a milestone in his developing artistic style, which he finds 'a joyous journey.' It's a childhood passion that he holds on to as he aspires to grow into a known artist.

Text By: Hana Shqairat



Sarah Abd Al-Haleem, The Light of Hope  
7th Grade  
Pencil



Hana Shqairat, The Orange Day Lily; a smile to the skies  
10th Grade  
Photography





## Wasim Milhem, Sonata in G minor

11th Grade

Music

Powered by childhood passion and a past composition, Wasim Milhem's inspiration for this sonata stemmed from his brother's violin playing and the instrument's capabilities. His focus on the technicalities was intricate. I'm sure you can sense the minor keys, which display sadness and anger, and the movements, which fluctuate between angry, melancholic, and happy. This sonata imposed quite the challenge, and ironically, the first was that Wasim couldn't listen to his composition until it was performed. Isn't that baffling? Despite all odds, Wasim hopes that we enjoy his work, and that in our journey of listening, we discover the power of self-expression through music. Scan the QR code to listen to Wasim's Sonata.

Text By: Hana Shqairat



## Mai Salameh, Magic Tiles

8th Grade

Charcoal



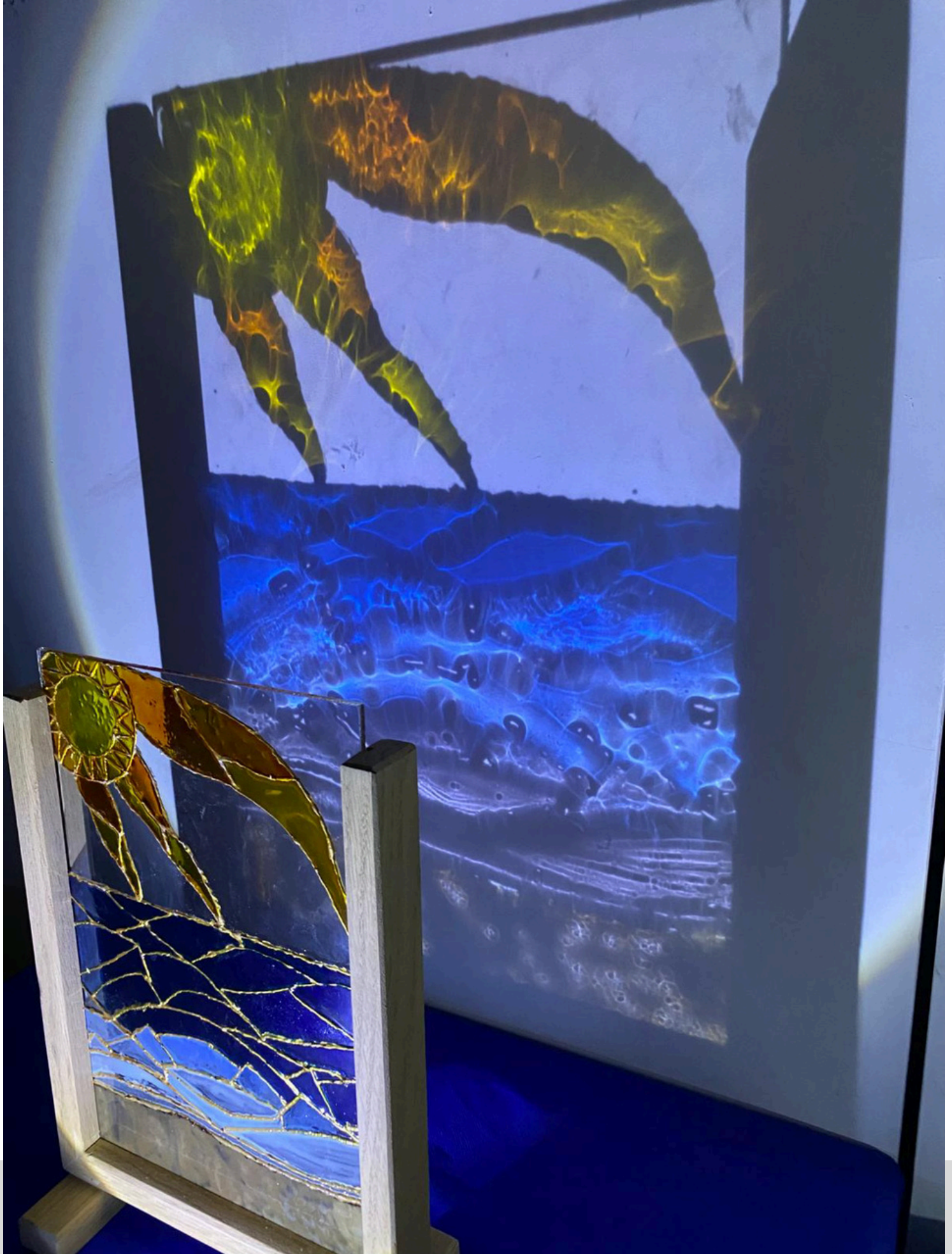


Ziad Tesdell, Flowers at Noon  
9th Grade  
Photography



Karma Aqel, Palestinian Lands  
9th Grade  
Acrylic





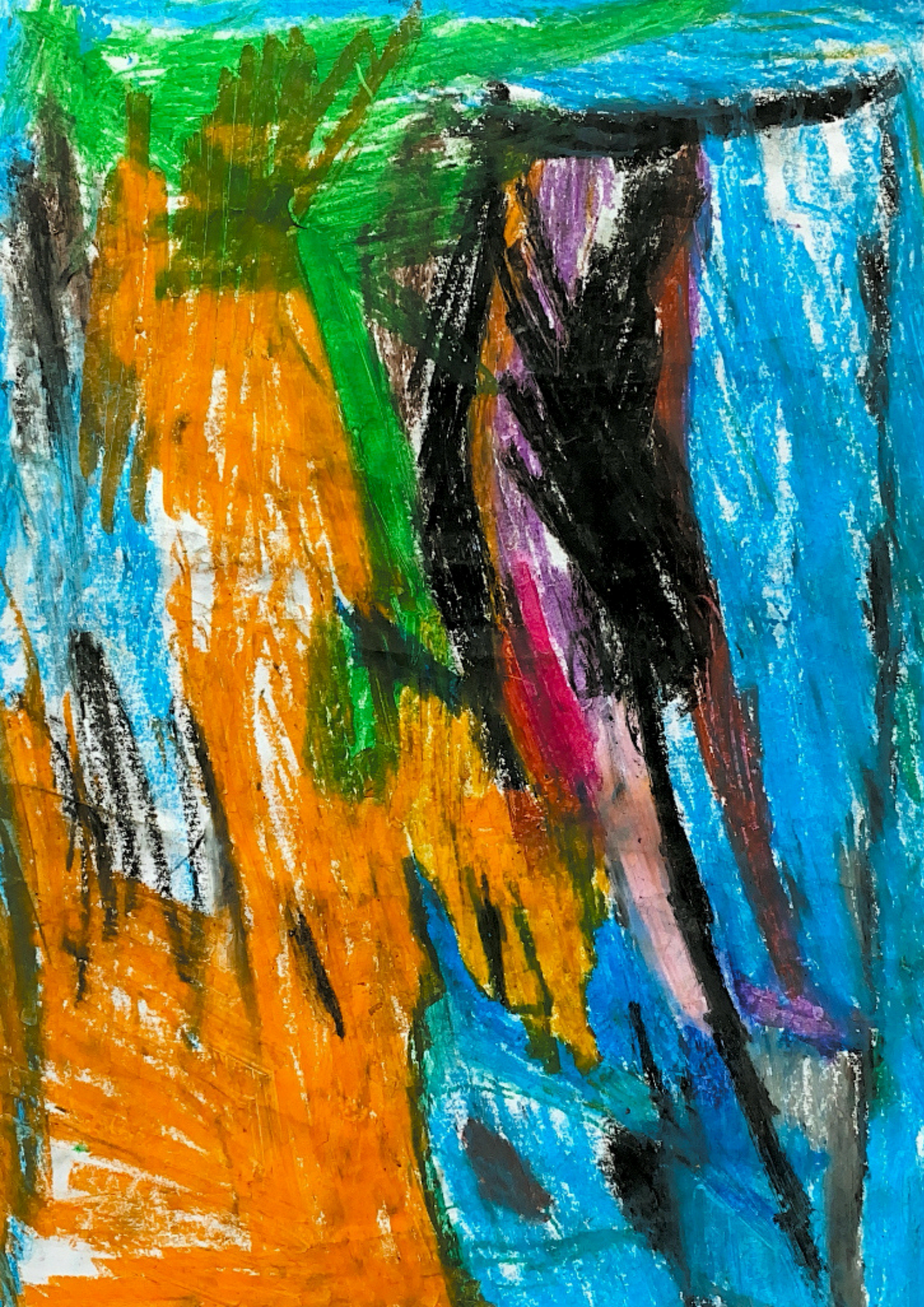
Hoor Shaheen, Sun and Sea  
12th Grade  
Ink on Glass





Abed Al-Muttaleb Arafat  
12th Grade  
Oil Pastel









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