

2026 Art Portfolio Contest for High School Senior

Florida State Fairgrounds



**FLORIDA
STATE FAIR**

Sponsored by Florida Dairy Farmers



32 student portfolios accepted

The Art Portfolio Contest for High School Seniors is the highlight of the Fair's Youth Art Competitions. **Out of 413 students from 99 schools in 32 counties that entered their portfolios, only 32 student portfolios were chosen by our panel of jurors to exhibit their work at the 2026 Florida State Fair.**

We are fortunate to have the Florida Dairy Farmers as our sponsor. Florida's dairy farmers work daily to provide delicious and nutritious dairy products like milk, cheese, and yogurt that fuel creative young minds.

\$10,000 in scholarship money will be awarded this year!

First Place: \$3000 • Second Place: \$2000
10 Awards of Merit: \$500 each



Words from our judges

What a joy and pleasure it is to serve as judge for the Florida State Fair Art Portfolio Contest this year. As a curator, to be able to see artwork created by emerging artists—artists who have yet to begin their careers, who have yet to be shown in a professional gallery setting — is truly exciting. This exhibition (and all of the submissions, whether or not they made it to the final round of selections) is a testament to the high quality of artwork being produced in high schools across our State. Kudos to these gifted students and to the art teachers who guide and nurture their talents.

Narrowing the artwork down to a first and second place winner was difficult. In the end, I selected artists who happen to use their own faces and bodies as their subjects, both with compelling (and vastly different) results. Polina Pozhydaieva's enigmatic paintings remind us of the beauty of the human body, even in its unflinching and un-glamorous rawness. Her color palette, the often-overlooked features she chooses to highlight, and the topographically-cropped compositions show that every part of us is an absolute marvel.

Like Polina, Sofia Hernandez uses herself as the model for her engaging mixed media works. Her realistically-rendered self-portraits intertwine and interact with a stylized background composed of exuberant fish patterns. The combination (and contradiction) of realism and graphic design, human and animal, pattern and organic matter, make for a fascinating whole.

Thank you to all the participants for making this exciting artwork, and for being brave enough to put it out into the world for us to appreciate and enjoy.

Congratulations!



1st Place
\$3000 scholarship

Polina Pozhydaieva

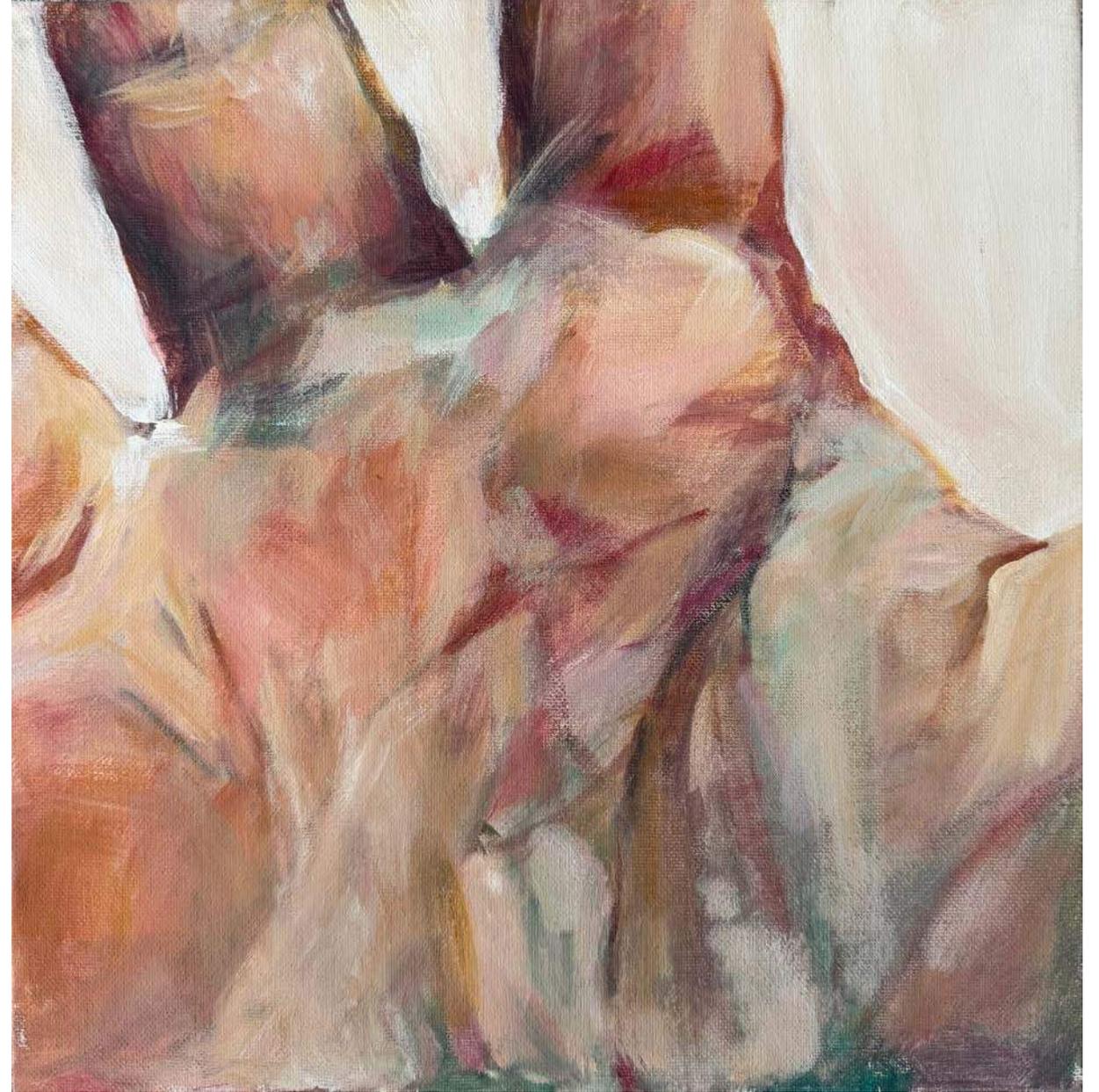
School: New World School of the Arts

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Jennifer Gifford

Media: Painting



Title: Labial Veins



Title: Wrinkles

2nd Place

\$2000 scholarship

Sofia Hernandez

School: Design and Architecture Senior High School

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Johan Evers

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: Ambitions



Title:
Swept Away

Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Ana P. Blanco

School: Design and Architecture Senior High School

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Johan Evers

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title:
Fading Futures

Title: Mother Waste



Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Ana P. Blanco

School: Design and Architecture Senior High School

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Johan Evers

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: Pato y Pollo



Title:
Dumb & Dumber

Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Charlotte Phillips

School: Tampa Preparatory School

County: Hillsborough **Teacher:** Martha DeAmbrose

Media: Photography



Title:
The Valve

Title:
Tapestries



Award of Merit

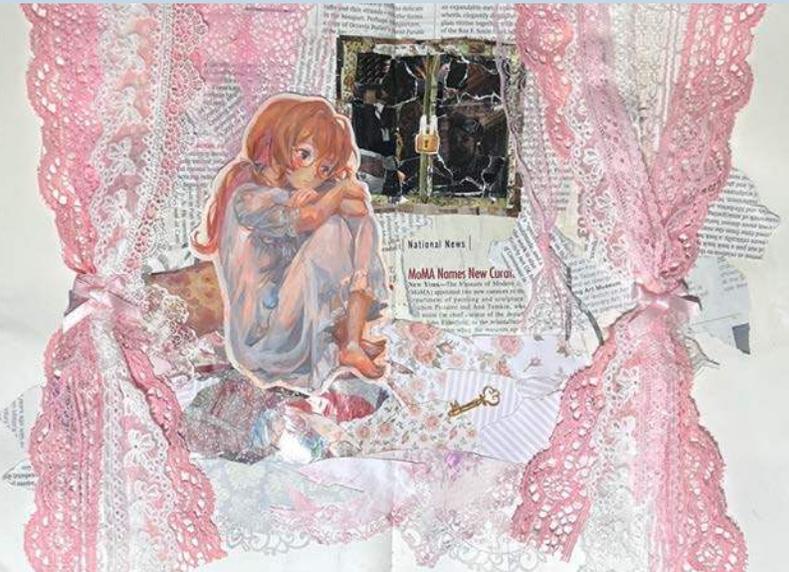
\$500 scholarship

Emily Ding

School: A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

County: Palm Beach **Teacher:** Melissa Glosmanova

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title:
Veil of Lace



Title:
Refracted Identity

Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Heilyn Villegas

School: Booker T. Washington Senior High School

County: Miami-Dade Teacher: Raydevis S. Gonzalez

Media: Architectural



Title: Miami Marina Club Design

MIAMI MARINA CLUB DESIGN

MIAMI MARINA CLUB DESIGN



PRELIMINARY SKETCH

THE STRUCTURE OF A LEAF WAS THE MAIN INSPIRATION FOR THE MARINA CLUB. USING THE NATURAL CURVES FROM NATURE CREATING AN ORGANIC SHELL THAT BLENDS WITH THE FLOWING OF THE WATER.



PLAN VIEW



MODEL/PLAN VIEW



SECTION ELEVATION



Title: Organic Pavillion

Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Lindsey Cheng

School: American Heritage School Plantation Campus

County: Broward **Teacher:** Andrea Preston

Media: Painting



Title:
Untainted
Memory



Title: Best Friends Funeral

Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Olivia Colon

School: Coral Reef Senior High School

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Jennifer Cespedes

Media: Drawing (pastels pencil ink)



Title: The Race Through Time



Title: Floating Into Summer

Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Shanghai Van Pelt

School: Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

County: Duval **Teacher:** Hillary Hogue

Media: Painting



Title: Untitled

Title: Crazy Pencil



Award of Merit

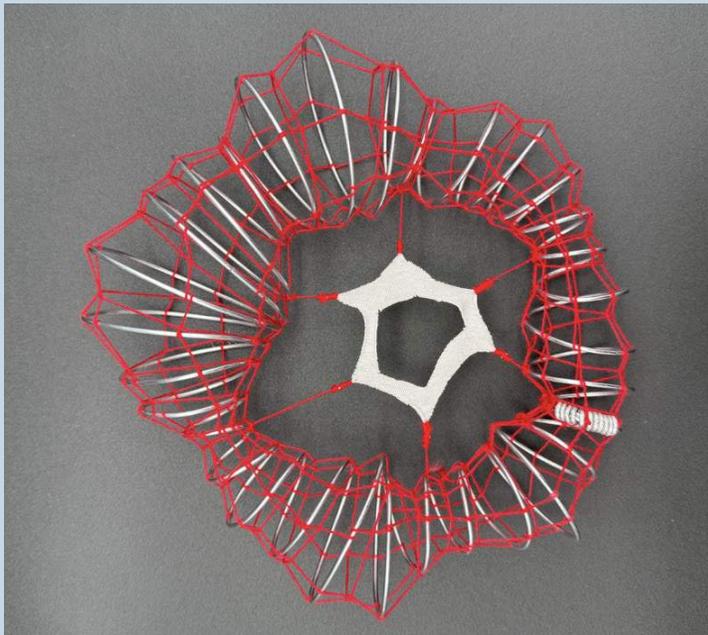
\$500 scholarship

Sophie Tan

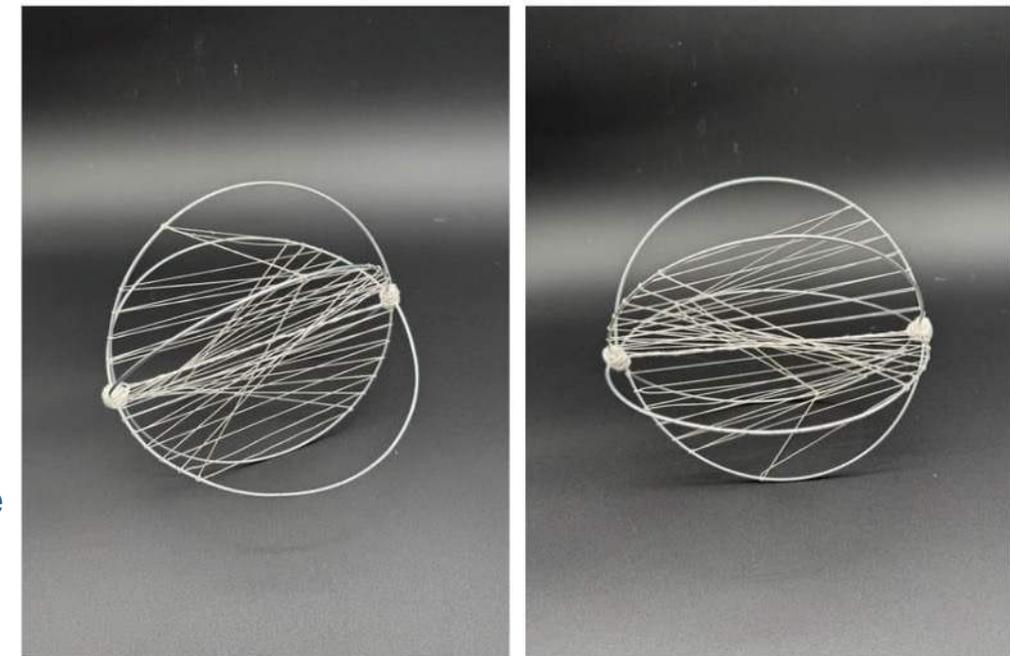
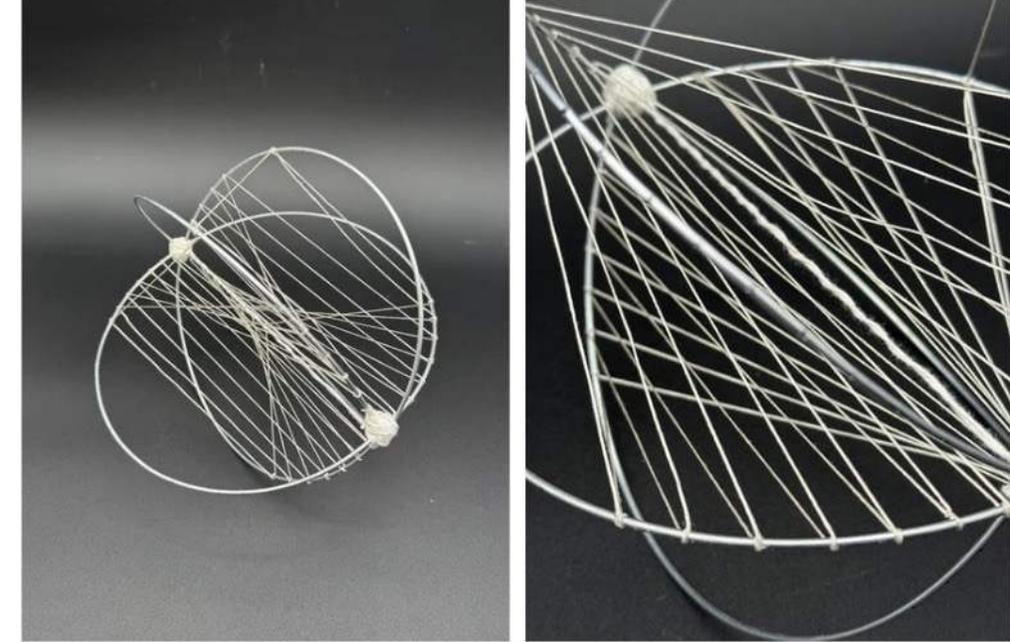
School: A.W Dreyfoos School of the Arts

County: Palm Beach **Teacher:** Marcela Ramos Castillo

Media: Sculpture



Title: Halo



Title: Sphere

Award of Merit

\$500 scholarship

Trevor Henderson

School: Harrison School for the Arts

County: Polk **Teacher:** Rocky Bridges

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: To See
Behind Walls

Title: To
Draw Closer



Akiva L. de Chalambert

School: A.W Dreyfoos School of the Arts

County: Palm Beach **Teacher:** Brian Delgado

Media: Painting



Title: Violet Love



Title: Open Door to a Brighter Room

Alejandro Cohen

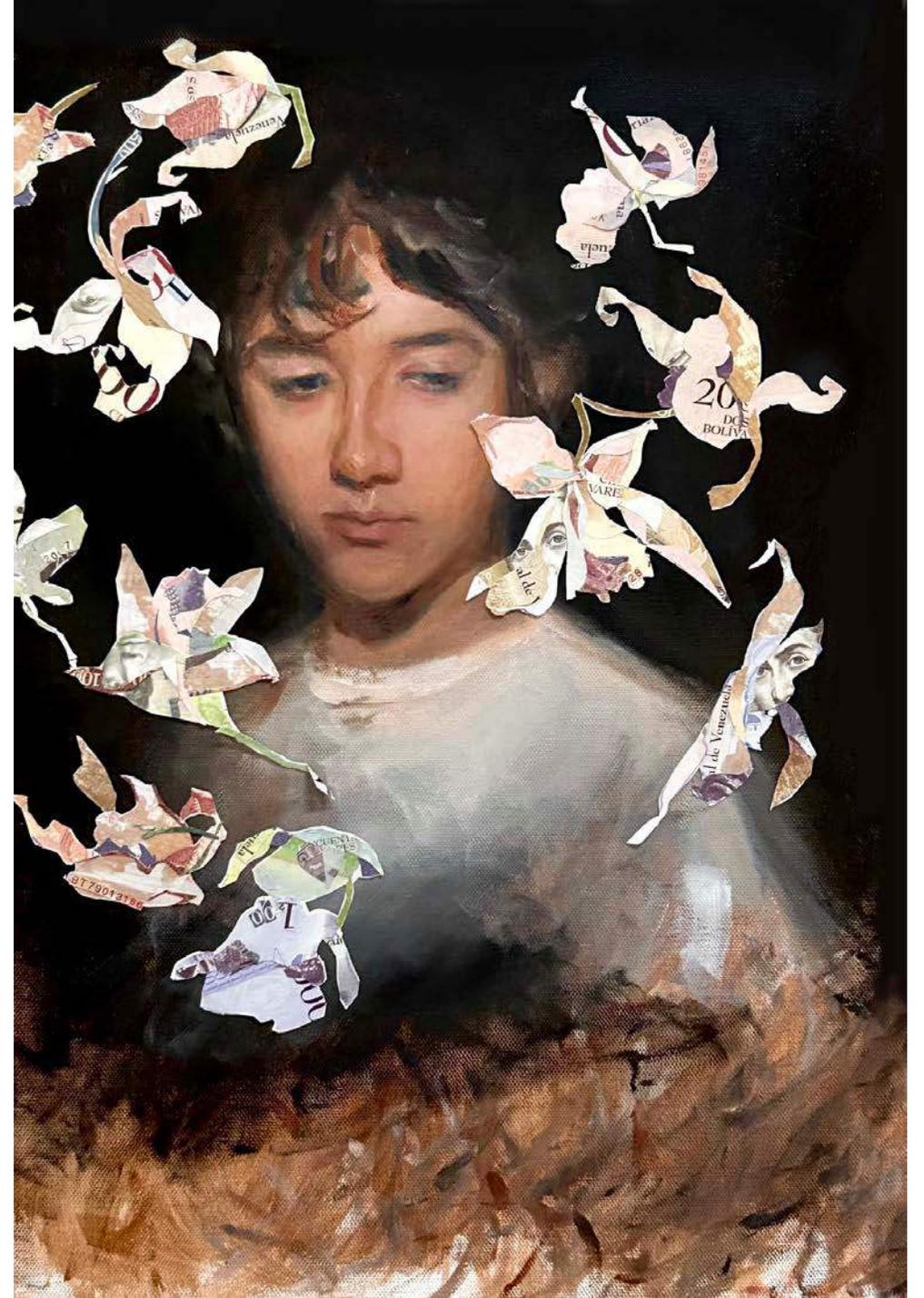
School: A.W Dreyfoos School of the Arts

County: Palm Beach **Teacher:** Scott Armetta

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: Self Portrait



Title: View of
Living Room 1

Alexa Mata Schwank

School: Timber Creek High School

County: Orange **Teacher:** Zorashka Cestero Hassele

Media: Painting

Title: Sunday Pancakes



Title: Birthday
Cake



Sara Barengo

School: Osceola County School for the Arts

County: Osceola **Teacher:** Patricia Calderon

Media: Digital Art



Title: Snow Trodden Lands



Title: Arboreal Life in the Trees

Ariyana D. Strickland

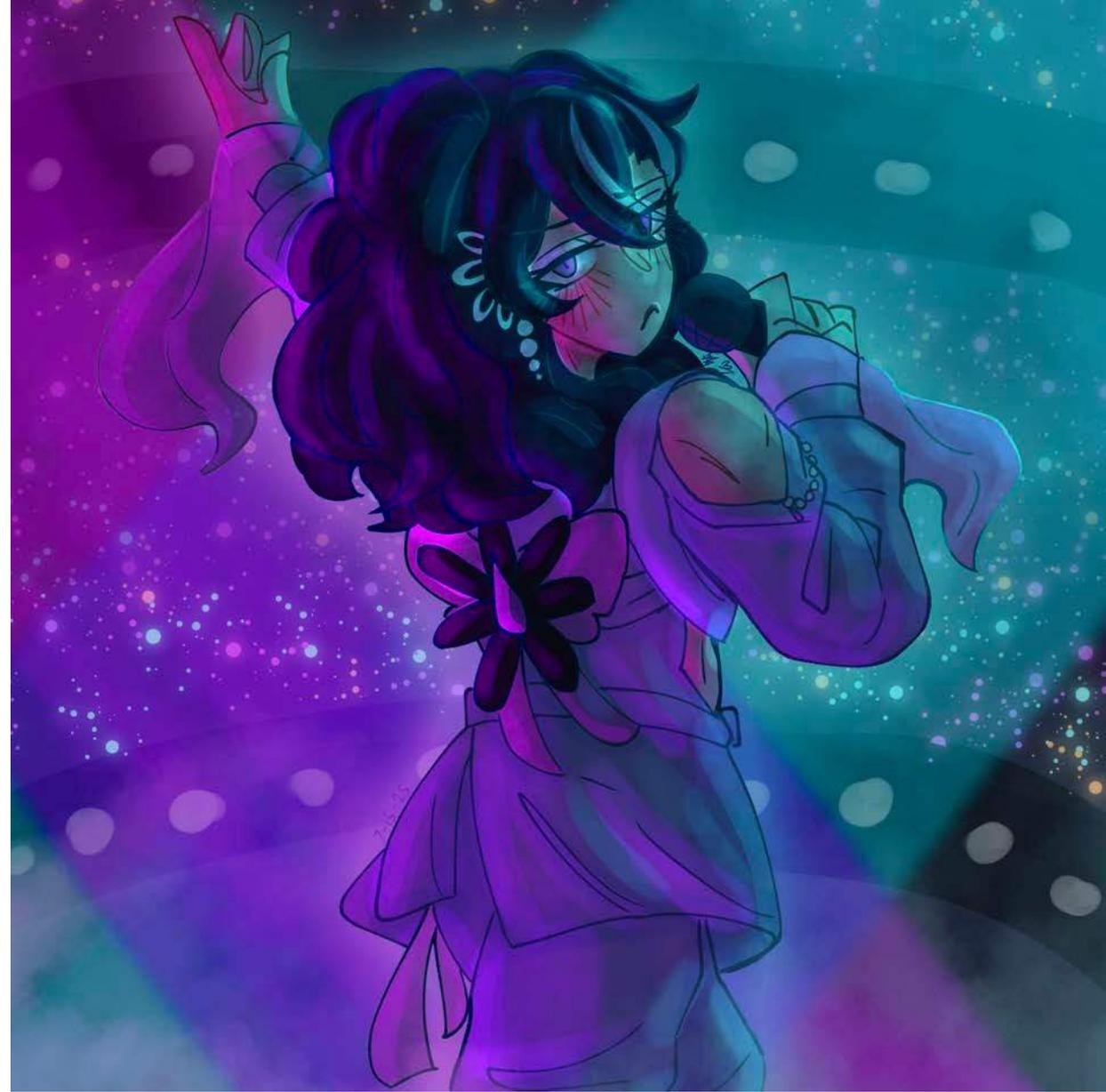
School: Miami Lakes Educational Center

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Odalis Soto

Media: Digital Art



Title: Candlelit
Reverie



Title: Illuminated Fiore

Cristal Saavedra-Rivera

Title: Caves of Velraath

School: Booker High School

County: Sarasota **Teacher:** William Ferrell

Media: Digital Art



Title: Swirling Storm



Gabrielle DeTone

School: Harrison School for the Arts

County: Polk **Teacher:** Rocky Bridges, Casey Hall
& Mary Beth Garcia

Media: Painting



Title: Seat at the Table

Title: Keeping on the Night Light

Djahya L. Pass

School: Howard W. Blake High School

County: Hillsborough **Teacher:** Linda Galgani

Media: Digital Art



Title: Buttons for Thought



Title: Capturing the Memories

Hannah Botella

School: New World School of the Arts

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Jennifer Gifford

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: El Jardin



Title: La Cicla

Henry Peter

School: Gibbs High School

County: Pinellas **Teacher:** Brian Mcallister

Media: Photography



Title: Storm Watchers

Title: Hurricane Daze

Jackson Charlier Bissacot

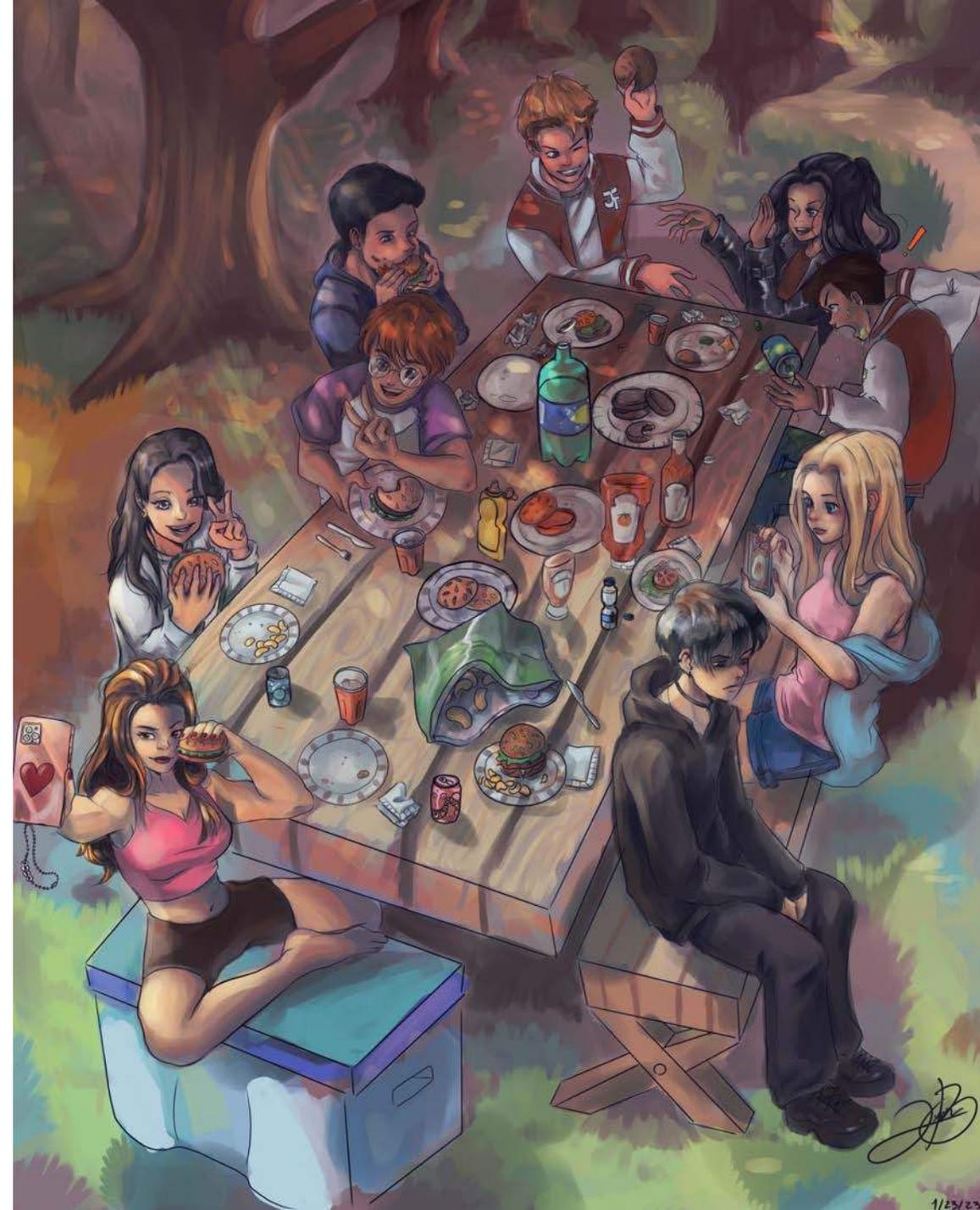
School: Cypress Bay High School

County: Broward **Teacher:** April Beckenhauer Pino

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: Perfect Stitches



Title:
Picnic Gathering

Joseph Floreal

School: A.W Dreyfoos School of the Arts

County: Palm Beach **Teacher:** Nicolas Angulo

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: Entangled

Title: Untitled 1

Kai Metzger

A.W Dreyfoos School of the Arts

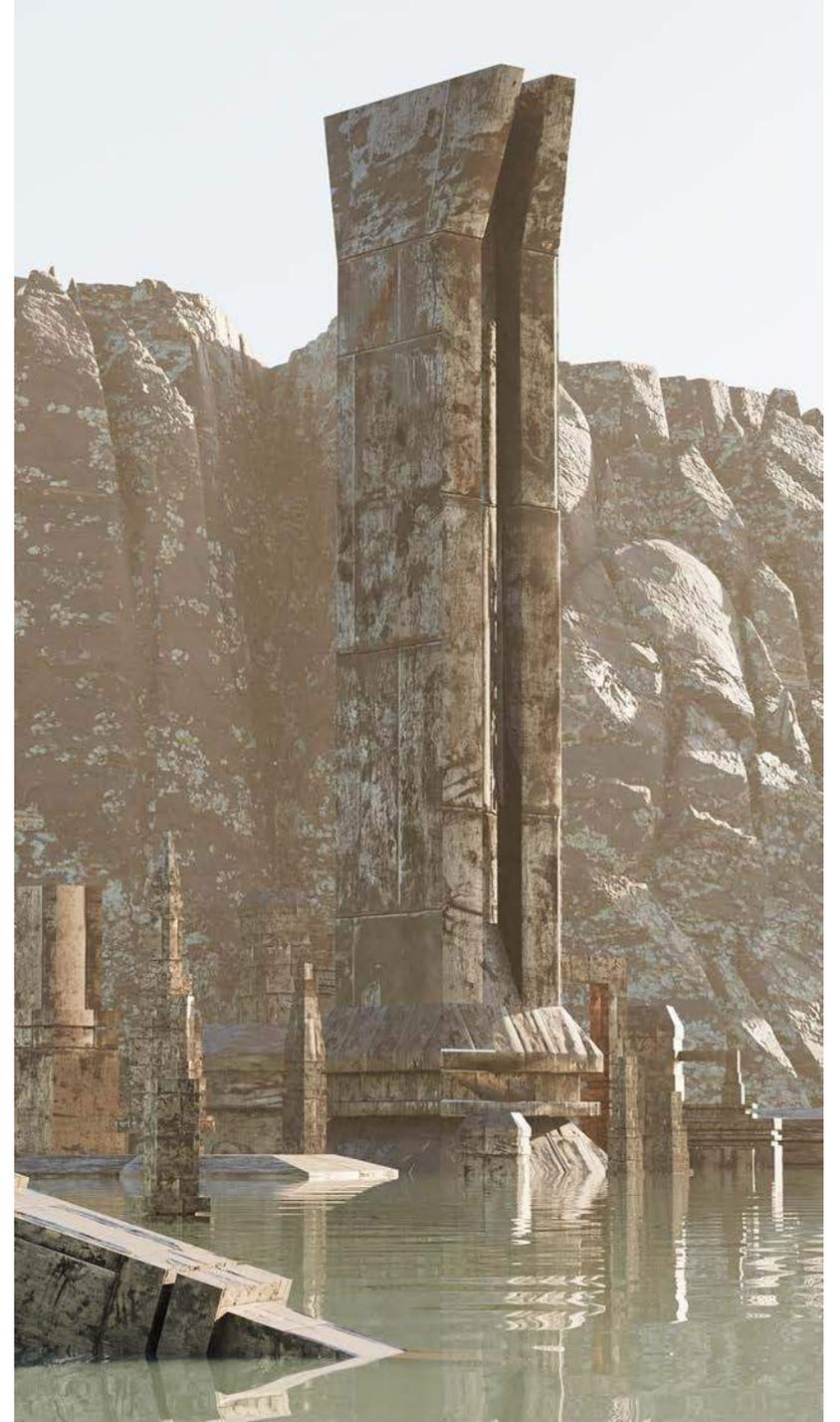
County: Palm Beach **Teacher:** Melissa Glosmanova

Media: Digital Art



Title: Ruins in Bloom

Title: Submerged
Citadel



Kaleigh Breivis

School: Howard W. Blake High School

County: Hillsborough **Teacher:** Emma Chandler

Media: Sculpture



Title: Pink Memories

Title: Affluence of the Host



Layne Hobbie

School: Jupiter Community High School

County: Palm Beach **Teacher:** Sarah Knudtson

Media: Ceramics



Title: Water
Lettuce &
Duckweed



Title: Cicada

Mia Ramos

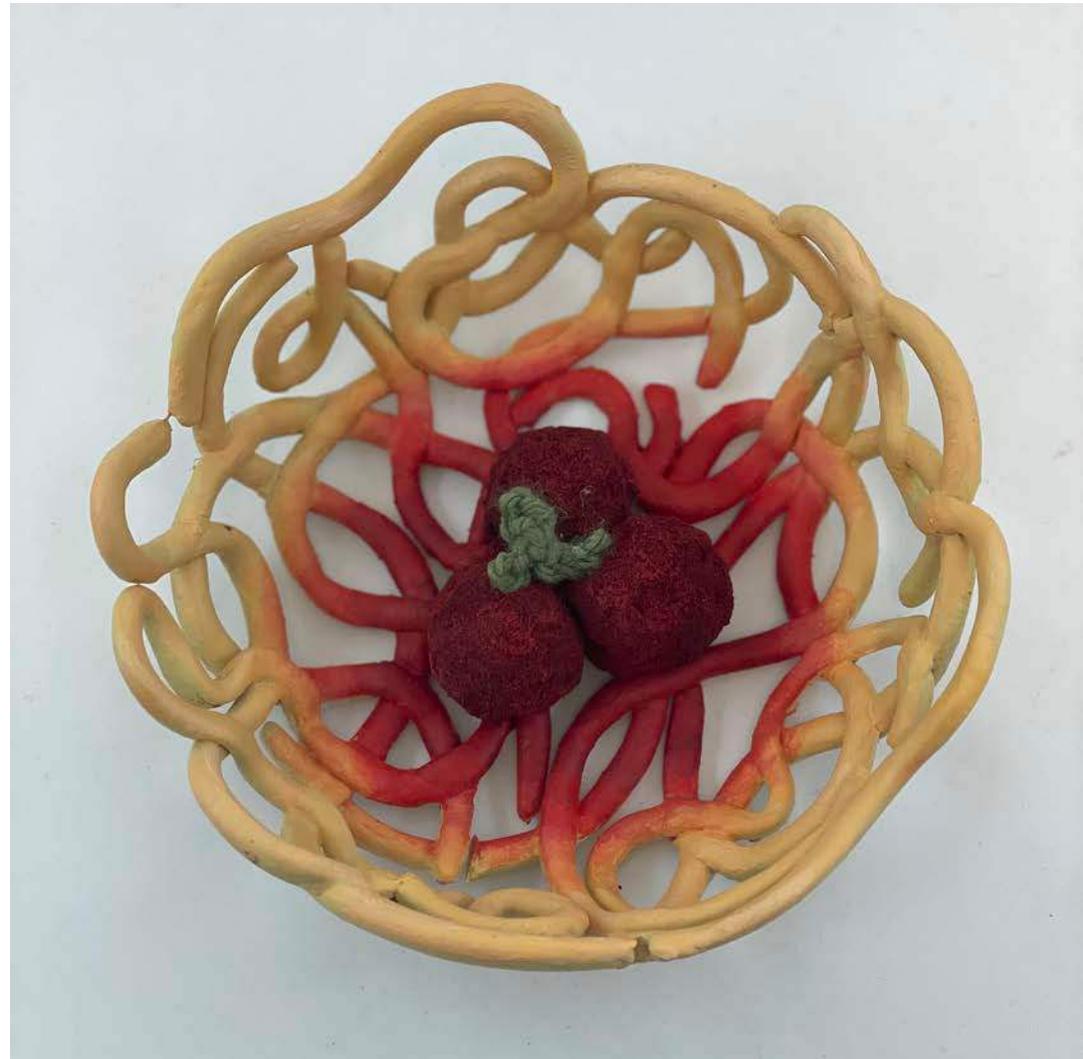
School: Mulberry Senior High School

County: Polk **Teacher:** Lisa Willman

Media: Ceramics



Title: Sushi Salt Shakers



Title: Spaghetti Bowl

Naisha Simon

School: New World School of the Arts

County: Miami-Dade

Teacher: Jennifer Gifford

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: Welcome to the Streets



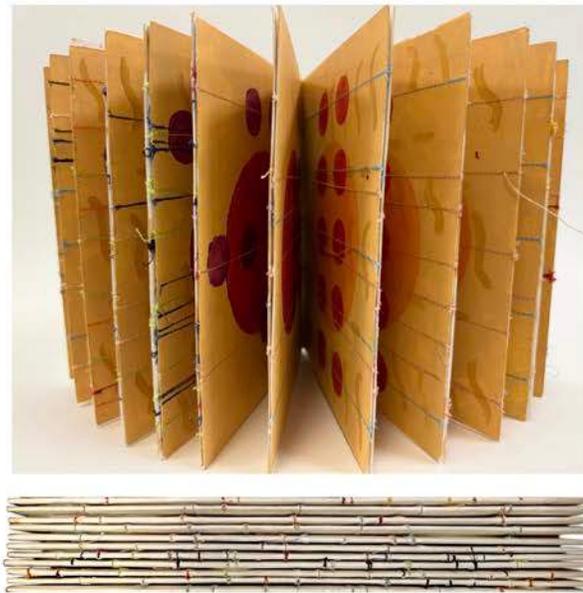
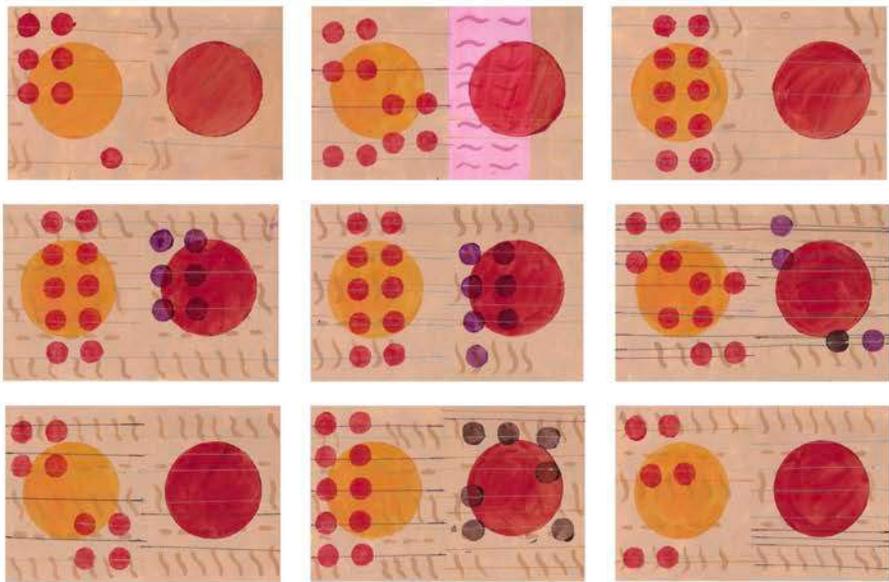
Title: Playgrounds

Natalia Campos

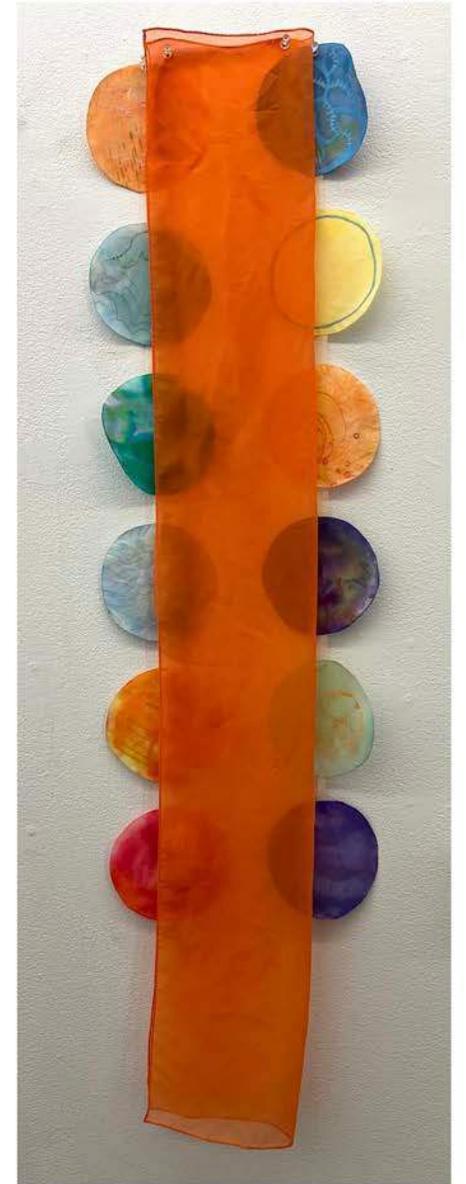
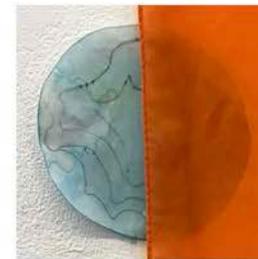
School: New World School of the Arts

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Nabila Santa-Cristo

Media: Digital Art



Title: all about you and me



Title: my point of view

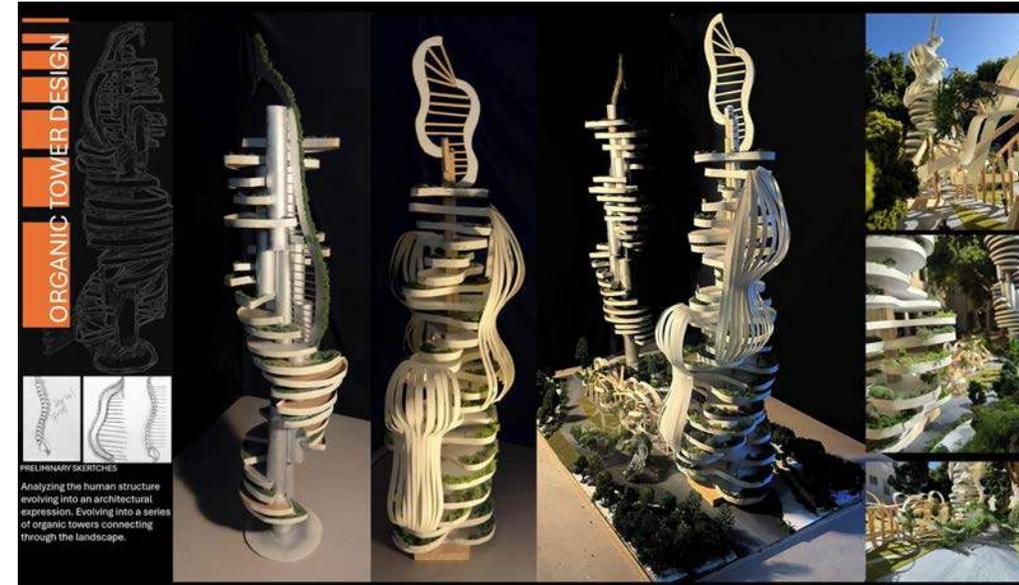
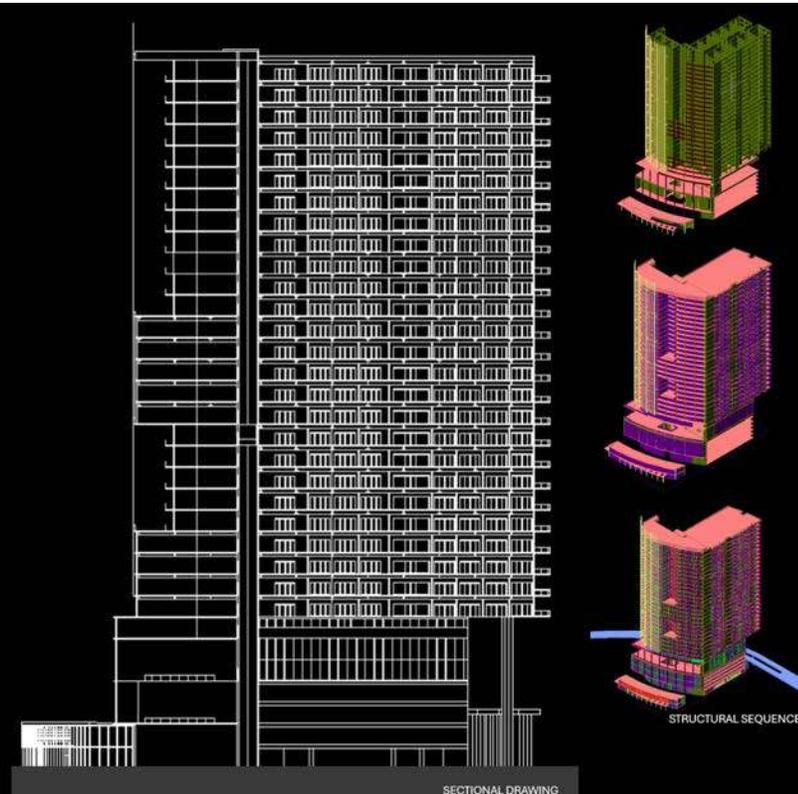
Yonatan Garcia

School: Booker T Washington Senior High School

County: Miami-Dade

Teacher: Raydeivis Soguero Gonzalez

Media: Architectural



Title: Organic Tower

Title: Dorsey Hotel and Gallery Miami

Zoe S. McIntosh

School: Design and Architecture Senior High School

County: Miami-Dade **Teacher:** Hans Evers

Media: 2D: Mixed Media



Title: Nuclear



Title:
Way In