



Aging and Stitching, River Bartosik-Murray, High School of Art and Design, Grade 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bruce Museum Presents

***iCreate 2024*, its annual regional juried exhibition of high school talent – June 11, 2024 – September 8, 2024**

Greenwich, CT – The Bruce Museum is thrilled to announce the opening of the ***iCreate 2024*, the annual regional juried art exhibition organized** by high school students for high school students. *iCreate 2024* showcases the extraordinary talent of young artists from Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

This year's *iCreate* exhibition has received an impressive 800 submissions from 97 high schools and the volunteer student curators have selected 58 exceptional pieces to be featured. These works will compete for several prestigious awards, including first, second, and third place prizes, two honorable mention awards, the Youth@Bruce Award, and the People's Choice Award. All the awards include cash prizes.

Behind the scenes, eight dedicated interns have worked tirelessly to coordinate and moderate the success of this exhibition. These outstanding high school seniors and the colleges they will attend in the fall are:

Lauren Lombardi, Byram Hills HS, University of Vermont
Carolyn Chen, Scarsdale HS, New York University
Jordan Ernst, Greenwich HS, Florida State University
Zara Hillman, Greenwich HS, Brown University
Genevieve Baske, Greenwich HS, Wesleyan University
Bettina Gunnerson, Greenwich HS, University of Saint Andrews
Henry Peters, Darien HS, Bowdoin College
Ryder Hagen, Darien HS, University of Denver

The exhibition features several returning finalists, including Katie Yang, Zeno Park (*iCreate 2023* 2nd place award), Angela Chiang, and Albert Chen (*iCreate 2023* 1st place award as a 9th grader). Zara Kurbanov, a finalist last year, has two pieces selected this year, one of which is a painted guitar. Each finalist has also submitted an artist statement to provide context for their work. These statements add depth and personal insight, highlighting the profound themes and stories behind the art. Among the notable works are:

El Morro by **Nola Brooks**: This oil pastel painting is a rendition of the Spanish Fortress in Puerto Rico, symbolizing Puerto Rican history and Brooks' complex relationship with her heritage. Brooks' use of warm, bright pastels contrasts with chaotic patterns, reflecting her conflicting emotions towards her cultural identity.

Peace by **Aya Rabin**: An abstract acrylic painting that layers vibrant colors and cool undertones to convey Rabin's deep emotions following her evacuation from Israel. Her piece captures the universal experience of complex emotions such as hope and loss.

Dance With Her by **Ellen Chen**: This piece captures a moment between two girls on a dance floor, accompanied by a touching short story in Chen's artist statement. The story highlights her struggle for acceptance within her family contrasted with the supportive environment of her high school community.

The *iCreate* competition continues to be a platform for young artists to express their creativity and share their unique perspectives. The Bruce Museum invites everyone to visit the exhibition, experience these compelling works and support the next generation of artists.

Support for *iCreate 2024* is generously provided by the CT Department of Economic and Community Development, CT Humanities, The Grossman Family Foundation, Nisha Kumar and Michael Behringer, Susan and Bill Mahoney, Barbara Netter, and Debbie Simon.



El Morro
Nola Brooks
New Rochelle High School, Grade 11



Dance With Her

Ellen Chen

Rye Country Day High School, Grade 12



Peace

Aya Rabin

Greenwich Academy, Grade 11

About Bruce Museum:

The Bruce cultivates discovery and wonder, engaging a broad audience through the power of art and science. To be a center for inspiration and learning, where extraordinary art and science spark conversation, connection, and creativity.

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