

Bruce Museum Junior Art Competition 2020: *Seeing and Feeling During the Pandemic*

The Call for Children to Respond Creatively to the Coronavirus Crisis Attracts Widespread Interest – and These Winning Entries



1st Place, K–Grade 4: Alexa Kwasniewski, Grade 3.
Sadness, pencil on paper.



1st Place, Grades 5–8: Yana Thukral, Grade 6.
Trapped in Darkness, pen and pencil on paper.

GREENWICH, CT, July 7, 2020 – Launched in May to highlight the talents and concerns of the coming generation of young artists, the **Bruce Museum Junior Art Competition 2020: *Seeing and Feeling During the Pandemic*** invited children in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade to use their creativity to share their unique experiences during this unprecedented health crisis.

“These are uncharted territories for students, and with schools no longer in session, we wanted to find a new way to channel their creative expression,” said Felicity Kostakis, who along with

fellow Museum volunteers Lily deJongh Downing and Cricket Lockhart, served as judges for the art competition. “As an art teacher, I firmly believe that art has the ability to empower and bring meaning to students' lives as well as the lives of others.”

The call for entries was simple: Artwork could be created in any medium and submitted electronically as one image per two-dimensional work or two images for three-dimensional pieces. The Museum’s invitation resulted in more than 80 submissions, each piece of art more touching and heartfelt than the last.

Awards were offered for two age groups, Grades K-4 and Grades 5-8, respectively: First Prize – \$75/\$150 Visa gift card plus annual Family membership to the Bruce Museum valued at \$65; Second Prize – \$50/\$100 gift card plus annual Family membership; Third Prize – \$25/\$75 gift card plus annual Family membership. There is also a Bruce Museum Director's Award, with a prize of a \$100 Visa gift card and annual Family membership.

“As jurors, Felicity, Lily, and I were absolutely delighted with all the entries we received and had a difficult time deciding on the individual winners,” says Cricket Lockhart, a member of the [New Bruce](#) Campaign Committee. “Our hearts go out to these children as they deal with the pandemic and with the compelling issues surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement.” Adds Lily deJongh Downing: “Their works were incredible – powerful expressions of how to seek truth and justice and beauty through art.”

Here are the seven award winners of the Bruce Museum Junior Art Competition 2020. Their photos follow; images of the students’ artwork will be shared on [brucemuseum.org](#).

Kindergarten through Grade 4

1st Place: Alexa Kwasniewski, Grade 3, *Sadness*, pencil on paper.

2nd Place: Chloe Yan, Grade 1, *Holding Hands Again*, mixed media with flowers.

3rd Place: Leonardo Costanzo, Kindergarten, *Do Not Touch*, tempera and pen on paper.

Grades 5 through 8

1st Place: Yana Thukral, Grade 6, *Trapped in Darkness*, pen and pencil on paper.

2nd Place: Karin Lund, Grade 7, *Headline Shock*, pencil on paper and iMovie

3rd Place: Whit Armstrong, Grade 7, *Lockdown*, pen and pencil on paper.

Director’s Award: Christian Graziano, Grade 8, *Fraying*, digital media.



2nd Place, K–Grade 4: Chloe Yan, Grade 1, *Holding Hands Again*, mixed media with flowers.



2nd Place, Grades 5–8: Karin Lund, Grade 7, *Headline Shock*, pencil on paper and iMovie



3rd Place, K-Grade 4: Leonardo Costanzo, Kindergarten, *Do Not Touch*, tempera and pen on paper.



3rd Place, Grades 5-8: Whit Armstrong, Grade 7, *Lockdown*, pen and pencil on paper.



Director's Award: Christian Graziano, Grade 8, *Fraying*, digital media.

“We’ve seen the impact that the Museum’s popular annual [iCreate](#) exhibition of high school artists has had throughout the community,” said Robert Wolterstorff, The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director. “This is a wonderful opportunity for us to show how younger artists are using their creativity to express themselves. Art truly does inspire, and it will help us all get through these trying times.”



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Press Release

The Bruce Museum wishes to thank Co-Sponsors Lily deJongh Downing, Felicity Kostakis, and Cricket Lockhart for their generous support of the Junior Art Competition 2020: *Seeing and Feeling During the Pandemic*.

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About the Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution highlighting art and science. The Bruce features changing galleries for art and permanent galleries for the natural sciences offering regional to global perspectives. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years, the Bruce plays an integral role in the cultural life of area residents. The Museum attracts approximately 70,000 visitors annually, including 24,000 school children, and also has special programs for families, seniors, students, and community organizations. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. The Bruce Museum reopened on June 27 in accordance with state and local guidelines and with advance reservations for timed ticketed entry. To make a reservation or for additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

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