



# **Dr. Andrea M. McDonough**, Master

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Williamsport Area High School, PA.

## **Why I Chose Kathryn Niklaus**

Kathryn has been an intrinsically motivated and goal-oriented artist for as long as I have had the pleasure of knowing her. As a sophomore, she ended up taking an Independent Study Studio Art semester within one of my classes and she found success in every project that she worked on and challenged herself to test out materials that were atypical. With a persistent interest in fibers and mixed media approaches, she is now building an Advanced Placement portfolio that integrates all of her strengths and illuminates her unique style. Kathryn's work has been displayed for national audiences because she takes risks and says yes to calls and contests. She is a creative leader and I'm honored to exhibit work alongside her.

## **Why I Chose Muireann Tran**

Muireann is an artist who knows how to use her work as a vehicle for expression. Her artistic voice has developed alongside her technical skills and there is a whimsical depth to each piece she creates. Muireann has adopted an alternative educational path during her high school tenure, taking concurrent college-level classes while enrolled as a secondary student. At the same time, she has consistently volunteered time through a chapter of the National Art Honor Society, maintaining a commitment to our school community. Muireann is no stranger to exhibition opportunities, and it brings me great joy to share gallery wall space with her.

## **Artist Statement**

I collect materials and incubate ideas, gently, before engaging in a process session. Acrylic gel lifts from vintage National Geographic magazines serve as organic shape accents or grounding subjects. The intuitive assembly of graphite lines, flowing ink, and paper collage occasionally lays the foundation for a drawing meditation. Sometimes free expression and material assembly functions as a meditation. Experimenting with materials and composition options serves as a grounding outlet that balances a heavy cognitive load that I carry from day to day.