



Muireann Tran, Grasshopper

Williamsport Area High School, PA.

Commentary

Under the guidance of Dr. McDonough, I was able to develop my technique, explore a variety of themes, and push myself outside of my artistic comfort zone. She has always equally supported and challenged me in Ames in my journey with art, acknowledging the value of my own individual voice as well as pushing me to take risks that extend beyond my usual styles or themes. In my current course with Dr. McDonough, AP Studio Art, I am learning so much about how to create a thematically and visually continuous body of work that can be read as an extension of myself and convey a concise idea. I am immensely grateful for everything Dr. McDonough brings to the art program and all the support, wisdom, understanding, instruction, and guidance I have received from her.

Artist Statement

The inspiration for this piece came from my awe of realistic, oil still-life paintings combined with my want to create a piece that contained representation of my Vietnamese ancestry. The glass, which I see often in still-life paintings, is paired with a Vietnamese mooncake mold, something that I grew up seeing hang on my kitchen wall. Living in a community that does not have a very prominent Vietnamese community, I sometimes feel separated from this part of my identity. To put this visual in a painting gave me an opportunity to express that part of my culture.