



Emma Ergott, Grasshopper

Tunkhannock Area High School, PA.

Artist Statement

My time in Mr. Montross's classroom not only enhanced my skills as an artist, but also taught me valuable lessons for other aspects of life. I have had two art classes with Mr. Montross as my teacher, and during these two classes, I have learned a lot about myself and about my appreciation for patience. With my first class having been during Covid restrictions, Mr. Montross had to adapt and quickly adjust to the obstacles being put in place. Our class was too big to fit in an art room due to social distancing, so we had to relocate to a standard classroom that was not exactly well equipped to hold artists. Despite all the challenges presented in that situation, Mr. Montross found ways to make it work and still give us a quality education. Through this time, I learned that being able to adjust to difficult circumstances would be a key part of life as well as a prominent theme in art. Being able to work with mistakes and have patience through projects that are not working out as I thought they would with important values that I have learned through his classes.

The second class I had with Mr. Montross was able to be held in an art room, and this made focusing on my art much easier. This class dove more into technical skill, and the projects that were assigned helped me to better understand the process of creation and the techniques that have been around for centuries. Mr. Montross also incorporated weekly sketch prompts that enabled me to get creative and think outside the box. The combination of technique and creativity are the two aspects of art that I personally believe are the most important, so being able to be guided in those areas helped me progress significantly. It was in this class that I completed my painting of Harry Styles. We were given the option of painting a still life or a portrait, and I have always had a love for painting faces, so I chose to tackle a portrait. The intricate details and color scheme within the photo of Harry Styles drew me to it, and I worked on it for a good amount of time. During this time, I used processes of oil painting that Mr. Montross had taught me through previous projects. He always kept me on track and gave me critiques that would take the project to the next level. The final result has turned out to be my favorite piece that I have done, and it is all thanks to the efforts and teachings of Mr. Montross.