



Ms. Heather Olson, Master

Boiling Springs High School, PA.

Why I Chose Cole Steen

Cole Steen was chosen to participate based upon their deep focus and drive to independently research topics and ideas well beyond content presented within our Art History units. For the final project, they were the only student in a class of twenty-nine to choose to write a final essay with citations as well as create a large tri-fold presentation poster. Their work ethic is very strong especially when given a learning option with artists and individuals from art history. They were a confident leader when given group art history posters and guided the vision central illustrations on many posters-inspiring others to more convincingly join in the process. Cole also shows great interest in uncovering facts and stories about artists who have persevered through struggle and gone on to establish genres, techniques, and ultimately-legacies.

I have come to know that this individual is very strong and has endured much in their young life. Cole was new to our school this year as an eleventh grader. Cole has a maturity level far beyond high school and a balanced sense of self. They are able to deflect negativity and walk their own path. They also set a high standard for our classroom-based upon both the quality in their work and also for their character. I am grateful to have Cole in my classes and happy to hear of their long-term career goal in Graphic Design.

Why I Chose Autumn Hawbaker

Autumn was chosen to participate in the exhibition based upon her commitment and passion for creating art both in and outside of the classroom. She was also chosen based upon her positive attitude and for working with others in technique building when they were struggling. Autumn has seen a lot of change this school year, from a social perspective, and in having her for three classes (August 2022-present) she has shown consistency and dedication in her process.

Autumn always has a smile on her face and is happy to show me work she completes outside of class-asking for my ideas on expanding her already strong basis of knowledge. She immediately took to the Drawing I "drawing with words" unit-which ultimately helped inform & inspire her for the submitted piece here, in pen & ink. She has also shared that she wants to enter the field of Art Preservation/Art Conservation after college; And, we have reached out to conservationists together to gain their insight on how to approach college-level and internship-based options. Overall, it brings me much joy to have students such as Autumn in my classes as a public-school educator in challenging times: School just wouldn't be the same without the positivity and high regard for art from students such as Autumn!

Artist Statement

I practice and show in both oil painting and photography. In recent years I have invested more time in digital photography-mainly montage photography which requires time both in the field, shooting subject matter and working in the studio, digitally. My subject matter is typically landscape or animal-based and montage is a way for me to depict both sometimes, simultaneously.

Montage photography requires a certain aesthetic recipe-with time and consideration invested in first finding and then composing dynamic imagery. What makes montage photography so special and challenging to me is seeing how each step in the process influences and alters those which follow. To me, montage is both critical and magical-highly similar to film camera and darkroom processes. My photographs must work on their own-yet when layered have the opportunity to reveal connections and memories-such as in the photograph, *Her Legacy*, with the paint mare, frontier fence, and aspen trees.

Thank you to past & current generations of film photography & darkroom-based educators whose patience and safety allow for the love of photography to both continue and evolve.