



Liz Ellis, Master

Athens Area High School, PA.

Why I Chose Samantha Mack

This is my 2nd year teaching 2-D art. Therefore, I have had the opportunity to work with Sam for two years. Throughout this time, I have watched Sam come into her own and challenge herself without complaint. She is a student that I never have to remind to stay on task, as she comes into the art studio ready to work at her craft. In addition to strong focus, she is always working to develop her skills. As an artist, it is my belief that we never stop improving our craft. Sam embodies this belief with her work ethic. She takes critique with grace and always jumps into a project without fear. As she gets ready to graduate, I will miss this work ethic and fearless effort.

Why I Chose Madelyn Jones

This is my 2nd year working with Maddie. Although I can take no credit for her amazing talent, I am so proud to have gotten to work with Maddie and witness her growth as an artist. More important than her talent is Maddie's work ethic. She continually spends extra time in the art studio perfecting her craft and challenging herself to grow as an artist. She asks for honest critique and improves upon her work without complaint. She strives to continually improve her skills and looks for new artistic opportunities. As Maddie moves on to become an art educator, I know she will be a strong and encouraging mentor for her students. However, I will definitely miss her in the art studio, as she is both a strong artist that shows a passion for craft and is always a role model for her peers.

Artist Statement

This work began as a demonstration piece for a surrealism unit I wanted to teach. This process began with a search for magazine clippings. I knew I wanted to explore an environmental theme. Therefore, I went in search of any item that fit into that theme. As I sifted through the images I had cut, a Hefty garbage bag, a cityscape and a shark holding a skateboard began to stand out as key storytellers. I could already envision the sky and oceanscape in my mind. Therefore, once I found the magazine clippings, I began working them into what I had envisioned and began resizing parts to meet the prospective needs of the painting through a collage. Finally, I began to add little extra touches to juxtapose the role of the shark and the human to add to the narrative of the work. I had so much fun with this process. A new idea unfolded to meet the theme continually as I worked.