



# Dr. Andrea M. McDonough, Master

Williamsport Area High School, PA.

## Why I Chose Alyssa Forker and Gianna Backner

It has been one full year since we have exhibited student work for a formal exhibit. In March of 2020, we celebrated Youth Art Month in the PDE building in Harrisburg, PA, crowded in a lecture hall and taking group photos. Alyssa and Gianna were there. During our lockdown time last spring, Alyssa and Gianna were present on voluntary Zoom check-ins and continued to create, document, and push forward as artists. This year, as Advanced Placement art students with additional Independent Study time, both artists are leading the pack in terms of portfolio development and self-expression during this atypical senior year. Both students inspire me in different ways and watching them find their style and voice has been really exciting to witness.

My decision to select Alyssa and Gianna as my Grasshoppers for the 2021 Master and Grasshopper is symbolic. We have all grown and changed over the past year and they have demonstrated grit, flexibility, and creativity in ways that most high school seniors are not capable of. I am honored to have the opportunity to display my work with these two amazing high school artists who are destined for a bright future and prepared to creatively handle anything that life will challenge them with.

## Artist Statement

Andrea McDonough is a secondary art educator and K-12 art curriculum coordinator for the Williamsport Area School District. She also supports the art and education departments at Lycoming College. McDonough is a successful grant-writer with a passion for public art and the expansion of K-16 visual arts curriculum in the Williamsport area. McDonough holds a Pennsylvania K-12 Art Education Certificate and a Pennsylvania PK-12 Supervisory Certificate in Curriculum and Instruction. McDonough's current art practice involves the exploration of mindfulness through drawing and experimental works as well as mixed media collage and gel transfers. McDonough is a doctoral graduate from Drexel University, having completed research on Creative Mindfulness in Secondary Art Education.

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