



Andrew Wales, Master

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Why I Chose Summer Eldridge and Allyson Rockwell

As artists we learn from teachers, but also from each other. We learn through trial and error and through interactions that inspire new pieces and revisions in our work. It has been my pleasure to work with these two exemplary artists as their teacher and fellow artist.

Summer Eldridge created *Girl with the Peace Sign Earring* – a reinterpretation of Jan Vermeer’s *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Summer has specialized in portraits – especially in colored pencil. She achieves excellent likenesses, but more than that – she makes statements with each one. She considers the events of our day and makes thought-provoking pieces that promote reflection on the issues of our time. This piece is more subtle than most of her work, a self-portrait with the sign of peace replacing the pearl earring of the original. I see in the face a plea for calm in the storm of controversy and violence of our era.

Allyson Rockwell has taught herself digital drawing on her tablet this year. Allyson is one of the most diligent students I have and often ventures far outside her comfort zones to explore new concepts and media. She specializes in calm studies of nature and imaginative pieces that are fuzzy and cute. Her piece for this show brings the aesthetic of a children’s book illustration to an iconic Impressionist composition. Her *Rainy Day Stroll* is a whimsical reinterpretation of Gustave Caillebotte’s *Paris Street: Rainy Day*. The self-importance and finery of the bourgeoisie provoke a chuckle when the models are replaced by frogs.

Artist Statement

As an art teacher, part of our job is to set up an environment for a creative community. We present instruction, give feedback and advice, organize critiques, and sometimes work alongside students as a model artist. The two students I have chosen are exemplary artists and art students. This year the three of us created works of art that were “remixes of a classic.” My piece is of course a reinterpretation of DaVinci’s *Last Supper* with food mascots taking the place of Christ and the Apostles and the Pepto Bismol mascot standing in for Judas Iscariot. I like to make pieces that are silly and fun, but also thought-provoking. These beloved symbols of our past inspired loyalty to products of dubious nutritional value. The drama of a “final meal” with consternation over betrayal has a different significance when acted out by familiar advertising personalities.