



# Gianna Backner, Grasshopper

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Williamsport Area High School, PA.

## Artist Statement

My experiences in Dr. McDonough's art classes have been exponentially beneficial to my life as an artist. Throughout my high school education art classes have always been there for me to expand and explore the creative well of my mind. I have been allowed the resources to grow, in art and as a person, with the guidance of Dr. McDonough. I feel that the projects in which I have been challenged on truly helped me to overcome similar challenges in differing situations. Independence is an extremely important part of my maturation as an artist, and Dr. McDonough has vouched for my ability to pursue such independent studies time and time again. Without the guidance of her knowledge, I do not know if my high school art experience would have been the same. I am truly grateful for the time and mentorship of Dr. McDonough during my limited years of study in art.

An example of the inspiration and guidance received from Dr. McDonough is the piece entitled, "The Eyes in Which We Feed." Originally designed to be a study on using plexiglass as a medium, I took the piece further and attached a ceramic dinnerplate to the main epoxied portion featuring the eyes looking back at the viewer. The inspiration for this piece came from the portfolio investigation of food desserts in America and the effects of suburbanization. Using mediums of ceramics, plexiglass, acrylic paint and pour on resin. Utilizing concentric circles to balance the focal point of the eyes. Dr. McDonough guiding me through the pour-on resin process allowed me to adjust to a new medium while continuing my sustained investigation.