



# Olivia Bochenek, Grasshopper

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Chenango Valley High School. Binghamton, NY.

## Artist Statement

Signing up for my first sculpture class in school was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I did not expect clay to become one of my biggest passions. Sculpture quickly became my favorite class and inspired me to fill my schedule to the brim with more art classes. Throughout the past few years in the art room, I have learned so much, not only about clay and mixed media, but also about myself and the way I express my ideas. The learning environment Mr. Fitz has created has allowed me to grow tremendously as an artist and I am profoundly grateful.

For “ALONE!”, I first formed the head, then added a long neck and shoulders, making the figure look gnarled and strained. I carved in facial features and added leaves and growth. I used the direction of the neck and leaves to give movement. After being fired, I painted the figure a stark white with black eyes for simplicity and contrast. For “Marcel,” I also started off with a head, long neck and shoulders. I focused mainly on his facial expression to try to give him a very despondent look. I used low-fire glazes to make his skin look weathered and to make his eyes yellow. I packed on tons of layers of the yellow glaze so that it would drip in the kiln, making his tears glow. Creating these sculptures is a way for me to identify and express what I’m feeling without holding back. Instead of having to put my emotions into words, I put them into clay.