



Summer Eldridge, Grasshopper

Athens Area High School, PA.

Artist Statement

In my time with Dr. Wales in high school, I have been pushed beyond my comfort zones, which had resulted in my skills being beyond what I ever thought they could be. In my art classes, I have learned beneficial ways to show off my art, and have it been seen by more than just my classmates. I have learned the this has led to commissions.

Besides that, my art classes have also shown me what I want to do with my life. Because of my art teacher and the art classes I have taken, I have discovered that I want to major in art education at Penn State University, so I can inspire a whole new generation of artists. The world would not be the same without art, and it is an important part of life that needs to stay present. I am extremely thankful for all the things I'm able to show off because of art, and all of the things that art has been able to show me.

The Girl with the Peace-Sign Earring

My colored pencil drawing is inspired by Johannes Vermeer's iconic painting, *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* (circa 1665). I chose to modernize this piece because it has always been an artwork that I have been drawn to, between the shadows on the face, and the contrast between her pale skin and the dark background. I decided this would be a perfect piece to recreate since I had just dyed my hair blue, and I had happened to be wearing a green sweatshirt. And to top it all off, I was wearing my favorite earring, my peace sign earrings. There was no better way to modernize it than incorporating blue hair, a sweatshirt, and a peace sign. So I set up a photo shoot, and posed similarly to the girl's pose in the painting. I took a picture I was happy with, edited it, and began drawing. The most important piece about artwork to me is the meaning and symbolism behind it. In this piece, I feel that I was truly able to capture the essence of myself and everything I love. I was showing myself through my favorite piece of artwork, while expressing myself and my beliefs.