

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Amber Byeon

I am currently a senior at Stouffville District Secondary School. Art is a journey for me into an infinite world of colours. As an artist, I'm amazed by the fact that with just three colours, I can create an endless spectrum. The colours born from the tip of my brush and those that spring from imagination bring both wonder and inspiration. When I complete a piece using the colours I've crafted, it feels as if mystical fragments of art have converged to form a singular creation.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Theresa Chu

As an artist, my creations are a mirror of my life experiences; I draw inspiration from the beauty of the world around me, even from the things that frighten me or cause chaos in my life. My artwork is called *The Deep*. It's inspired by my fear of what lies beneath the deep ocean. Even if the scary ocean evokes a feeling of loneliness and fear, it also holds a profound allure that draws us in, it beckons us to explore its depths, to confront our fears and embrace the unknown. In doing so, we may discover the incredible beauty that lies within. My artworks are a way for me to show people the beauty of things that fear us.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Suhaani Dhiman

I'm an Indian-Canadian artist from Stouffville, Ontario. I've always loved creating things, whether it be through painting or building structures. In this show, my art explores the ideas of loss and humanity through the medium of a werewolf. A creature who was once human, with a life, a home. But as fate had it, he became something else, more animal than man, a creature unrecognizable to even himself. Loosely inspired by the ideas of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Jekyll and Hyde*, these works show the duality of this man-like creature. Terrified and terrifying, all at once.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Aspen Doherty

My dream to be an artist/ animator is so that I can give a voice and way of expression to those who can't, whom I care for. Nearly all of my art is personal. I use digital art mainly for my ways of expression, and this art exhibit showcases parts of my own mind that are seen as taboo or strange. I embrace every part of me, especially the strange and unusual because that is what makes me who I am.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Kenya Forrest

I am currently a senior at Stouffville District Secondary School. My art is inspired by quotes like “Art wasn’t supposed to look nice; it was supposed to make you feel something.”-Rainbow Rowell. Mainly because it connects to my usual style, surrealism. Some things might not always be pleasing to the eyes to look at. It might make your mind twist, eyes squint, and confuse your brain cells but that's the point. The beauty in my pieces are the feelings; raw, broken emotion depicted through my art for you to interpret and experience.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Terry Frankum

I create art inspired by robots, magic, and other fantasy/technological creatures. I like art because it allows me to create a world that I truly enjoy and that isn't bound by logic or any sort of rationality for myself.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Ella Ha

I am an artist from Ontario Canada currently attending Stouffville District Secondary School in the 12th grade. Art is something in my life that I could never live without. Ever since I was 3 years old, I knew that art would be very important to me growing up. My goal for the future is to become an animator so that way I can bring my artwork to life.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Madeleine Holden

I'm a grade 12 student from Stouffville, Ontario. Art has always been part of my life because I see it and feel it everywhere, it's a comfort for me that I could not live without. I draw lots of inspiration through sentiment, nature, and my environment. The people and things around me are big inspirations for me because it's where I find the most art.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Jordan Liu

Jordan Liu is a grade 12 student artist who does contemporary, architectural and pop art. He translates personal experiences into visual concepts and pieces of artwork, he often looks for inspiration through the internet, nature, and while doing everyday life. The artworks have been made with inspiration, dedication and some procrastination and each artwork makes you wonder: What is the process of him making it? Why does it look like that? The artist's work for the show is genuine and it will be shown with love and care.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Hillary Luong

I am a senior student studying at Stouffville Secondary School. Drawn into the world of arts at an early age, I aspire to continue art throughout my life. My current work portrays the exploration of different mediums. From clay, watercolor, acrylics and even recyclables, I aim to explore different mediums like I can with the endless possibilities in the world around me. With my artworks, I hope to also inspire you to explore the world of art and the endless possibilities that will come to you.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Tyler Maharaj

My name is Tyler Maharaj, an artist that partakes in Stouffville District High School, grade 12 Visual Art. I am 16 years of age and specialize in photorealism and cartoon drawings. My inspiration is Laurent Martel who draws photorealistic car drawings.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Samila Makhdoom

I am inspired by the innovative works of Zaha Hadid, drawing upon a blend of naturalistic and imaginative creativity. As a Torontonionian artist, I'm fascinated by the connections between art, architecture, and nature, often exploring these through graphite drawing. My ambition is to craft art that merges the realism of nature with my own expressions. My work embodies dynamism, abstraction, and a unique blend of modern and traditional styles, creating timeless pieces. By fusing natural structures with my transformative ideas, I strive to create graphite drawings that deeply resonate with those who experience them.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Emily Pan

I'm a grade 11, Chinese-Canadian student who is passionate about creating visual art that captures feelings and experiences. I enjoy creating innovative and meaningful artwork by sculpting, painting, and working with clay. Some things I like to incorporate into my art are trash, garbage, things I can repurpose, and any objects that I can put a creative twist on. My objective is to spark reflection, convey emotions, and spread awareness. For me, art is an outlet from the chaos of the outside world; it's a space where music turns on, ideas can flow, and creativity can take over.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Harmony Reesor-Ker

I'm a senior artist at Stouffville District Secondary School. For me, art goes beyond the tangible; it transforms into a voyage into the limitless realm of expression. Art becomes a language of emotion, allowing artists to express the intricate tapestry of feelings that words often fail to capture. The piece I created called "Nature Transformed" is meant to encapsulate the beauty of nature, and just how magical it is. The subtle wonders of nature often evade our notice, camouflaged in the ordinary until we pause to truly see. This happens more as we grow, as we lose the childlike wonder of the world and get caught up in the human experience. This piece is an ode to the magical, transformative beauty of nature, and how we should never lose our imagination. Start looking at the world around you, for in its ordinary, extraordinary wonders unfold.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Sabrina Sherzai

I am a 17-year-old senior at Stouffville District Secondary School. My art creations are always going to be all about bringing happiness and nostalgia to life as well as adding a touch of meaning. I believe that all art has the capability to transport us to special moments in our lives and create deeper connections. When I begin to set my imagination free and pick up my pencil, I aim to create artwork that captures these feelings and leaves a long-lasting impact. Join me on this journey of nostalgic, and meaningful art!

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Zarina Sherzai

I've been exploring the world of art and its endless sculptural possibilities since my childhood. From sculptures to bold installations, I'm always pushing the boundaries of creativity. Through my art, I strive to create a sense of wonder and transport viewers to new realms. All throughout my artistic journey, imagination knows no limits. Thank you for joining me on this exhilarating ride!

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Edie Slood

I am a queer neurodivergent Canadian artist. Growing up, I have always been drawn to creating art depicting people and the nuanced emotions felt that come with being a human being. I strive to create beautiful depictions of the human psyche and to hone my skill to the greatest degree I possibly can. I've always been very inspired by the work of Japanese manga and the skill put into each and every page. One day, I dream of being part of something that can inspire others the way manga inspires me.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Mei Yi Wang

My work explores Fauvism in a unique way, evoking a sense of positivity through bright colours and expressive tones. I aspire to develop a story inside my artworks that is both diverse and emotionally powerful. Through recent artworks, I love to capture moments of happiness and joy from my daily life and experiences and incorporate them into my works to be able to share them with other people. To me, art is an act of self-expression and progress. With my art, I hope to be able to shine a light of euphoria and positivity into the world.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Jade Whitten

I am a grade 12 student attending Stouffville District Secondary School. My art has always been inspired by films and stories I've heard, but as I've grown up, I'm more likely drawn to the horror genre when finding inspiration for my work. The artwork I'm presenting to you at the gallery "The Scary or The Scared?" was inspired by The Boogeyman, an old scary legend turned into different adaptations and characters from the horror films/stories I enjoy watching and listening to. To me, I love using my art to express deeper/double meaning and positive outlooks on negative characters/genres, which in hope, creates more stories and inspiration for the audience who see my artwork.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Maddy Whitworth

I am a grade 12 student at Stouffville District Secondary School. Art has always been an outlet in which I could express my thoughts and feelings. Since elementary school, I have enjoyed various projects both at home and in the classroom. Around grade 8 I began to enjoy simply drawing and painting illustrations that represented my experiences at the time. Over the course of quarantine, the main form of expression I gravitated towards was the arts.

MERAKI

IMAGES 23/24

Artist Statement: Daron Yaziciyan

I am a Grade 11 student from Stouffville, Ontario. I have been drawing and crafting all my life, often inspired by my favorite works of fiction. This year, I was inspired by my favorite childhood television series whose core themes explored the long-term effects that war has on both organic and inorganic things. Through my art, I strive to reactivate old memories and provide nostalgia to people who grew up with the series, as I did. I also hope to invoke deeper thinking about mortality, the environment, sustainability, and the potentially harmful similarities between humanity and artificial life.