

Art in the Air



Middleville
DDA



**THORNAPPLE
ARTS
COUNCIL**
Of Barry County Michigan

Art in the Air is an open celebration of art, giving local artists the opportunity to showcase their work on street pole banners in beautiful downtown Middleville. The first annual Art in the Air exhibition features 32 pieces by Barry County artists.



Art in the Air is a collaborative effort between the Thornapple Arts Council and the Middleville Downtown Development Authority.

Established in 1985, the Thornapple Arts Council of Barry County aims to spark creativity, community, and culture through programs and education that bring personal enrichment and quality of life to Barry County residents. TAC enriches Barry County through arts and culture by fostering education about, appreciation of, and participation in the arts.



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The Middleville Downtown
Development Authority, in
collaboration with local, public,
and private entities, strives to take meaningful action
to ensure maximum economic growth and
development, historic preservation & revitalization,
and to serve the community through a wide range of
resources and grant opportunities.



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**COMMERCIAL
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Allstate
Derek Saunders



Achilles

Jorden L., Age 17

Artist Statement

"This painting is of the sculpture of Achilles and was created using acrylic black & white paint on a 36" by 24" stretched canvas. This project was a free choice presentation for a final school project, and

the third in my series of black & white sculpture paintings. Additional entries include Nike Winged Victory of Samothrace in B&W acrylic and a stippling pencil sketch of Michelangelo's David."

be... blooming

Ann Hair

Artist Statement

"Dedicated in loving memory of my Dad, John D. Fredenburg Sr., who went to meet his Maker."





Awaken

Carrie Vanduser

Artist Statement

"Wisdom is to discover the highest truth and to live in harmony with it. It is the only way to one's dignity and equilibrium. It is the opening of the third eye, the mind's eye. It gives us

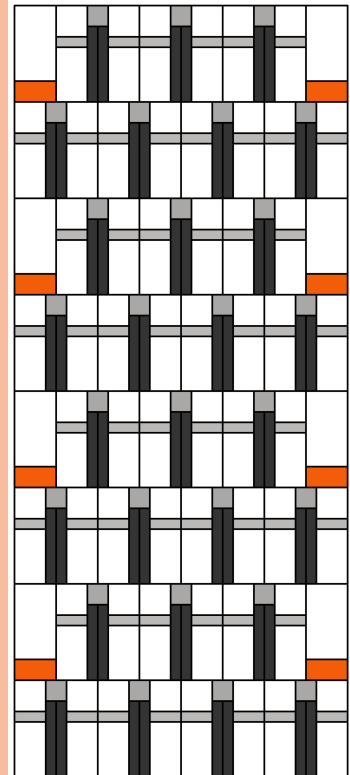
insight and leads us to pure consciousness. It is the reality which we are seeking."

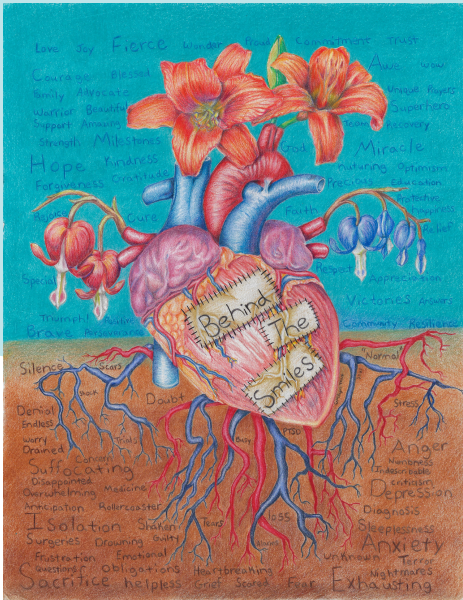
Community

Nickole Harrison

Artist Statement

"This piece is a linear abstract of people reaching out to other people, which is what I think of when I think of Middleville. I used the TK school colors as the inspiration for the color palette."





Behind the Smiles

Evelyn Mix

Artist Statement

"1 in 100 children are diagnosed with Congenital Heart Disease/Defect. Most

will need life-saving interventions within the first birth year. It is the most common birth defect yet most people are unaware of it until it impacts a loved one. Behind the Smiles is about the emotions that parents of Congenital Heart Defect/ Disease go through. It is a difficult journey full of struggles and victories. The two different flowers in the drawing are Mended Heart Lily and the Bleeding Heart Flower. The Mended Heart Lily represents our children. Mended Heart is what we call a heart after open heart surgery. The Bleeding Heart flower represents us parents pouring out our soul to the world. The background is composed of 100 words that describe the journey CHD parents go through with their children--50 negative words that we bury beneath the surface and 50 positive words that we gladly share with the world."



Common Redpoll

Michal Enders

Artist Statement

"Truly a Michigan snow bird, this visitor to the Mill Pond is only here each winter as it ventures south from its summer home in the artic. They are a colorful member of the finch family."

Sunshine

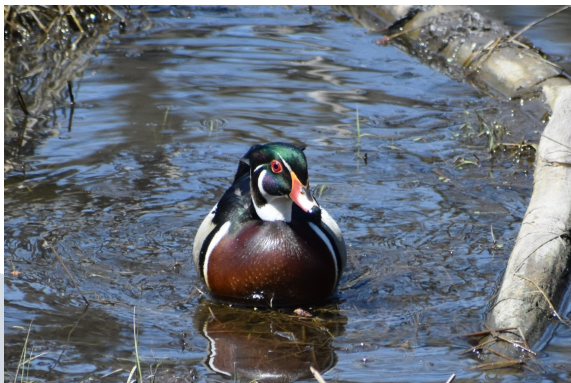
Raegan W.

Age 12



Beautiful Boy

Bruce Farrell



Corn Field Forest

Jeffrey Keating

Artist Statement

"I took the forest picture with the trees in Wildwood Trails Park while on a hike with my dog. The corn field picture was taken on a run around Middletown on a beautiful day. I combined the photos in photoshop and also used the new Artificial Intelligence Style transfer in photoshop with one of my abstract art pieces, which gave parts of the overall image that unique painted-like texture."





Mums the Word

Emily Harrison

Artist Statement

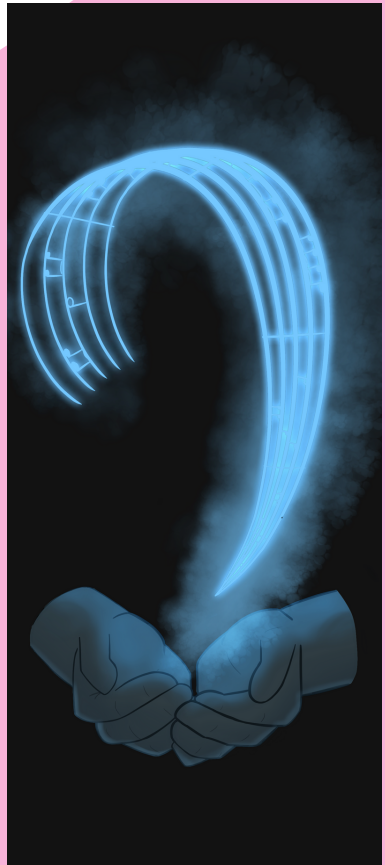
"I took this picture at the local Greenhouse I work for."

Musician

Morgan K., Age 18

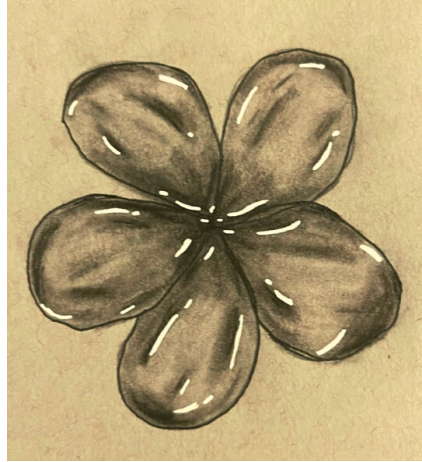
Artist Statement

"This is depicting an anonymous composer sharing their music, highlighting that anyone can share what they have, no matter who they are."





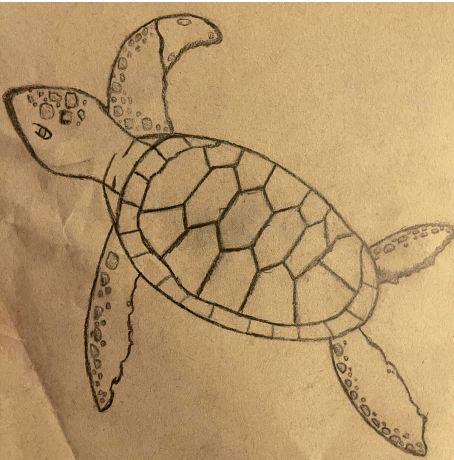
Paradise



Flower in the Wind

Brie D., Age 13

Save the Turtles



A Tribute to Gemini





Nap Time

Karen Culver

Artist Statement

"I've always been fascinated with flamingos. This beauty lives nearby; I took his picture during nap time. I extracted the flamingo from his not-very-pretty background and created this more peaceful, tropical setting for his nap.

Flamingos are identifiable by their long necks, sticklike legs, and pinkish feathers. Flamingos embody the saying 'you are what you eat.' The colors of their feathers come from eating pigments found in algae and invertebrates."

Gift of Blooms

Ann Hair

Artist Statement

"Dedicated to all who have cheered me on this creative journey!"





Lazy Bones

Michele Hielkema-Dietiker

Shy Youngster

Michal Enders

Artist Statement

"This young White Tail Deer was peeking out through the grasses along the Thornapple River. I was in my kayak when I caught this quick glimpse. As a new grad of the Michigan Master Naturalist program at MSU, I hope that my paintings and photos spark curiosity and enjoyment."





Los Cabos

Dave Boomer

Artist Statement

"This is my second attempt at painting colored epoxy over watercolor. Trying something new is usually intimidating at the very least, but if you follow through, you just might surprise yourself. So jump in with that next new life project. It'll be great!"

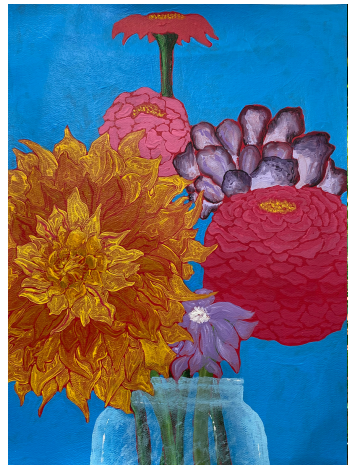
Serenity

Cam P.

Age 16

Artist Statement

"Painted with a dark pink underpainting and a light blue background."





Spring Summer Fall

Sara Scholtens

Artist Statement

"I painted this with watercolors as a banner for Art in the Air. Knowing that it would be up from March to September, I incorporated 3 seasons into the painting. It was fun to paint something so colorful on a snowy winter day."

First Trillium

Bruce Farrell



Artist Statement

"Walking the Paul Henry Trail, my wife and I noticed this first Trillium of the spring around the 3/4 mile marker."

Sunrise Over Chippewa Harbor

Annette Freid



Artist Statement

"I began painting with watercolors in January 2020, learning from online tutorials and books on watercolors. I've been spending time working on

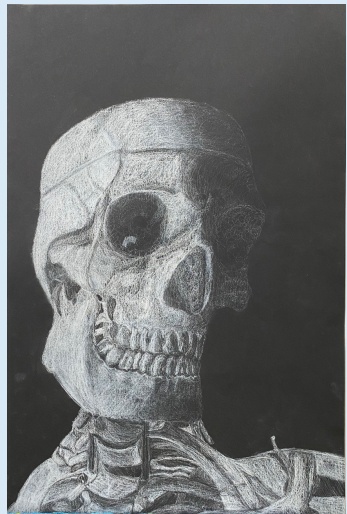
painting landscapes and especially working on water scenes as I live on a lake in Barry County. I painted Sunrise over Chippewa Harbor in April 2021 after seeing photographs of the area, using some of the techniques I have been working on."

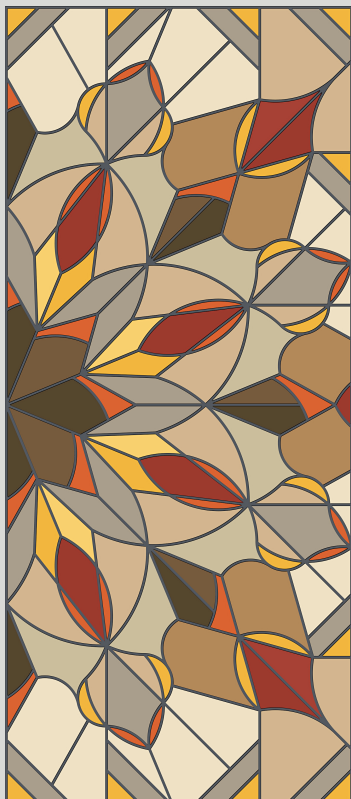
White Charcoal Skull

Tahlia C.

Artist Statement

"This is a skull done in white charcoal. I made it in my drawing and painting art class. This was my first time attempting to use white charcoal."





Sundry

Nickole Harrison

Artist Statement

"This is an asymmetrical medallion design presented in an unexpected way. The title Sundry means "various" or "assorted" and represents the multiple shapes and colors in this piece."

Kingfisher

Michal Enders

Artist Statement

"The Kingfisher is a constant companion of kayakers on the

Thornapple. Their raucous scolding and spectacular dives are always entertaining. This is an original watercolor."





Sandhill Crane Preening

Michal Enders

Artist Statement

"The Mill Pond in Middleville is home to several nesting pairs of Sandhill Cranes each year. This beauty was preening and plumping its feathers for their photo shoot."

Success

Michal Enders

Artist Statement

"Its always a treat to see a heron slowly stalking prey on the Mill Pond. They move in slow motion until the moment of striking. A successful hunt is exciting for all."





Koi Pond

Jennifer DeWitt

Artist Statement

"Using the same methods as the old masters of glass, works of art are created that are pleasing to the eye yet serve a functional purpose or perhaps even

the start of a family heirloom. Striving for a different approach to light and color, the myriad colors and textures are used to create "paintings with glass" which are pleasing to the eye and soul."

Dancing Crane

Michal Enders

Artist Statement

"Sandhill Cranes migrate through the Mill Pond in Middleville and can be seen in flocks of hundreds in the fall. They return in the spring and their dancing marks the start of the new season."





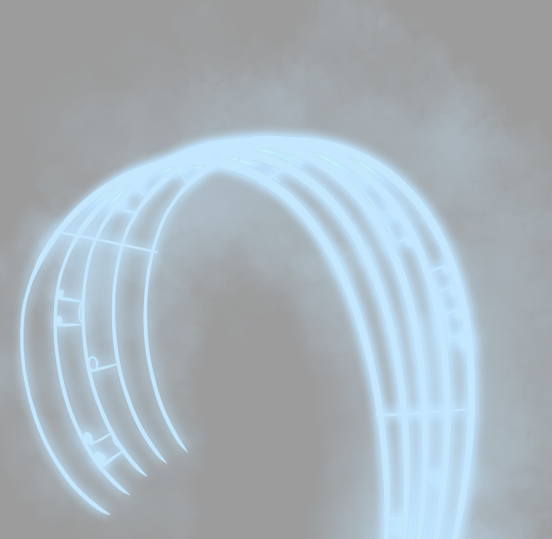
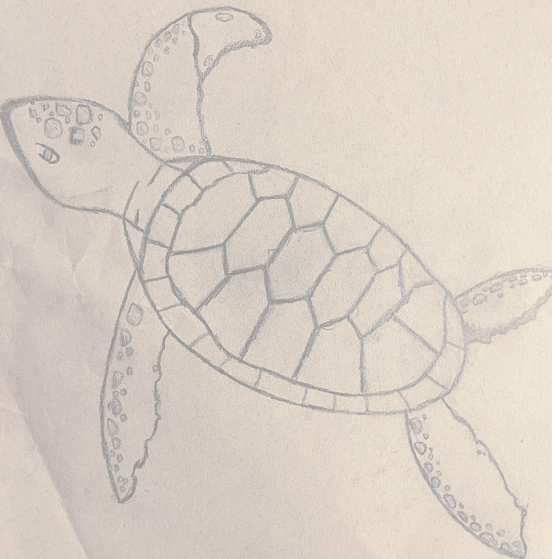
Northern Green Frog

Michal Enders

Artist Statement

"This beautiful frog lives in the river and pond areas of Middleville. They can be recognized by their song that sounds like a plucked rubber band. As a recent graduate of the Michigan Master Naturalist program

through MSU, I hope that my photos and paintings can spark curiosity and enjoyment."



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