

Dear Friends of the One on One Gallery,

Have you have been enjoying the rollercoaster weather we're experiencing this winter? It has definitely been a diverse mix...much like the wildly different works we are installing this week in the One on One Gallery (see what I did there?). Prepare to be amazed and impressed by the annual High School Show, which runs February 9 - 26 with a reception on Thursday, February 12 at 7 PM and comments and awards announced at 7:30 PM.

This year's submissions highlight the creativity of the students along with the passion and dedication of their teachers. At Monsignor McCoy High School, art teacher Amber Hamilton asks the kids to "think outside the box, break the rules, and to challenge themselves." This creative challenge results in surprising work including "broken glass holding things together, mannequin heads cut wide open, and polymer clay used to create many wild and interesting pieces." With pieces ranging from less than an inch in size to paintings reaching four feet, there are no limits to what Studio McCoy students create.

Over at Eagle Butte High School, students have also been hard at work. Art teacher Kameko Ballantyne explains, "we emphasize working from real-life references whenever possible to strengthen observational and technical skills. This year, students explored subjects such as horses and flowers to support this approach. Art 30 students worked more independently, refining and mastering their skills as they prepare for their next steps as artists." The resulting drawings, paintings, and mixed-media sculptures show the students' focus on elements and principles of art, combining careful observation with personal creativity.

Art students at Medicine Hat High School and Ecole Crescent Heights High School have the opportunity to explore hands-on fine arts in the traditional media of drawing and painting, while also delving into the digital realm with photography, video, animation, and more. In all of these classes, technical skill is built alongside creative expression. You will be fascinated by the range of approaches and styles.

For the Art and Design Program at MHC, the High School Show is an exciting opportunity to see what young people are thinking about and referencing in their creative work. For the participating high school students, it's an opportunity to see their work in the context of a professional gallery space, and to get to know more about our program. Hopefully some of these talented students will join us at MHC in the coming years!

I want to take this opportunity to offer my admiration and thanks to the participating teachers:

- Allison Knodel, Jeremy Koutsky, and Ryan Massini at Medicine Hat High School
- Lauren Grover and Donna Armstrong at Crescent Heights High School
- Kameko Ballantyne at Eagle Butte High School
- Amber Hamilton at Monsignor McCoy High School

Hope to see you at the show! The gallery is open to the public Mon-Fri 8:30AM - 4:00PM.

Sincerely,

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PS. The MHC Art and Design Faculty Show is still on view at the Esplanade Art Gallery — if you go check it out, we'd love to hear your thoughts, questions, and comments.