

**Arts4All Florida  
Student of the Month  
November 2021**



11-year-old, **Kay Richardson** was nominated by Debbie Rambis, her grandmother. She shared how Kay works with much passion and delight in her artistic practice: “Kay is thrilled when allowed the opportunity to draw. It is one area in academics where she feels she is on level ground with other students.”

Kay attends Horizon Middle School in Osceola County. She was diagnosed with a highly rare disease called Hao-Fountain Syndrome (USP7) resulting in a speech impediment and learning disability. After starting speech therapy, she began to use drawing as an expressive language. Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, she participated in her school’s musical *The Jungle Book*. Her grandmother shared how she took dance classes when they lived in Texas. Kay has also shown an interest in musicality by keeping up with the rhythms of music as she claps or plays along. Today, Kay uses her art as an outlet to communicate her likes and interests. She has even shown increased engagement with her school friends and cousins at home.

16-year-old **Joeson Tang** was nominated by Laura White, Art Teacher at Estero High School in Lee County. She writes, “[Joeson] has a passion for art and specifically anime...He has a lightness to his pencil and really can achieve the overall effect he is searching for.”

Joeson’s attention to form and detail in his works impressed Arts4All Florida very much. Although Joeson occasionally references photos for his works, most of the time he works from memory or his own ideas. Mrs. White told us how this young artist has come a long way...Joeson has cerebral palsy but does not let this slow him down. He began drawing in middle school and practices sketching in his free time to continue improving. “I can see his confidence grow daily in his body of work and the friendships he has made have been really beneficial. He talks less about his disability and more about what he can do. Joeson strives to improve his skills as an artist, asks for feedback, and isn’t afraid to explore, even when it is hard, like one-point perspective. He said the ruler was difficult to use, but his cityscape was spot on with extended time and the constant inquiries how to fix any troublesome areas! I am so impressed with him,” said Mrs. White. Building on these skills, we are sure Joeson’s illustrative realist style will continue to wow his audiences.

