

**Student of the Month**  
**Arts4All Florida**  
**October, 2019**



15-year-old **Evan Procko** attends Branford High School in Branford, Florida and was nominated by Art Teacher, Vaster Fryar for his keen eye and deep love for art. “[Evan] hears an assignment and takes it ten times further than his classmates. He has such limited use of his hands now and yet, he pushes to create.”

For years, Evan has exhibited a significant understanding of the art making process in many mediums, although painting has withstood the test of time. His artwork has earned him numerous ribbons at local art shows and, in the spring of this year he won Best of Show at his high school art show. Currently his Suwannee River oil painting is on display at the Florida State Capitol, an opportunity he won through the school district. With true entrepreneurial spirit, Evan set up an Etsy account to sell his work. He shares with Ms. Fryar that he understands he will not have a traditional life and this may be the way he chooses to make a living in the future.

Evan has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, (DMD) and has become limited in some muscle movement. “I have seen him stand and create”, Ms. Fryar remarks, “and now I watch as he can no longer stand. He uses both arms to be able to hold and move a paint brush. He never stops and finds a way to continue to create.”



14-year-old **Nathan Linton** attends Burns Middle School in Brandon, Florida, and was nominated by Art Teacher, Pamela Reeves for his dedication to the art making process and sharing his new found passion with others. She writes, “[Nathan] spoke to me the other day and said he feels like choosing art was a ‘perfect fit’ for him.”

Nathan has always loved creating...mostly with Legos and constructing objects. But this year Nathan went out on a limb and chose art as one of his middle school electives. Initially he found it difficult to ask questions and accept constructive criticism. “Then one day something happened”, Ms. Reeves shares. “Nathan chose to take all the feedback and used it to create a value drawing of a dragon’s eye.” The feeling of success and pride has spilled over into Nathan’s personal life; his father reports noticing his increased verbal and social skills as he shares his art process to his family and friends.

Nathan has had some tough circumstances to deal with over the years along with needing reading, written language and math support to accommodate his learning disability. Although when art is a component of any of his class assignments, his teachers report, Nathan shines!