We All Need Each Other

*Florida students express wonder, connection, isolation . . .*

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Curated by
Susan Baldino
Arts4All Florida Regional Program Coordinator
We All Need Each Other

The works displayed here represent creative talents of students of all abilities from across the State of Florida. These young artists answered our call for art that emphasizes essential relationships and that reflects diversity and inclusion. Enjoy these perceptions of aspiring artists. Their work brings into focus our vision to create a world in which arts are universally accessible.

The clasped hands in the work of Melanie Garay, epitomize the theme of Arts4All Florida’s first online exhibition, We All Need Each Other. As Garay states, “they are creating a connection.”

Melanie Garay
Cape Coral
Creating Connections 2019
Pencil and marker
This work appeared in an Arts4All Florida statewide juried exhibition at the Florida Capitol, “Creating Connections,” and was awarded “Honorable Mention.” Hungerford, a student at Blankner School, explains, “Art can create impactful emotions in the artist and the viewer that can connect them in the viewing of the art.”
With my colored pencil artwork, *Marina Community*, I used fellowship on the dockside to represent how everyone has a role to play in the community. I was inspired to create this artwork while visiting a marina with my father. At the marina, I saw diverse people working together harmoniously.

In this work, the red string symbolizes the relationships and connections between people in a community. My work shows how communities thrive when they work together and how every individual has a place.
Zebediah’s work won second place for youth in the Arts4All Florida exhibition, “Creating Connections.” He explains his process: “I first collected images from magazines that represent health foods, like oranges that are my favorite fruit. I choose to paint the wash over the collage because the colors represent emotions and happiness to me. I completed the artwork with a contour line drawing of myself. I feel my best when I’m dressed nice. The line drawing was my favorite part."
I am currently taking American sign language and enjoying the opportunity to connect with people I would not have been able to. This painting represents the deaf community and the obstacles they face when trying to make connections. It is important to try to learn new languages, to create new connections, so we can learn about new cultures.

Emily Lanthier
Stuart
*Friendship*
2019
Acrylic
Madison Hongyee is a frequent exhibitor with Arts4All Florida having participated in four “Artists and Autism” exhibitions from 2013 through 2017 and the 2019 “Access, Inclusion, Opportunity” exhibition. She was recognized as Arts4All Florida Student of the Month in 2015 and participated in an Arts4All Florida music residency at her Walton County school.
Madison’s mother Jennifer remarks, “The ability to create art has enabled a meaningful life for my daughter. Her world of imagination, creation, and expression gives her the comfort she needs to cope with the grip of autism.”
I drew a hand grasping for the freedom that was just out of reach. The shackles and chains can restrain the body but not the mind.
Captivated by small creatures – geckos, lizards, insects, and crabs – Marshal used many of them in his works. Art sustained and comforted him through years of foster care until finding his adoptive mother, Betsy. Art also gave Marshal strength during his battle with cancer that resulted in leg amputation and death in 2018 at age 17. At the end of his short life, Betsy, asked Marshal about his vision for the world. “I just want people to be creative, Mom.”

Marshal was recognized as an Arts4All Florida Student of the Month from Leon High School, and his *Crab at Fripp Island* was featured in the 2019 Arts4All Florida calendar.
Art is something everyone can relate to, and everyone can create. This piece is a spin on some of the amazing styles of art and how I make them my own. In it, I relate to the creations of Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, Jackson Pollock, and the style of Mandala – Mandala for beauty, Picasso for unique, Pollock for crazy, Monet for peace, and Van Gogh for life.

Layla’s work was awarded second place in Arts4All Florida’s “Creating Connections” exhibition.
Anxiety is the constant pounding of the heart against the rib cage. Sometimes it beats so fast that it feels as though it might just beat right out of your chest. Every detail is overthought. All the small tasks feel like they may make your heart stop. Anxiety makes it hard to have a human connection with someone no matter how much you long for it. It feels as though everything you do or say could be the wrong thing. In this piece I use a skeleton to express how anxiety makes you feel bare and vulnerable.

Cassidy’s work was awarded first place in Arts4All Florida’s “Creating Connections” exhibition.