



Annika Shah

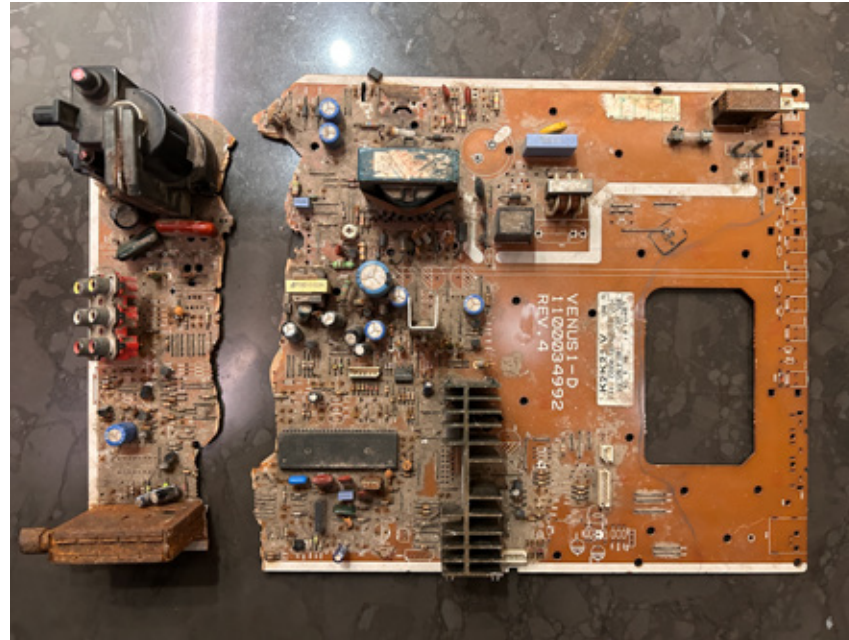
Art Portfolio

Aditya Birla World Academy



Blooming Beauty

This acrylic on canvas art piece was inspired by the beauty of extinct flowers, serving as a poignant reminder of nature's beautiful offerings. I gathered images of these flowers from the internet, representing endangered flowers from all around the world. This artwork was selected for the annual school auction and received the second highest bid. I am hopeful that it retains its glory in the recipient's home, indirectly spreading awareness and encouraging appreciation of our planet's ecosystems.



Motherboard



Mumbai City



My artwork, resembling my neighborhood in Mumbai City

Replicating '*Amchi Mumbai*', my city of Mumbai, with Upcycled Components

When I stumbled upon an old, rusty motherboard, I was struck by how its intricate, weathered components reminded me of the bustling city of Mumbai. This artwork encapsulates a unique fusion of the old and the new, much like the city's dynamic parts itself. The circular pieces on the motherboard signify images of water tanks perched atop countless homes, an unforgettable and vital part of Mumbai's skyline. The shredded paper represents the city's littered streets, highlighting its chaotic charm. Despite its apparent disarray, just like a motherboard, Mumbai is the central hub where everything comes together, thriving in its unique complexity.

Mumbai city reference



Artwork



Close Up Photos

Bandra Worli Sea-Link, stretching over the often polluted waters, ironically showcases a hoarding for Tide, the cleaning agent.



Motherboard

Artwork



Paper Collage

I love details in every aspect of my work, and I am known for spending hours delicately perfecting each piece. I was particularly inspired by a photo of someone skipping a step, which reminded me of joy and excitement. Recreating this image was a labor of love, crafted from a single newspaper. I used colored advertisements along with black and white text sections to form a unique combination. The process was time-consuming, but the end result brought me satisfaction and joy.



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Modern India rooted in tradition

Growing up in India and rooted in the country's culture, I have adored cherished our rich traditional art heritage. To keep these art forms alive, I decided to blend Kalamkari, a traditional art style from Andhra Pradesh, into my art as an endeavour to prevent timeless art forms from slowly losing their popularity. Kalamkari, known for its hand-painted cotton textiles, holds a special place in Indian history. In this artwork, I merged modern technology and photography through selfies with this beautiful art form. It shows a couple holding a phone taking a selfie, painted in Kalamkari style.

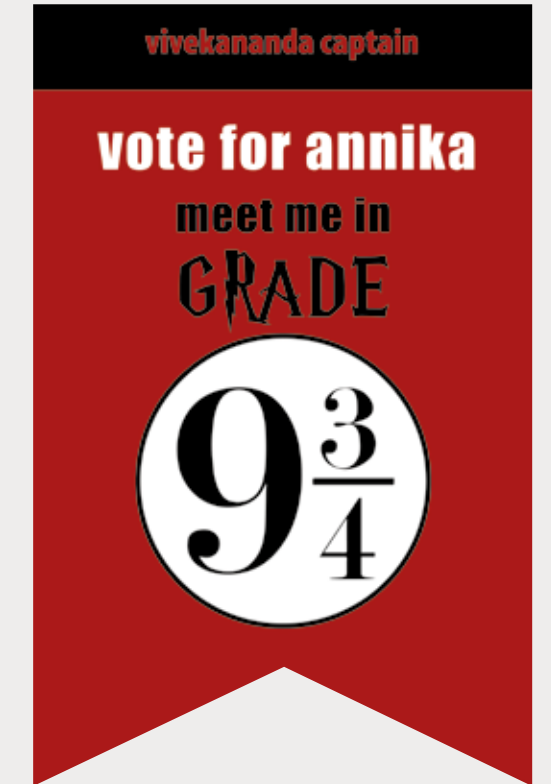
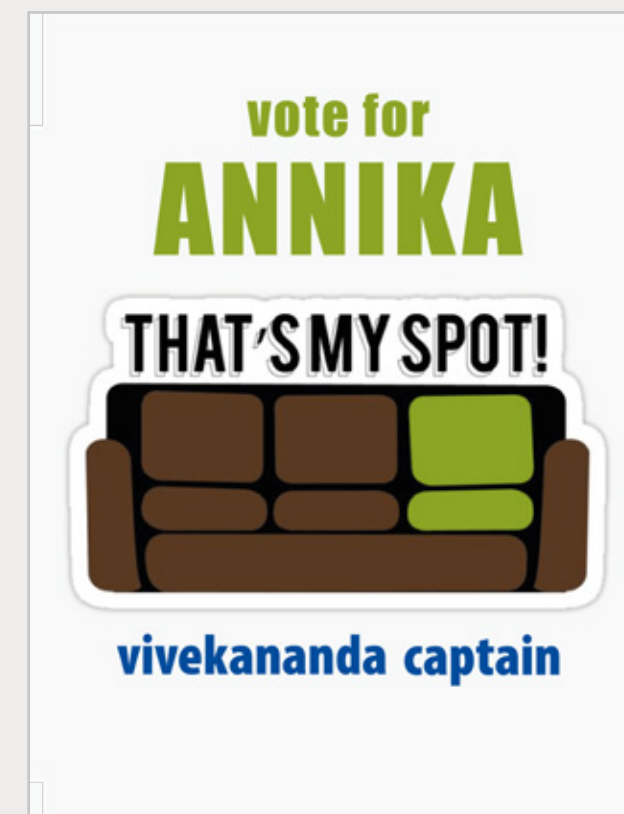
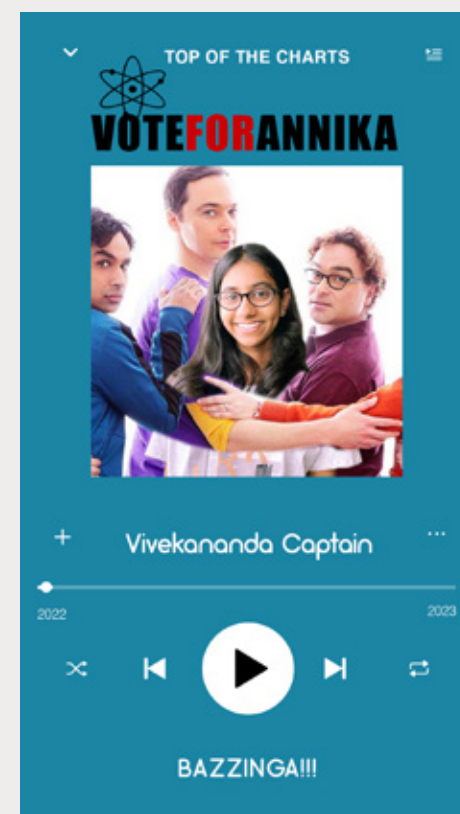
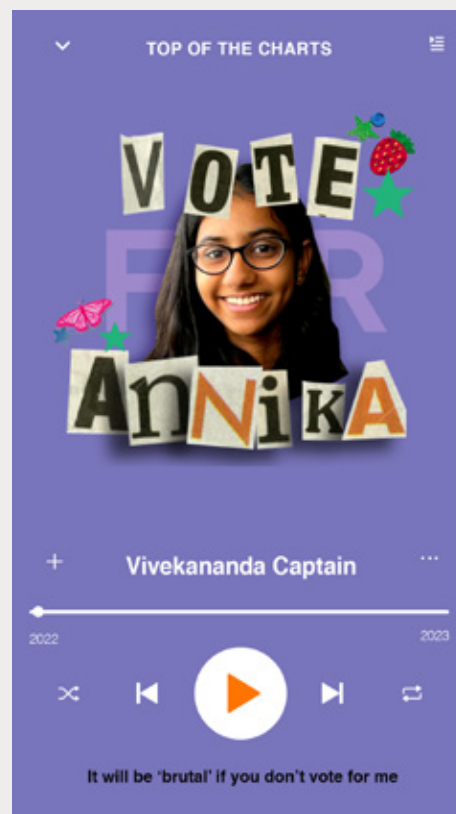
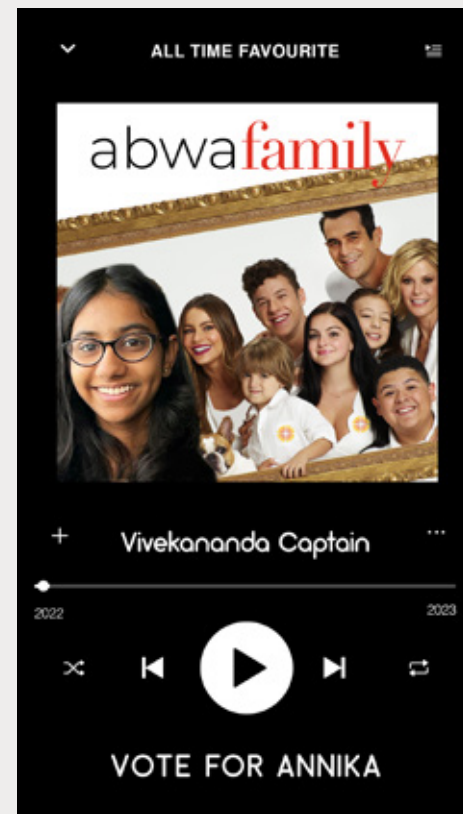


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I used the concept of Kalamkari to create a set of two pieces; in this second artwork, I transformed an olden Indian cart into a symbolic car, to illustrate a combination of the modern India I live in today, while being rooted in its deep traditions. This piece captures the essence of contemporary India while paying homage to its rich history.

Posters around the school



Flag hung outside my classroom



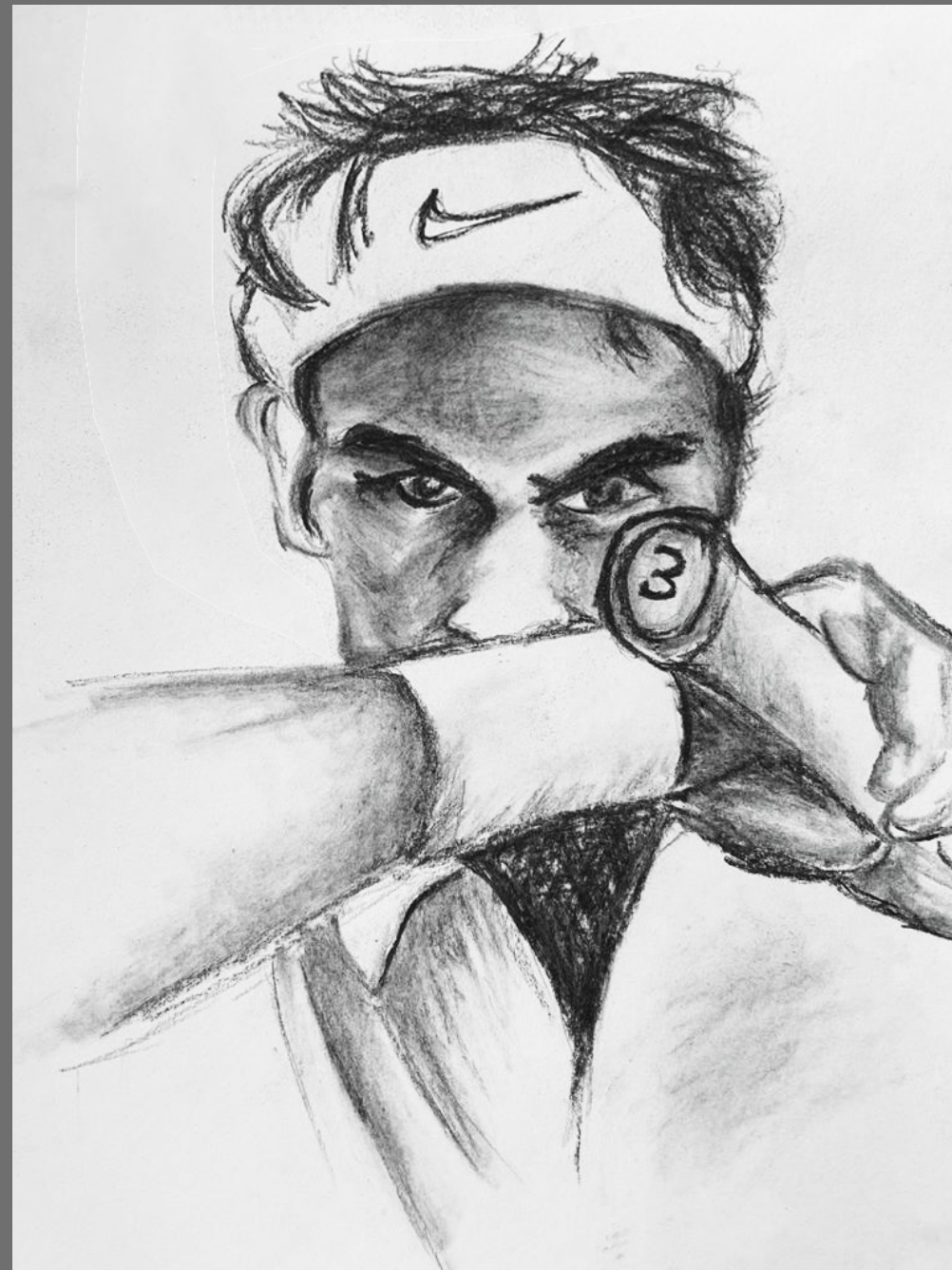
House Captain Campaign

In my freshman year of high school, my school reopened after being closed for one and a half years, a long lockdown in India due to the pandemic of Covid-19. During that time, majority of students spent a lot of time watching TV shows and listening to music at home. The election campaign started just when the school reopened. So, I decided to use TV shows in my campaign as an effort to connect with my peers and promote togetherness after months of physical loneliness. I took popular TV shows and gave them each a unique twist related to our school. For example, I changed Modern Family to “ABWA Family”, our principal's fond term for the school. As the campaign was near the end of grade 9, I used Harry Potter flags around the school with a message saying, “Meet me in grade 9-3/4.” I also used Money Heist to appeal to and attract the votes of the older students in my school, while referencing Sheldon from “The Big Bang Theory” and Joey and Chandler from “Friends” in my campaign speech, posters, and online promotion.



Published Sketches from School Newsletters

As an illustrator for my school newsletter 'The ABWA Post', I created illustrations to go with an article each month. This illustration was for an article about sportspeople and how they deal with mental health. As an avid sports fan who loves tennis and the Olympics, I had read about the mental health struggles gymnast Simone Biles and tennis player Naomi Osaka had gone through. I felt this topic deserved more attention, so I challenged myself by trying to draw realistic portraits of these sports personalities in charcoal. The background consists of the demotivating screams and comments sportspeople receive throughout their career, echoing their minds.



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Although he was the first man to achieve the mark of 20 grand slam titles, that milestone was eventually surpassed by Nadal and Djokovic. However, his record of 23 consecutive grand slam semi-final appearances may never be beaten. Moreover, not once in his 1749 matches did he ever retire due to injury. Not once. This was a symbol of his perseverance through trials and tribulations and a testament to his personal discipline to maintain peak physical form, which was no mean feat. The value of his brand off the court too is phenomenal. In 2020, he topped Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes even though he did not have a stellar year on court. After all, Federer was a people person at his core. No tennis player has ever received the love that Federer has. His impressive career plays a crucial part in this but it is so much more. A charming, humble family man, he loved the sport and his fans and they loved him back.

Fans rode the crests and troughs of exhilaration and agony with him from a gritty first Roland Garros triumph in 2009 to the heart-wrenching loss in the 2019 Wimbledon Finals when he was on the cusp of victory. Seldom could you come across a person who did not like him.

Roger Federer leaves the sport but he leaves behind a legacy that transcends the sport itself.

Illustration by Anubha Shah

Here are two more of my portraits as illustrations for the newsletter. After these works, I was promoted to being the 'Head of Illustrations' for the entire team. On the right is Elon Musk, for a Tesla-centered article, and on the right is Roger Federer, for an article about his retirement. I thoroughly enjoyed exploring realism in this way.

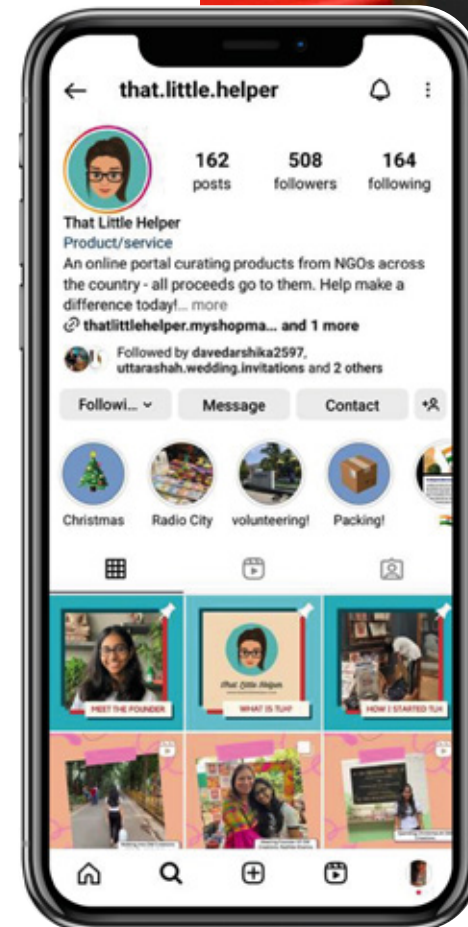
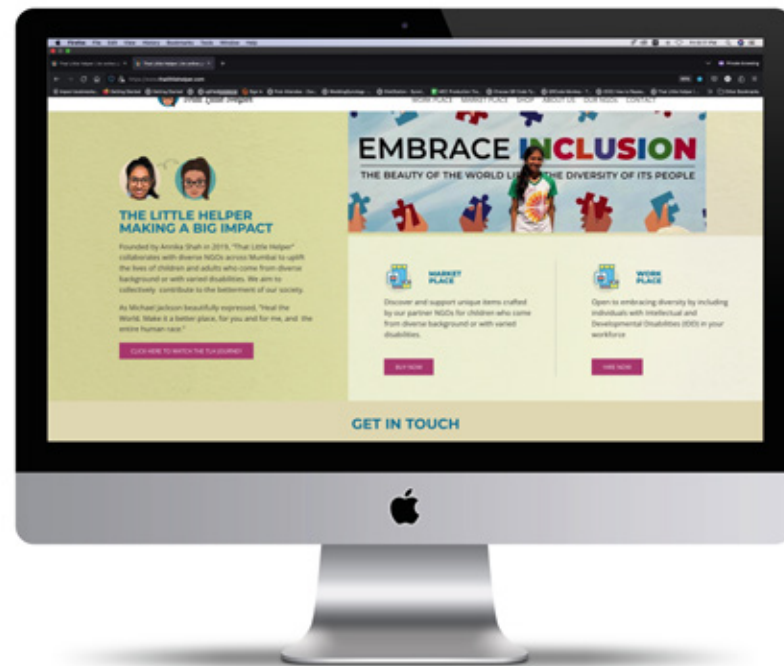
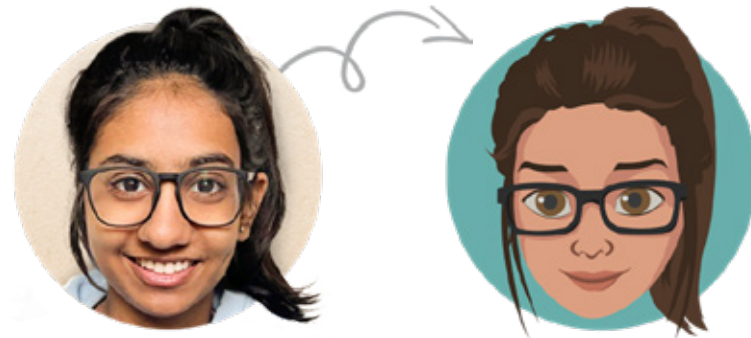


The Dynamic Canvas

I have moved beyond traditional art forms by sculpting faces out of soap bars. These soap faces are anything but static—they change and evolve daily, surprising me with their expressions and characters. Not only do they transform with each wash, but they also, surprisingly, reflect my mood or feelings for the day, shifting how I see them. This unique art form adds an exciting twist to my creativity. These creations offer a dynamic canvas, constantly transforming over time with every use.



That Little Helper



Insta: @that.little.helper

Web: <https://www.thatlittlehelper.com/>

That Little Helper

For my social enterprise, That Little Helper, I created my own logo using a photo of myself. I turned it into a fun 'memoji' with different apps, not having the update at the time (but still hearing all about it from the internet). Unsatisfied with the apps, I was inspired to then design the logo myself, which I used on things like t-shirts, posters, and my website. I also run an active social media page, which two of my school friends help me maintain. This logo was my first graphic design project, and holds a special place in my heart.



Dalgona Coffee Collaboration

During the COVID-19 pandemic, dalgona coffee became quite the rage, with everyone trying their hand in the kitchen, making it at home. Capturing this trend, a friend of mine (who is a food blogger) and I collaborated on a series of food shots and artworks. Here's a picture she took during one of our sessions, which I later turned into a sketch. This project combined my love for food and art, capturing a unique moment in time, when something as simple as a whipped coffee drink brought so much happiness into our lives amidst uncertainty.



Pet Story

My friend commissioned a special artwork of her beloved dog, who means the world to her. She some photos of her dog, and I tried to capture his unique personality and charm in this piece. Today, it is a prominent centerpiece in her room, signifying their deep bond. I thoroughly enjoyed bringing her vision to life and celebrating the life her dog brings into their household.

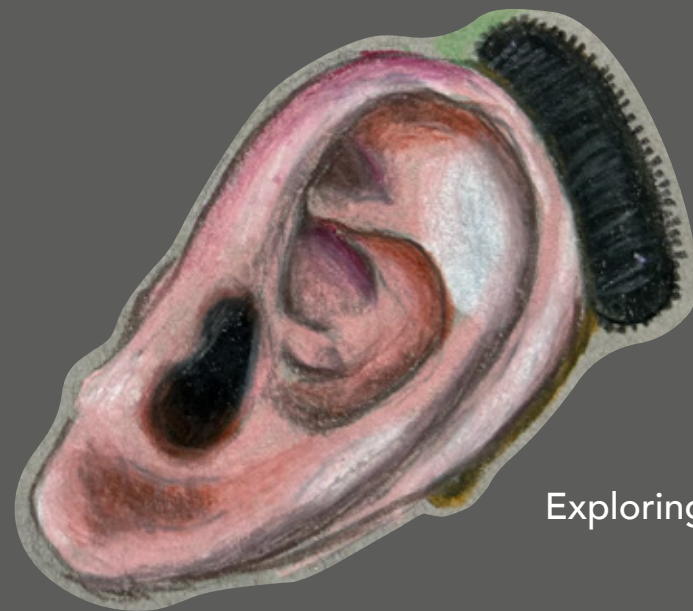


Stippling is one of the techniques I've explored to better understand light and shadow. Using tiny dots to create gradients and textures, I found it really effective for representing the ear's form and depth. I loved how it allowed me to capture the subtle nuances of light and shading.

Three quarter view



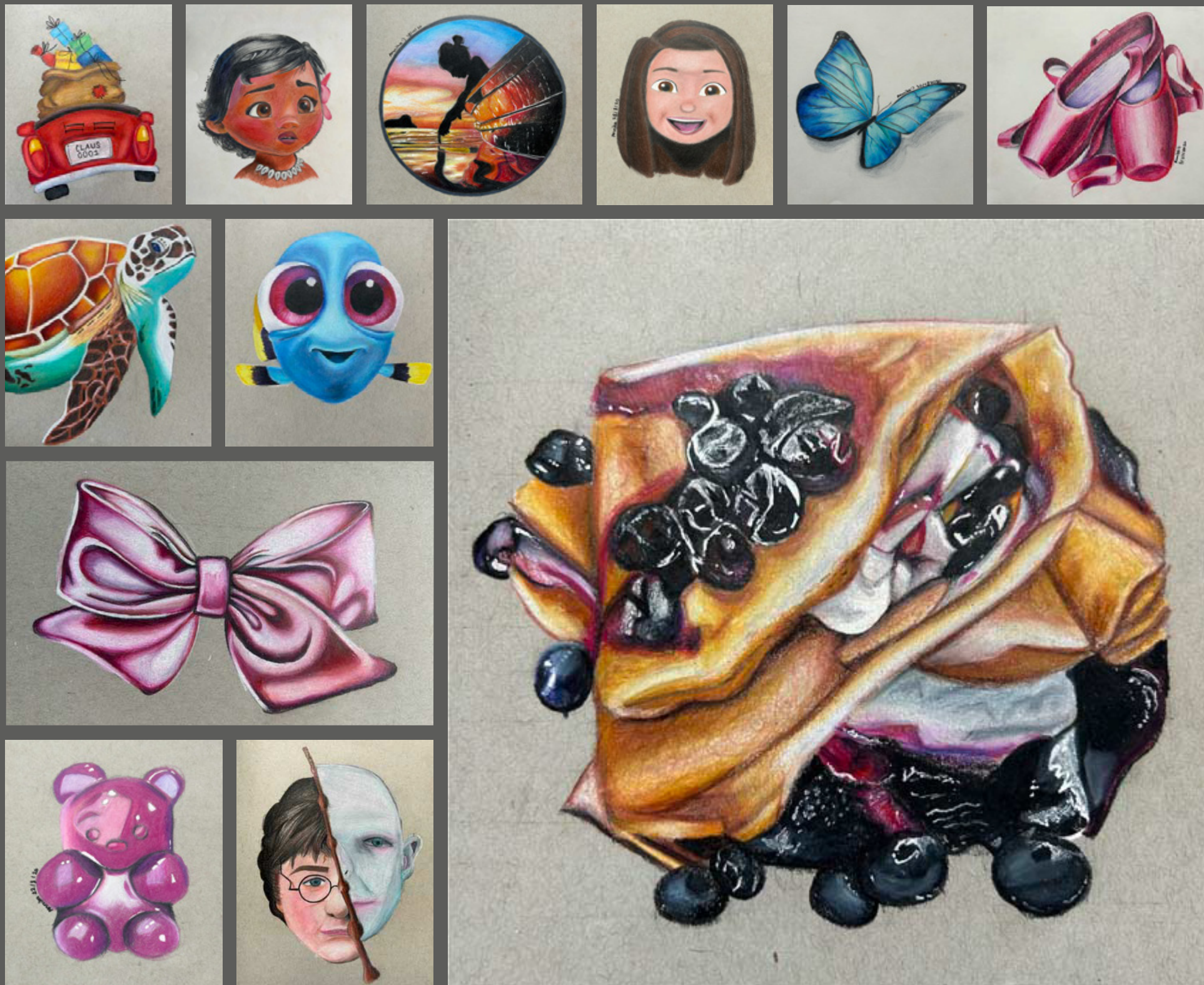
Photo realism



Exploring the ear with colour pencils

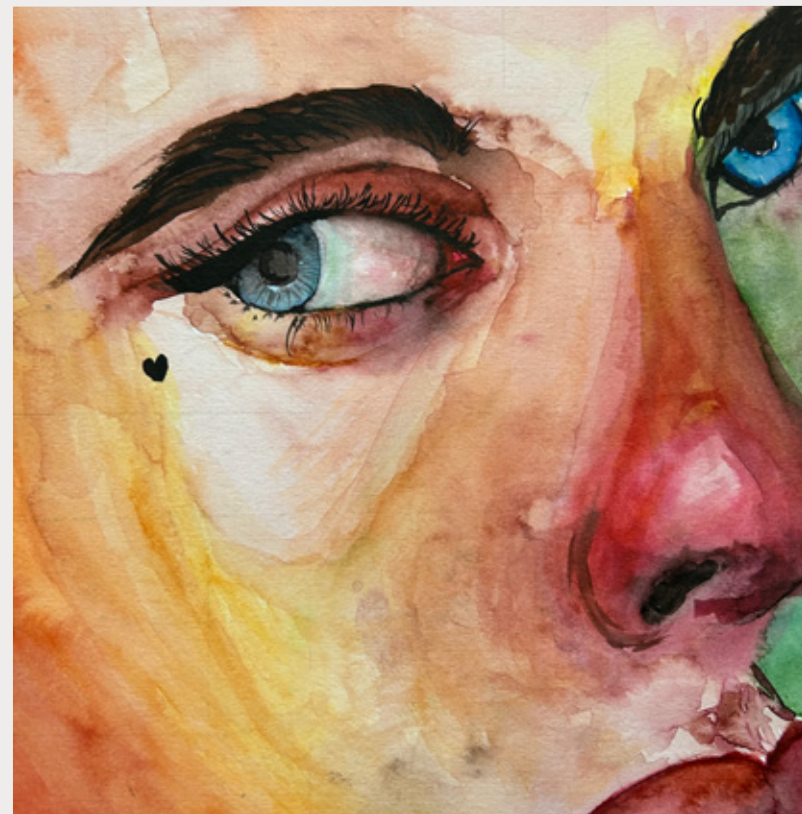
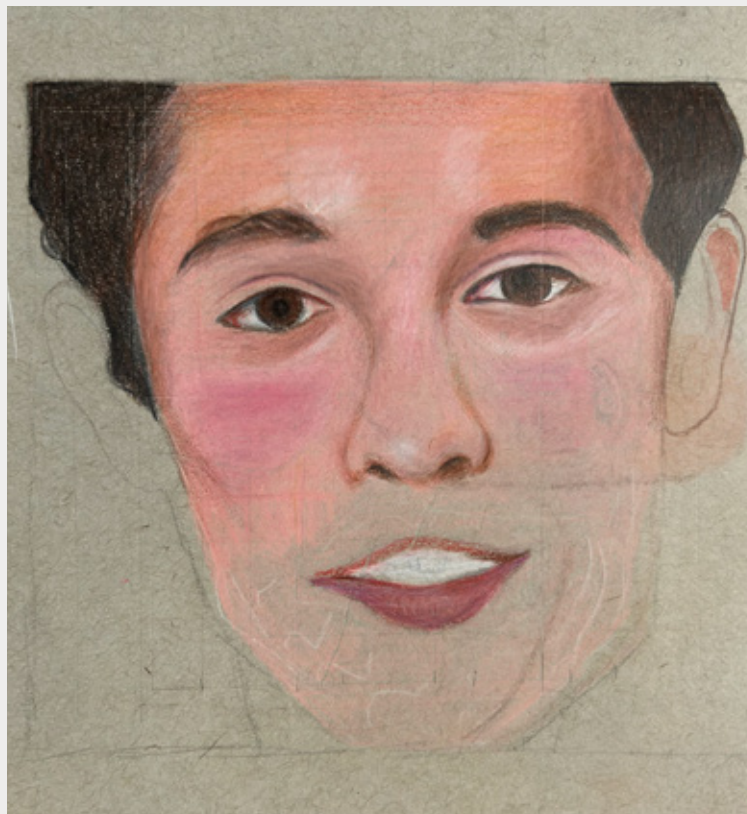
Ear Anatomy

Sketching different parts of facial features has always been a passion of mine. Over the years, I've found myself naturally drawn to capturing the intricate details of eyes, ears, noses, and entire faces. Among these, ear sketches have become a particular favorite. I've gathered a collection of my ear anatomy drawings, showcasing them in various styles and techniques. Here's a brief look at some of my approaches.



Snippets from my Covid Lockdown Sketchbook

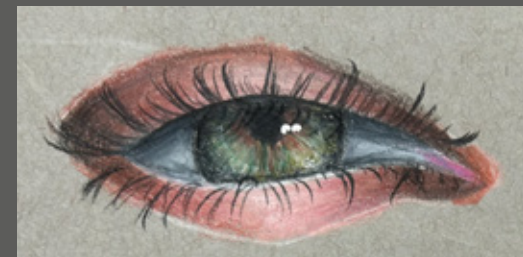
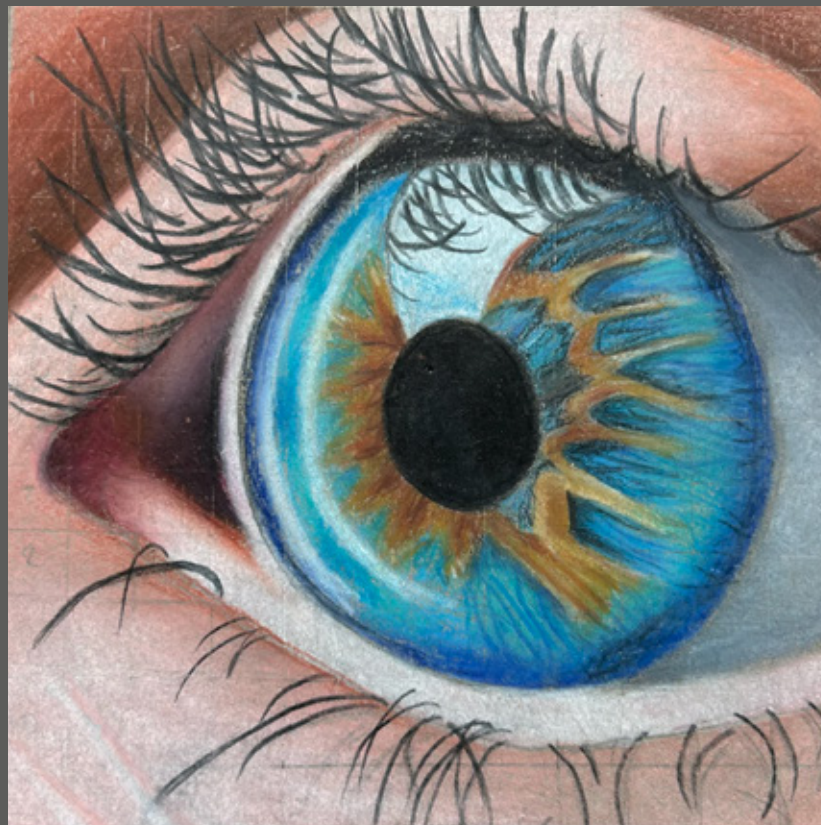
These artworks are part of a sketch diary I created during my early days of sketching, with a goal of completing one sketch a week. This project allowed me to spend more time refining my skills and honing my artistic abilities. By studying and understanding each drawing in depth, I made significant progress. I often took references and lessons from Pinterest, which helped me develop my hand skills and deepen my understanding of light and shade. This journey was instrumental in shaping my growth as an artist.



Portraits

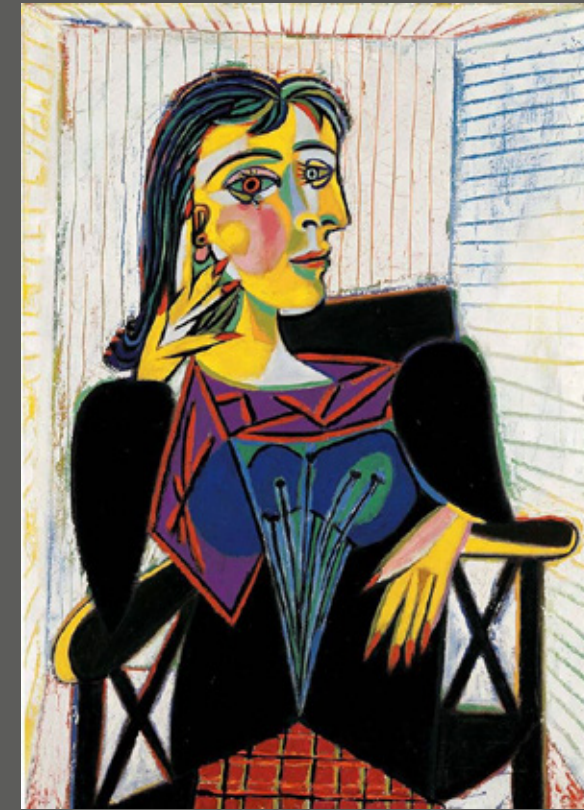
I love experimenting with various portraits in different mediums. Here are a few of them.

Self Portrait Smile



Facial Diversity

In my drawings, I love highlighting and valuing various facial features. Each face is special, and I enjoy sketching these fine details. When I draw smiles, I pay close attention to getting the exact shape of the teeth and lips right. This helps me capture not just how someone looks but also the personality a smile conveys. This smile in the colored pencil sketch is mine!



Picasso's
Dora Maar

Picasso's Dora Maar inspired Self Portrait

I was inspired by Picasso's Dora Maar portrait because of its bold, abstract representation. Replicating this masterpiece at school, I decided to add a personal twist by portraying myself in my school uniform, holding a book titled "A Mistake." This spin-off allowed me to merge the classic Picasso portrait with a contemporary me, exposing the contrast between artistic expression and everyday life. I paid special attention to details such as the zipper on my school jacket and the 'ABWA' rising sun school logo, ensuring authenticity and depth in my interpretation.



Here is a brief glimpse of my creative process for the above portrait. I drew inspiration from Picasso's cubist art style. I captured multiple photos of myself, cutting them into various shapes which unexpectedly formed interesting compositions. After careful consideration, I selected a specific arrangement to proceed with. While admiring Picasso's proportions, I personalized the artwork by incorporating subtle alterations to resemble my own features.

