

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER



ARTEFFECT is not just about art—it's also about growth, inspiration, and lasting impact. I created ARTEFFECT in 2016 to expand the mission of the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes (LMC) through the visual arts. This initiative evolved naturally from LMC's work unearthing the stories of Unsung Heroes and learning from these often overlooked historical figures. Since I established LMC in 2007, millions of students from 50 states and over 100 countries have been impacted by its programs that celebrate the exceptional character traits and actions of the Unsung Heroes. As role models, the Unsung Heroes provide powerful opportunities for students to learn critical life lessons and to lead with courage, empathy, and social responsibility.

ARTEFFECT offers a one-of-a-kind competition that invites students to consider, interpret, and create original works of art about Unsung Heroes and the invaluable lessons their heroic deeds exemplify. By giving visual form to acts of heroism, students deeply engage with their subject, asking questions not only of themselves as artists but also of themselves as human beings. Why is it important to share untold stories of Unsung Heroes? What most inspires me about this individual as a role model? How can I champion their legacy through my art? What impact can I make on the world? This process unleashes the power of art to inspire ARTEFFECT participants to celebrate the past and discover their potential to positively impact the future.

Educators play a crucial and valued role in the ARTEFFECT initiative. The Ambassadors fellowship provides educators with transformative online professional development, equipping them with powerful tools to mentor students in creating meaningful artworks. The growing network of ARTEFFECT Ambassadors highlights educators committed to fostering creativity, leadership, and historical awareness in their classrooms.

Since its inception, ARTEFFECT has continued to experience remarkable growth and reach. With hundreds and hundreds of submissions from over 20 countries each year, the impact on participating students and educators—who delve deeply into history and express their learning through art—is immeasurable.

Lowell Milken

Lowell Mille

Founder, ARTEFFECT / Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes

UNSUNG HEROES

"The inspiring stories
of the Unsung Heroes—
everyday people who
took extraordinary
actions—demonstrate
that one individual has
the power to make a
positive and profound
difference in the lives of
others, and to change
the course of history."

LOWELL MILKEN Founder

DISCOVER INSPIRING STORIES FROM HISTORY

ARTEFFECT works with educators and students to spotlight over 100 diverse Unsung Heroes from its expanding directory—spanning from ancient to contemporary times and across various categories including civil rights and social justice, wartime, environmentalism, medicine, and STEAM.

Since 2007, the stories of these individuals and their contributions to society have been brought to light through the LMC Discovery Award, with its unique approach to project-based learning that emphasizes primary research and storytelling. Through ARTEFFECT and the LMC Discovery Award, students develop compelling projects in the visual and performing arts and digital multimedia that champion the stories of these Unsung Heroes and honor their altruism, while building skills in research, critical inquiry, and creativity.

Unsung Heroes are role models, largely unrecognized by society, who demonstrated extraordinary heroic traits and actions in service to others and made a positive and profound impact on the course of history.

HEROIC TRAITS

- Compassion
- Conscience
- Courage
- Generosity
- Humility
- Perseverance
- Responsibility
- Selflessness
- Valor
- Vision

HEROIC ACTIONS

- Build Bridges to Unite
- Challenge Limitations
- Challenge the Status Quo
- Face Prejudice
- Make a Difference
- Repair the World
- Respect All Living Beings
- Stand Up for What You Believe
- Take Risks to Do What is Right

Unsung Heroes: (1) Vivien Thomas, (2) Irena Sendler, (3) Dr. Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, (4) Col. Gail Halvorsen, (5) Mitsuye Endo, (6) Andrew Jackson Higgins, (7) Claudette Colvin, (8) Olaudah Equiano, (9) Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi, (10) ENS Jane Kendeigh, (11) Abdol Hossein Sardari, (12) Emmeline Pankhurst, (13) Sir Nicholas Winton, (14) Noor Inayat Khan, (15) Jerrie Cobb, (16) Dr. Gene Shoemaker.



ARTEFFECT AMBASSADORS



"ARTEFFECT is more
than a program—it
is a transformative
experience. Teachers
and students draw
upon the archives of
history, reframing these
remarkable stories
through the visual arts,
to help us see the world
in new ways."

TONI GUGLIELMO, PH.D. Executive Director ARTEFFECT

ENGAGE IN TRANSFORMATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

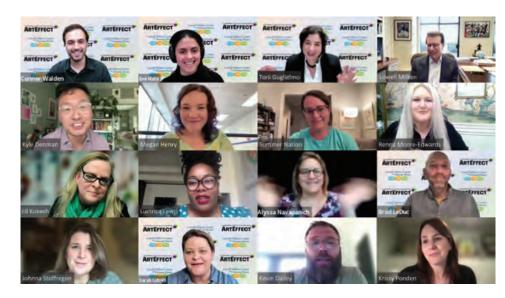
Launched in 2023, ARTEFFECT Ambassadors is an online visual arts fellowship that brings together an annual cohort of outstanding middle and high school educators from across the nation.

Educators learn alongside other high-level practitioners and develop learner-centered capstone projects to guide their students while deepening their own instructional practices. The competitive fellowship invites applications in the summer and provides a stipend and materials credit, public recognition, and a certificate of completion.

During the school year, Ambassadors engage in online modules exploring themes such as character education, visual storytelling, STEAM, Holocaust education, and social impact. The program culminates in the spring with Ambassadors presenting their capstone projects—such as a lesson plan, student art exhibition, teacher-training program, publication, or other activities—that have been designed, developed, and implemented effectively within their classrooms and communities. These innovative capstone projects create new pathways in visual arts education by harnessing the inspiring stories of Unsung Heroes at the core of ARTEFFECT.



- Engage in free virtual sessions available to all K-12 educators.
- Learn from seasoned visual arts educators and practitioners.
- Explore various pedagogies and strategies to creatively interpret the stories
 of Unsung Heroes through the visual arts.
- Receive visual arts and arts integration lesson plans and classroom resources.
- Hone instructional practices.
- Support student participation in the ARTEFFECT competition.
- Connect with an expanding learning community.





"This Ambassadorship has been a journey of discovery, growth, and collaboration. From the remarkable webinars to the final presentations and community exhibition, each aspect of this experience has contributed to my professional development and strengthened my commitment to fostering meaningful connections between education and the broader community."

MELISSA J. SYLVESTER
2023-24 ARTEFFECT Ambassador
2015 LMC Fellow
2005 Maine Milken Educator
Art Teacher
Yarmouth High School
Yarmouth, ME

"The capstone project reinforced for me the value of integrative learning. Combining history and art allowed students to explore historical events and figures through a creative lens, making learning more engaging and meaningful. I saw firsthand how this interdisciplinary approach helped students develop a deeper understanding of the material."

KONSTANTINE KOVOROS
2023-24 ARTEFFECT Ambassador
2021 LMC Fellow
Social Studies Teacher
Jericho High School
Jericho NY



ARTEFFECT COMPETITION



"The students took the lead in educating each other about their respective **Unsung Heroes. This** collaborative effort fostered a community with a shared mission. **Experiencing this with** my students was a truly fantastic and deeply rewarding experience. The process has taught my students that their voices matter and can have a significant impact on others."

MIMI KLABON

2023-24 ARTEFFECT Ambassador Art & Design Teacher Milken Community School Los Angeles, CA

CELEBRATE UNSUNG HEROES THROUGH THE VISUAL ARTS

The ARTEFFECT competition—free and open to all students in grades 6-12—encourages artists to shape the future by celebrating the stories of role models from history. Since 2016, students have participated from around the globe. They interpret the stories of Unsung Heroes by creating original artworks, writing reflective impact statements (500-1,000 words), and showcasing their projects in their classrooms and communities to stimulate positive social change.

The annual juried competition offers multiple prizes totaling as high as \$30,000. Various 2D and 3D mediums are eligible for submission, including assemblage, digital art, drawing, mixed media, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and textiles. ARTEFFECT welcomes a range of artistic approaches. Students have chosen to explore the Unsung Heroes through abstraction, landscape, narrative art, portraiture, and more. Finalists and winners are featured on the ARTEFFECT website, with exhibition opportunities.

Through their ARTEFFECT projects, students illuminate critical connections between the past, present, and future. By amplifying the creative voices of students, educators, and school communities, ARTEFFECT creates a ripple effect that empowers visual arts education worldwide.

STEPS TO PARTICIPATE

The annual competition is open from fall to spring. Teachers can support their students in taking these steps to participate:

- 1. Choose an Unsung Hero from the ARTEFFECT directory.
- 2. Review the rules, judging rubric, impact statement outline, and other guidelines.
- 3. Create an original visual artwork, write an accompanying impact statement, and share the project with others.
- 4. Complete the online application with all required materials and submit via the online portal by the annual deadline.

"I love seeing students explaining their projects and sharing the lives of their Unsung Heroes. My goal as an art educator is to teach and facilitate an environment for students to create well-crafted work-and this is work they can be proud of completing. The impact that the **Lowell Milken Center** for Unsung Heroes and **ARTEFFECT** have had on me and my classroom has been tremendous."

SUMMER NATION
2023-24 ARTEFFECT Ambassador
Art Teacher
Germantown High School
Madison, MS



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT ARTEFFECTLMC.ORG

THE FOLLOWING PAGES PRESENT AWARD-WINNING ARTWORKS FROM THE 2024 ARTEFFECT COMPETITION ALONGSIDE PROFILES OF THE UNSUNG HEROES WHO INSPIRED THEM.

EUGENIE CLARK

ICHTHYOLOGIST

Dr. Eugenie Clark (1922-2015), an American ichthyologist, shed new light on shark behavior and intelligence through her lifelong research. An authority on marine biology and conservation, she authored over 175 scientific articles and two books, including her best-selling book, *The Lady and the Sharks* (1969), after which she became popularly known as the "Shark Lady."

Clark's passion for marine science began in childhood, and through her academic pursuits, she challenged entrenched biases against women in science and higher education. She received a degree in zoology from Hunter College in 1942 and spent summers studying at the University of Michigan Biological Station. Despite her outstanding record, Columbia University admissions officials rejected her graduate school application because they assumed she would soon leave science to be a mother. She defied expectations and earned both a Master of Arts (1946) and a Doctorate of Zoology (1950) from New York University.

Clark went on to inspire the next generation of ocean scientists and conservationists—receiving numerous accolades, fellowships, scholarships, and medals. She conducted expeditions around the globe, and notably, she was a pioneer in deepsea scuba diving for research. Several species of fish have been named in her honor, including *Squalus clarkae*.

."During Eugenie Clark's time, sharks had a reputation for being ferocious, maneating beasts, but through her research on their impact in ecosystems and other biological systems, she was able to provide awareness and conservation of many different species. I decided to do a printmaking piece to recall the many publications she has written. The vision of my piece was to create something that showed Clark where she was happiest: researching."

KELLY KULLMAN

2024 CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Kelly Kullman, Grade 12
"Squalus clarkae"

Monoprint, ink on paper.
11.5 x 8 in.

Rosemary Dodson 2024-25 ARTEFFECT Ambassador Visual Art Teacher Savannah Arts Academy Savannah, GA



MATYLDA GETTER

CATHOLIC NUN AND SOCIAL WORKER

Matylda Getter (1870-1968) entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary Congregation in Poland when she was 17. Over the course of her life, she was a teacher, caregiver, and mother-superior of convents dedicated to the fields of education and charity. By the time World War II began, Mother Getter had developed dozens of schools, orphanages, and care facilities across Poland and Lithuania.

As Nazi Germany began invading Polish territory, Mother Getter, at the age of 70, became energetically dedicated to saving the lives of Jews in Warsaw. She and the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary took in struggling families and those in danger of arrest. Well aware of the risks. Mother Getter made it known that Jewish refugees were always welcome at her door. Mother Getter and the Sisters helped the Jews hide in their Catholic orphanages, educational and care institutes, hospitals, and residences for the sick. The Sisters collected birth and baptismal certificates from various parishes in Warsaw and elsewhere. These "confirmed" that the Jewish children were Christians, according to their documents. By the end of the war in 1945, Mother Getter and the Sisters had saved over 750 Jews, including more than 500 children.

"In the midst of war and destruction, Matylda Getter chose compassion over indifference, courage over fear, and kindness over cruelty. Her selfless actions serve as a powerful reminder of the impact that an individual can have in making the world a better place. Through this intricate portrayal of her, I sought to symbolize her commitment to protecting and nurturing those in need, even in the face of great danger."

DYNE KIM

2024 CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Dyne Kim, Grade 10

In the Arms of Hope

Graphite and gouache on paper.

10.5 x 15 in.

Independent Study Seoul International School Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do Republic of Korea



AIKO HERZIG-YOSHINAGA

ACTIVIST

Following Executive Order 9066 during World War II, Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga (1924-2018) was among 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry removed from their West Coast homes and incarcerated. An American citizen and a senior in high school, she was interned at camps in California and Arkansas. During this period, her first child was born and her father died.

After the war, Herzig-Yoshinaga participated in Asian Americans for Action, developing an interest in politics and research. She combed through files about internment camps and wartime exclusion at the National Archives in Washington D.C. When the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was created in 1980 to address reparations for Japanese Americans, she contributed documents to aid them and was hired as a lead researcher.

In 1982, Herzig-Yoshinaga discovered one surviving copy of a government report stating there was no military necessity for detainment of Japanese people in internment camps. This vital piece of evidence helped prove that Japanese American incarceration during World War II was racially motivated. Her activism set into motion the 1988 Civil Liberties Act and the 2011 U.S. Supreme Court decision that Americans could not be relocated during wartime exclusively because of race.

work of art has significantly changed my outlook on life. It has changed my life by creating a stronger desire to learn the unknown of my culture and history as a Filipino American. Not only did it influence my desire to want to learn more about my culture, but it also influenced my desire to become more active in Asian American activism."

SOPHIA CABALFIN

2024 HIGH SCHOOL SECOND PLACE

Sophia Cabalfin, Grade 12

Blossoming of New Life

Watercolor on paper.

15 x 12 in.

E. Dominic Black Art Teacher San Dimas High School San Dimas, CA



JACKIE ORMES

CARTOONIST

Jackie Ormes (1911-1985) was a cartoonist who taught herself to draw at an early age and eventually became the first African American woman with a nationally published comic strip. Through her cartoons, "Patty-Jo 'n' Ginger" and "Torchy Brown in Dixie to Harlem," Ormes portrayed real-life issues faced by Black Americans. She drew her figures realistically and imbued her characters with voice, personality, and style. Her characters exhibited empathy and humor while strongly challenging racial segregation and stereotypes.

In her comics, especially "Torchy in Heartbeats," Ormes also advocated for women's rights and equality. Her stories centered around strong-willed female characters. The adventurous, independent Torchy contrasted with the female homemaker commonly depicted in mid-century American media.

Ormes' cartoons were featured in the *Pittsburgh Courier* and the *Chicago Defender*, prominent Black newspapers with circulations of at least 300,000 and 150,000, respectively. The popularity of Ormes' cartoon "Patty-Jo 'n' Ginger" led to the production of a Patty-Jo doll in 1947, the first realistic black doll embraced by the African American market. In 2014, Ormes was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists' Hall of Fame.

."Jackie Ormes' creations allowed her readership to see strong models for what the next powerful generation could become. Once I read about her heroines, including 'Torchy in Heartbeats,' and saw how strong and independent these women were, including being socially and politically aware, I could not wait to draw what I thought Jackie encompassed with her cartoons and journalism. Her heroines faced contemporary issues for their times and no matter what the deception, they always came through in the end."

KATELYN LOWE

2024 HIGH SCHOOL BEST IN SHOW

Katelyn Lowe, Grade 11

A Woman Ahead of Her Time

Colored pencil, graphite, marker
on paper.

11 x 14 in.

Crystal Pennington Art Teacher George Washington High School Charleston, WV



CECILIA PAYNE-GAPOSCHKIN

ASTRONOMER

British American Dr. Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin (1900-1979) overcame gender discrimination to become the astronomer who discovered the cosmic composition of stars. She won a full scholarship to study science at the University of Cambridge even though the institution did not offer full degrees to women. She approached her studies with passion even though she was taunted and teased by the men in her classes.

She graduated without receiving an official degree. Still, she earned a fellowship to study at the Harvard College Observatory. Utilizing spectroscopy, Payne-Gaposchkin devised a method to calculate the surface temperatures of stars, discovering that hydrogen and helium are their most abundant elements. This was a revolutionary finding: Most astronomers believed that Earth and stars were composed of the same elements.

In 1925, Payne-Gaposchkin published her brilliant findings in her dissertation, becoming the first person to ever earn a Ph.D. in astronomy from Radcliffe College. Her unconventional and groundbreaking research was initially met with hesitance, but her colleagues would eventually reach the same conclusions. In 1956, she became a full professor and chair of the Astronomy Department—the first woman to hold these positions at Harvard University.

Cecilia looking through the telescope in the olden days. She will discover the truth about the stars and our Sun. Above Cecilia is a spectroscope, an object with the power of allowing you to see the different colors in a light source. It is based on the interaction between light and matter. Artists make things that don't exist, and scientists find what we don't know."

BENJAMIN GU

2024 SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Benjamin Gu, Grade 6

Finding links from tracks

Watercolor, pen on paper.

21.5 x 15.5 in.

Mona Jin
Private Art Instructor
Kerrisdale Elementary School
Vancouver, Canada



HELEN BROOKE TAUSSIG

PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGIST

Dr. Helen Brooke Taussig (1898-1986) was the founder of pediatric cardiology, and her contributions continue to have an impact on the lives of babies worldwide. While she faced challenges in her academic pursuits, including dyslexia and gender discrimination, she successfully earned her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1927.

Working at Hopkins, she researched Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), a congenital heart condition that causes "blue baby syndrome." Being able to hear a heartbeat was an important part of her job. As Taussig developed severe hearing loss, she found an innovative way to detect heart rhythms with her fingertips rather than a stethoscope, and used this method to diagnose the fatal defect. In collaboration with colleagues, she developed a medical procedure known as the Blalock-Thomas-Taussig shunt. This groundbreaking surgery provided a life-saving solution for a condition that was previously untreatable, saving tens of thousands of children's lives during Taussig's lifetime.

Taussig directed a clinic and worked as a professor at John Hopkins School of Medicine—rare positions for women in her era. She received international recognition, including election as the first pediatrician and first woman president of the American Heart Association in 1965.

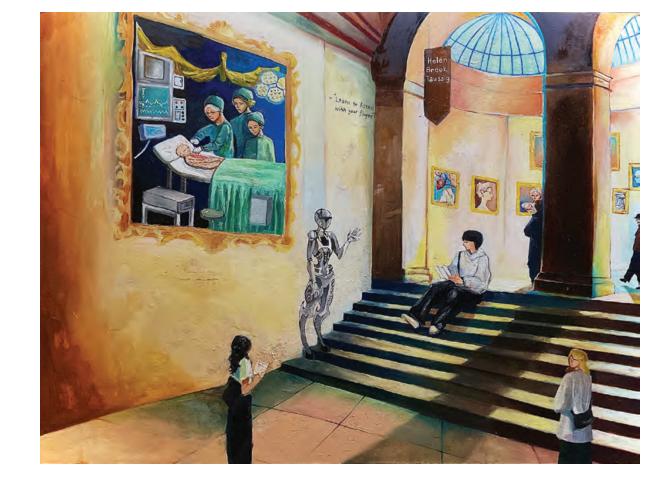
."Throughout my research, I learned a great deal about Dr. Helen Taussig's achievements in pediatric cardiology. However, her story also inspired me and taught me about perseverance and how important it is to help others. Despite facing rejection as a woman in a male-dominated field. Taussig never gave up and continued her work to help countless others. Thousands of children were saved by her medical breakthrough."

CHUHENG LOU

2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL BEST IN SHOW

Chuheng Lou, Grade 8
School Trip to visit Dr. Helen
Brooke Taussig's portrait in the
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Oil, charcoal on hardboard.
18 x 24 in.

James Lawlor
2024-25 ARTEFFECT Ambassador
Social Studies Teacher
Special Education Teacher
Jericho Middle School
Jericho, NY



VIVIEN THOMAS

SURGEON

As an African American carpenter in the 1920s, Vivien Thomas (1910-1985) dreamed of earning a medical degree. Financial hardships during the Great Depression, however, led him to a job assisting Dr. Alfred Blalock at Vanderbilt University.

Thomas and Blalock moved to Johns Hopkins University, where pediatric cardiologist Dr. Helen Taussig was searching for a solution to Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), a congenital heart defect that causes "blue baby syndrome." After performing 200 canine surgeries, Thomas found a procedure to correct the condition, but his lack of education prevented him from operating on humans. Blalock performed the surgery instead, using tools Thomas had designed, with Thomas coaching him through the process. After they performed three successful surgeries, an article was published on the procedure. It credited only Blalock and Taussig, excluding Thomas completely. The medical community at Hopkins, however, took note of Thomas' role in the groundbreaking procedure, and he gained a reputation for surgical precision and excellence.

Thomas later served as director of Surgical Research Laboratories at Hopkins for more than 15 years, earned an honorary doctorate, and was appointed to the faculty at Hopkins School of Medicine as instructor of surgery.

."Vivien Thomas was truly admirable because of the great things he did despite the multitudinous hardships he faced. The vision behind my piece was the expression of the lifesaving work Vivien Thomas did in both his youth and old age. In one hand, Thomas can be seen holding a needle connecting to a heart above his younger and older self. The two vastly different media represent the changes in time, but they still connect to his life's work: the heart."

JORDYN SLEDGE

2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND PLACE

Jordyn Sledge, Grade 8 Heartstrings Unraveled

Acrylic, pastel, gold leaf, cardboard, string, and wood-burning on wood panel.

21.5 x 22.5 x 1 in.

Renna Georgia Moore-Edwards 2023-24 ARTEFFECT Ambassador Visual Art Teacher Ida B. Wells Academic and Performing Arts Complex Jackson, MS



KARL ERNST VON BAER

EMBRYOLOGIST

Dr. Karl Ernst von Baer (1792-1876) was a university professor and versatile scientist working in the Russian Empire during the 19th century. His studies ranged from polar expeditions to fish protection, but he made his mark on history with the discovery of the mammalian egg.

In 1827, von Baer was observing an ovary when he noticed a small, yellow spot in a little sac. Observing the same yellow spot in several other sacs, he decided to take a closer look. He opened one of the small sacs, lifted it carefully with a knife, and placed it on a watch glass filled with water. He looked at it through a microscope and was shocked by what he saw. The yellow spot was a miniscule and well-developed yellow sphere of yolk! Von Baer had found the mammalian egg in the ovary, something scientists had long been searching to discover. That same year von Baer published a book on his embryonic discovery entitled, *Mammalian Ovum and the Origin of Man*.

After further study, von Baer formulated what are widely known as "von Baer's Laws." This set of four rules describes the general patterns of embryonic development. Beyond his accomplishments as a founder of modern embryology, von Baer made significant contributions to multiple fields including anatomy, anthropology, and physiology, among others.

."Karl Ernst von Baer always sought out knowledge. He was never truly satisfied with himself and always continued to search for the reasons and mechanisms behind the way things worked. Because of this, he became a master in many fields of science and ultimately set up a foundation for modern scientific research and understanding. I decided to draw Karl Ernst von Baer to honor this legacy and to expand on the idea of exploration and curiosity."

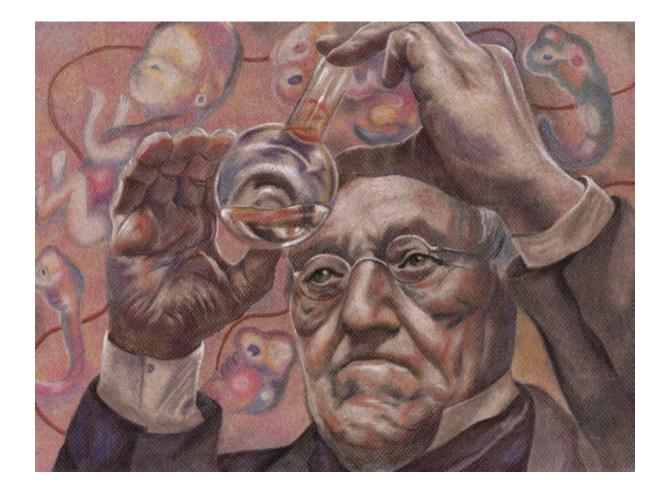
RACHEL HAN

2024 GRAND PRIZE

Rachel Han, Grade 11
Visions of Light

Pastel, charcoal on paper. 12 x 16 in.

Jennifer Bitter Art Teacher Newport High School Bellevue, WA





Established in 2007 by Lowell Milken, the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes (LMC) is a state-of-the-art museum and research hub with headquarters in Fort Scott, Kansas. Through project-based learning, LMC works with students and educators across diverse academic disciplines to develop Unsung Hero projects that highlight role models from history. These projects have reached millions of students from 50 states and over 100 countries. LMC's international student competitions include ARTEFFECT—an initiative of the Lowell Milken Family Foundation—and the Discovery Award. To learn more, visit LowellMilkenCenter.org and arteffectImc.org.



The Lowell Milken Family Foundation (LMFF) creates and supports initiatives that cultivate human capital—that is, the knowledge, skills, and experiences essential to leading productive and satisfying lives. LMFF pursues this mission through education programs that are both groundbreaking and comprehensive. By fostering and inspiring excellence, creativity, and responsibility within the formal education environment and beyond, LMFF equips people to pursue and attain lives that have value to themselves as well as to others. To learn more, visit LowellMilken.org.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ARTEFFECT VISIT, ARTEFFECTLMC.ORG

Artists: (1) Nurin Mock, (2) Moheb Asimi, (3) Celine Fong, (4) Breanna Zaborowski, (5) Chloe Kim, (6) Sophia Cabalfin, (7) Dyne Kim, (8) Donald Jordan, (9) Benjamin Gu, (10) Jordyn Sledge, (11) Ella Grail, (12) Rachel Han, (13) Vanessa Hoyt, (14) Abigail Dement, (15) Chuheng Lou, (16) Katelyn Lowe.







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