



*Indigo Noir*

A COMMUNITY PHOTOWORKS EXHIBITION



These artist statements were written by students from John Kannofsky's classes at Ánimo Venice Charter High School and printed in May 2015

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Designed by: Emma Gantz

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**826LA**

www.826LA.org

Echo Park  
1714 W. Sunset Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

Mar Vista  
12515 Venice Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

## INTRODUCTION

Community Photoworks is a collaboration between the J. Paul Getty Museum's Education Department, the nonprofit writing and tutoring center, 826LA, and a Title I secondary school in the Los Angeles Unified School District. We invite students to discover contemporary photography and the depths of their artistic and creative potential—but the students don't embark on this journey alone.

This year, high school students in John Kannofsky's digital photography class and after-school photography club took on the project. Students partnered with artist Christine Nguyen, who spoke in their classroom about her analog photographic processes, unique inspirations, and the happy accidents that can transform artistic work. Later that week, students toured the Light, Paper, Process

exhibition at the Getty to experience many different kinds of analog, experimental photography, and then engaged in the process of creating their own cyanotypes—drawing on mylar and creating collages with found objects.

Staff and volunteers from 826LA then worked with students over several sessions to select a single cyanotype for the exhibition and author multiple drafts of their artist statements, until each one eloquently stated the intention and power behind their work.

The final result is Indigo Noir, an exhibition highlighting students' creative energies and innovation, and maybe even just a little sprinkling of chance.

View the student gallery online at: <http://bit.ly/1Q3W8qK>



## ALONDRA ROGRIGUEZ

### *The Rage*

This art piece is filled with frustration, unhappiness and dissatisfaction. I drew geometric shapes with rough edges to show the struggle of being perfect. The image is the shadow of a racket with shells placed on top. The triangle that goes across the page is where I folded the cyano paper before exposing it to the sun. Because the shells were on top of the tennis racket, the details were not

clear. The pencil lines cross out some of the images created with the cyanotype to represent the frustration. They were drawn roughly on top of the cyanotype to represent the frustration. The color palette on this art piece was chosen without thought. The yellow square on the top left corner is supposed to be butter because after feeling all of this anger, I thought of a waffle with butter. In this society, people are pressured into being perfect. However, it is a struggle to become the perfect person because people always expect more.

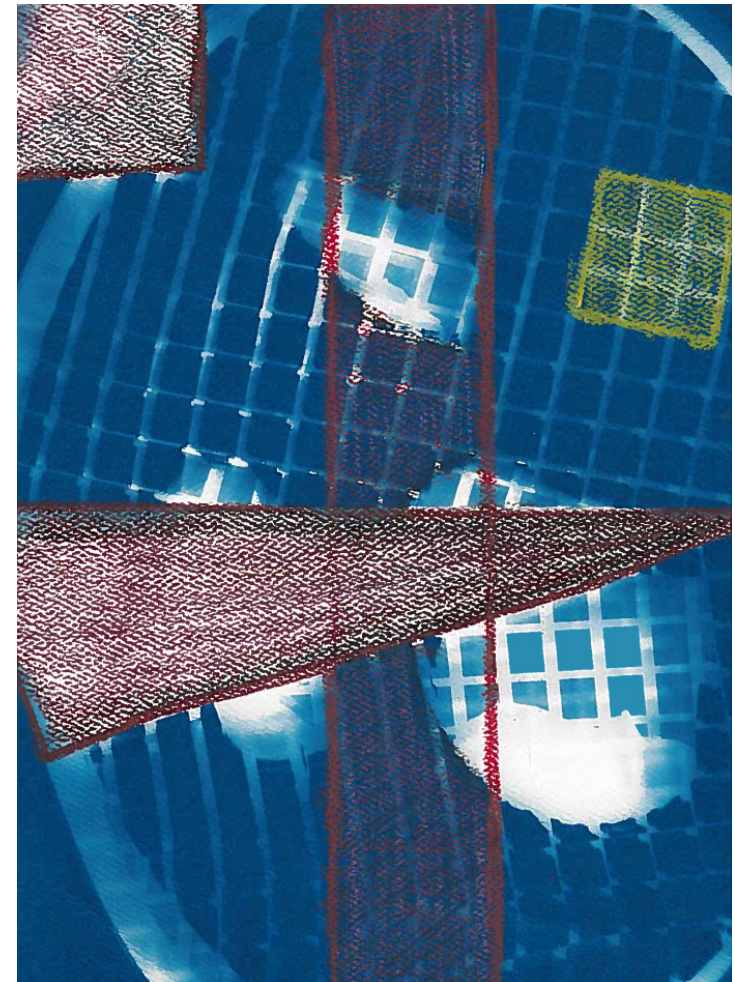
## ALEX GARCIA

### *Noir*

The piece created is a reflection of what my childhood consisted of. The environment in this image is a memory of the film noirs I would see as a child. I became captivated by the culture of film noir and its use of black and white along with its anticipated political statements.

The work has a dark background to create the mystery of film noir. The white

buildings are created to contrast the darkness. One is colored in to draw attention to the audience and the rest are left in white to create the mystery of danger in the city relating to current situations in this city. The outlines of buildings are created to show depth. The Batman signal is a symbol of a simple solution needed by communities in Los Angeles in the face of a complex problem. Tissue paper was used to create the buildings and the patterns and color were done with pastel.







## ANDRES BANUELOS

### *Shower Thinking*

As a senior at Ánimo Venice Charter High School, I was able to have the opportunity to create a cyanotype. In the cyanotype, we can see many lines moving across the page. Some lines are curvy and other lines are more sharp and straight. There are loose and random objects within the natural, organic moving lines.

I put chains on the paper and moved them while they were being exposed so that not the whole object can be seen and only bits of it are revealed and really blend in with the line movement across the page. I like to put asymmetrical designs in the work because I feel like art should contain designs to keep the eyes moving and to distract the audience and really to create something that keeps the mind running.

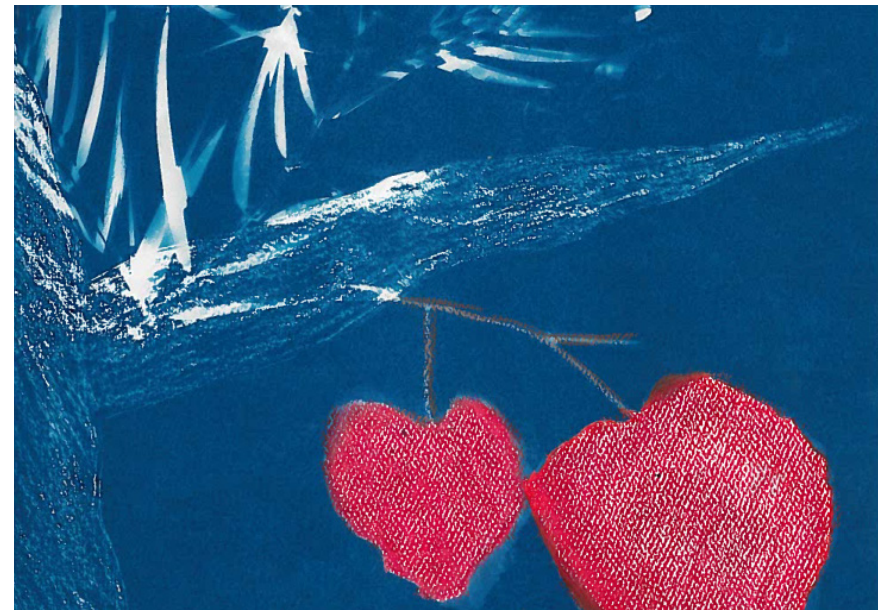
## ANGEL GARCIA-CRUZ

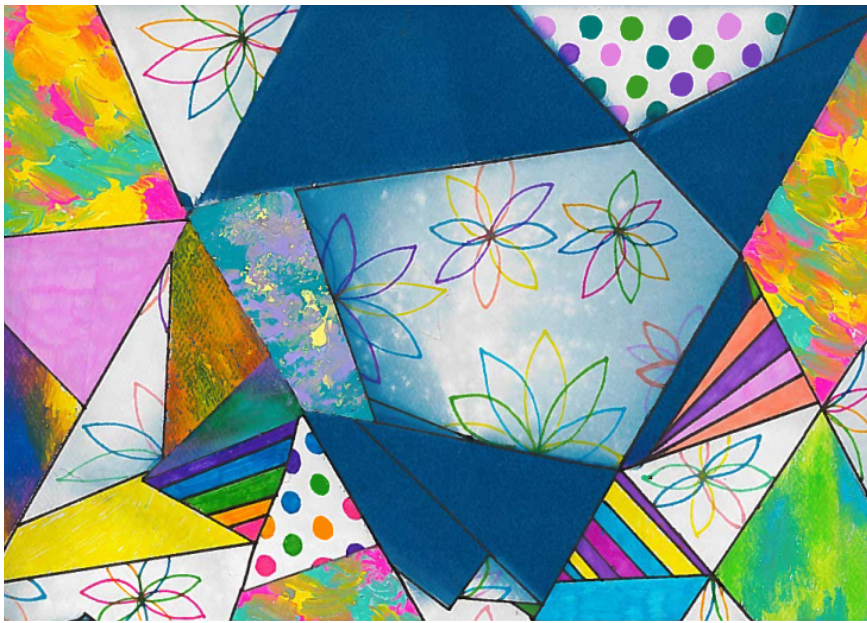
### *Strange Fruit*

I chose two leaves attached to a branch as my central image. As soon as I saw them, they reminded me of hearts. The color of the original leaves were purple/red. I tried to replicate this with Prismacolor Art Stix and a gel pen for the outline. On the acetate, I drew a partial tree trunk and branch with a china marker. The objects were moved by the wind during the process, which created a layering effect.

At the time when I was choosing the materials to use for the cyanotype, I saw all the natural objects and that sparked the memory of Nina Simone's song

"Strange Fruit." She sung about a humanlike "fruit" that would grow on a tree. The image of the song that really stuck with me was just picturing a tree growing some sort of human on it. I tried to make a connection to this by using leaves in the shape of a heart because that seems, to me, to be the most important part of the human body. I chose to represent the heart due to its dual representation of anatomical and symbolic significance. Anatomically the heart is the center of all body functions and is most important because it provides life to the rest of your body. Symbolically, the heart is the center of all emotions, such as love and passion. This, to me, seemed to be an important aspect of the work that I wanted the viewer to be able to experience in their own way.





CANDY CABRAL

*Untitled*

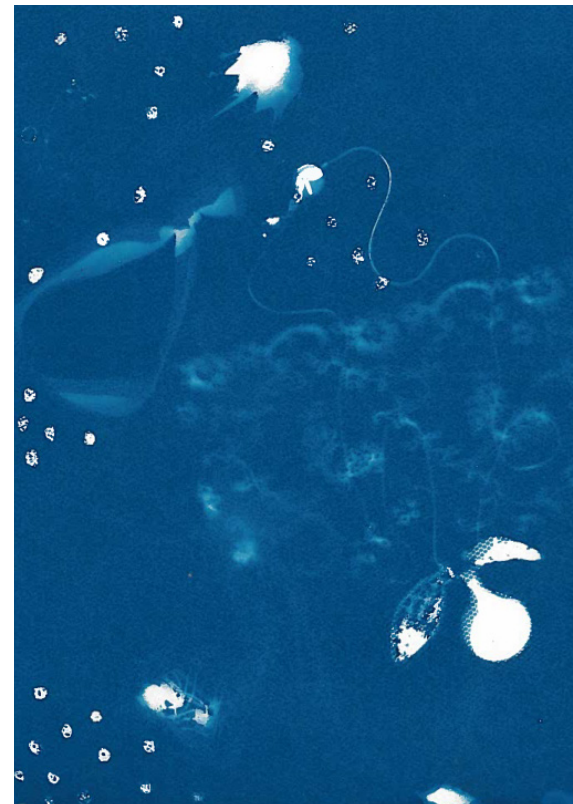
In my cyanotype I had a hair tie, rosebud, lace, seashells, crystal, a necklace, and a bag. Different objects appeared more white due to solidity and my crystal appeared faded like the lace and bag. I added small circles and shapes. The objects look like they are falling down, and the work is asymmetrical. I chose this image because I thought of small and delicate items. I chose where to place the items based on the boundaries but some items did not appear, such as a feather and a bag.

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BRIANNA LOPEZ

*Untitled*

For this, all I truly did was fold the paper and leave it out in the sunlight. I did not rotate it and fold it again while it was "cooking." It was mainly just an experiment, viewing this new art form. I was not sure what I wanted to create, I do know that I wanted it to turn out pretty. It is a serendipitous emphasis. I unintentionally added glitter on what was suppose to be the front and it somehow created a 'shining' effect. I'm honestly quite pleased with this 'incident.'

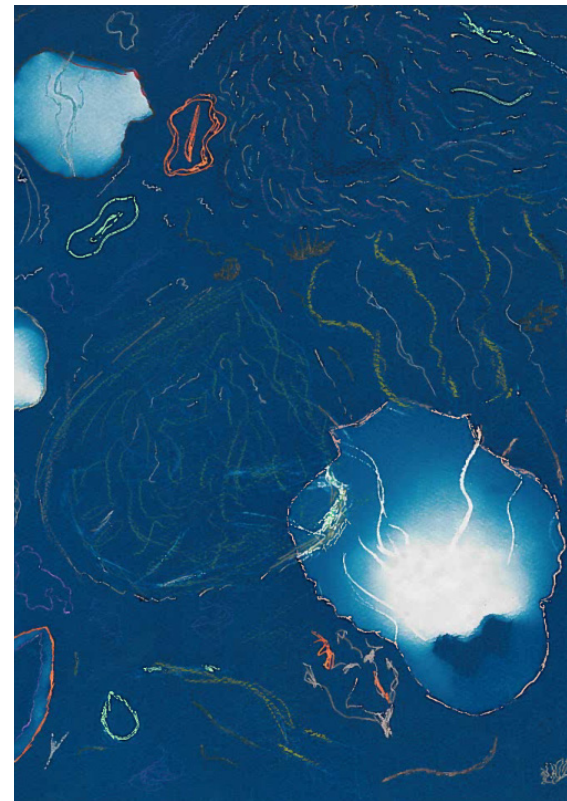
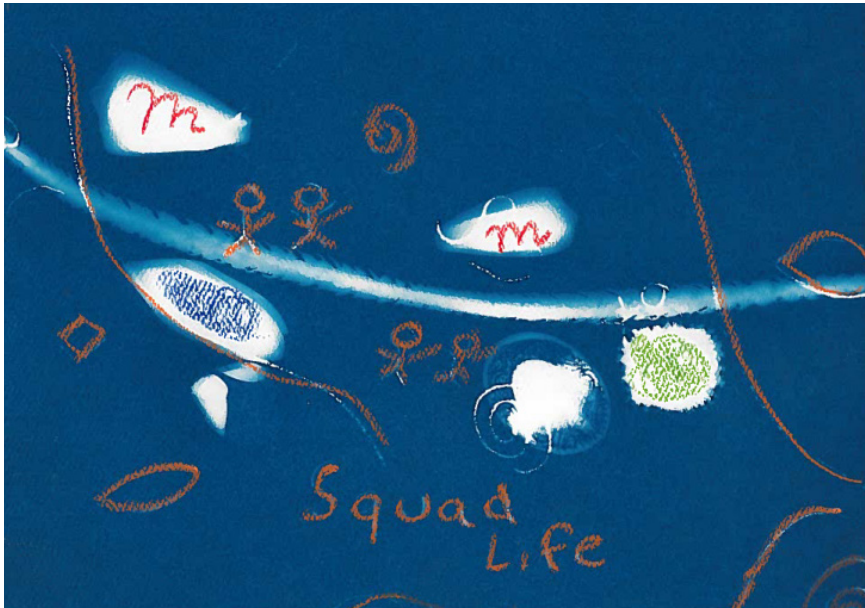




CARLOS LOPEZ

*Squad Life*

Hello, my name is Carlos Lopez and I am currently attending Ánimo Venice Charter High School. The cyanotype was blue and I chose orange color pencil because they are good contrast colors. The white spots were made from twigs and leaves that were brought to us from the museum. I also used a pendant that made a pattern on the paper. I also drew stick figures and a letter "M" and spelled out "Squad Life." What "Squad Life" means to me is that you always have a certain group of friends that always have your back and you have theirs as well. I put the "M" on a white spot because the M represents the first letter of my girlfriend's name and she filled up a spot in my life. There is no real pattern to the piece which means that my friends and girlfriend are unique.



CHELSEA RAMIREZ

*Aurora Borealis in the Deep Sea*

For this cyanotype, I used two shells and two crystals. I placed them on the mylar sheet that covered the cyanotype and, with a china marker, drew many components of the deep sea, such as jellyfish and small organisms. After the cyanotype was exposed and dried, I used soft pastels and gel pens to draw on the cyanotype paper. The contrast between the dark objects on the cyanotype paper and the luminescent drawings created dimension. The brighter colors come forth to the

viewer's eye, while the darker colors seem to recede into the darkness.

Free, organic forms create an asymmetrical composition, reflecting the imperfections of living organisms.

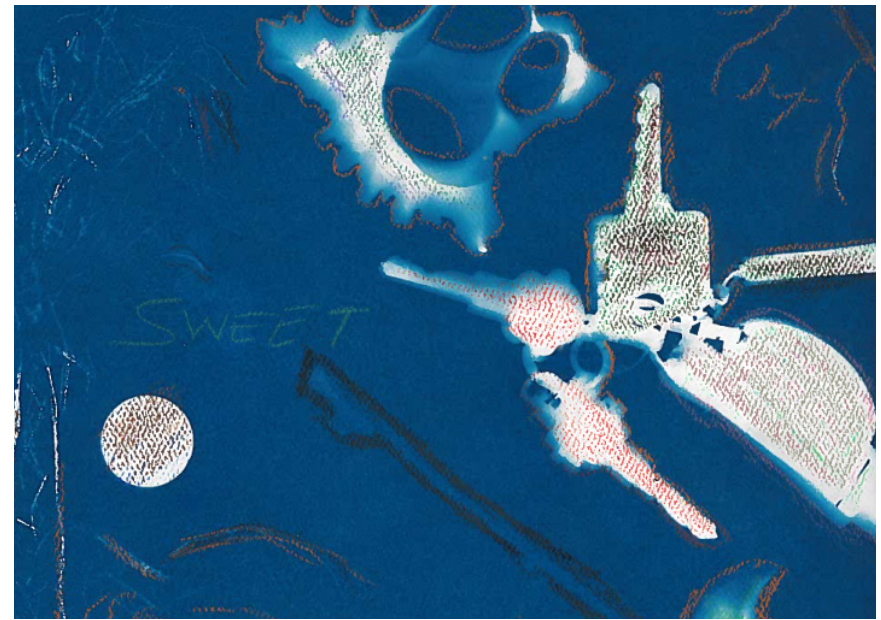
The deep, dark sea holds many fascinating creatures, creatures that are calm and silent, living their lives. I am intrigued by these lifeforms who do not have a care in the world. I believe I am like them too, silent and gliding through the difficulties I face. The deep sea, where no people go, is a creative space where the membrane known as my happiness floats idly by.

## DANNY GONZALEZ

### *Two Worlds in One Medium*

My cyanotype consists of random drawings that I made. At the time I wanted to make a surrealist type of work with my cyanotype by experimenting with the type of drawing I made and the position of my objects. I was really inspired by the great surrealist artist Salvador Dalí and magical realist Frida Kahlo. I wanted to make a dreamlike landscape with my work. I also drew the

signature of Renaissance artist, Albrecht Dürer, in order to contrast with the influence of the more modern surrealism. Albrecht Dürer's initials also have a much more significant meaning to my work. Albrecht Dürer was known for his almost realistic type of drawings, a style that is slowly disappearing in our modern era. Yet my work captures the modern world, that I live in, and the more antique world, that I'm inspired by, evident by the contrast of my drawings and the shadows impeded by the objects in my contemporary life.



## DAVID SORIANO

### *UNsweet*

The goal of my work is to make the invisible visible. It contains a variety of objects and shapes; some of them are abstract or could be interpreted different ways by the viewer. Is the circle the sun or moon illuminating the tree? The shells become ghostly and abstract, shadows of their shape. I wanted to create a contrast between the word "SWEET" in the

image and the image itself which is dark and haunted.

The word "SWEET" and the mood of the picture creates a juxtaposition and adds a darker theme to the cyanotype. The dark mood is demonstrated by the sharp lines and faint colors. The work of art evokes a harsh mood and is full of ambiguity as a result of the items used in its creation. I want the viewer to think about this ambiguity and get an experience of unease when looking at my image.





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## DAVID ZARENEJAD

### *Static*

When making this art piece, I was not thinking. I just started making lines with a china pencil on Mylar paper, and made lines go in different directions at random times. The lines came out thicker and thinner at haphazard spots. I went past the edges when making lines in order to create a continuous feeling that goes beyond the artwork itself. By going past the edges, the viewer feels that the network of lines goes on forever.

After drawing on the Mylar, I placed it over the photosensitized watercolor paper and then under the sun for eight

minutes. There are noticeable spots on the artwork where the sun reflects more light due to how the Mylar was placed. There is an illusionary feeling of depth in the artwork which I had no control over. This sense of depth adds to the feeling that the artwork is about something much bigger than just a simple piece of art.

Looking back on the artwork, it makes me think about how the final year of high school makes me feel. The static looking lines reflect how senior year is towards the end. Stress builds up from an abundant amount of work with deadlines right around the corner. The near ending of high school creates a scattered mindset with the days ending soon.

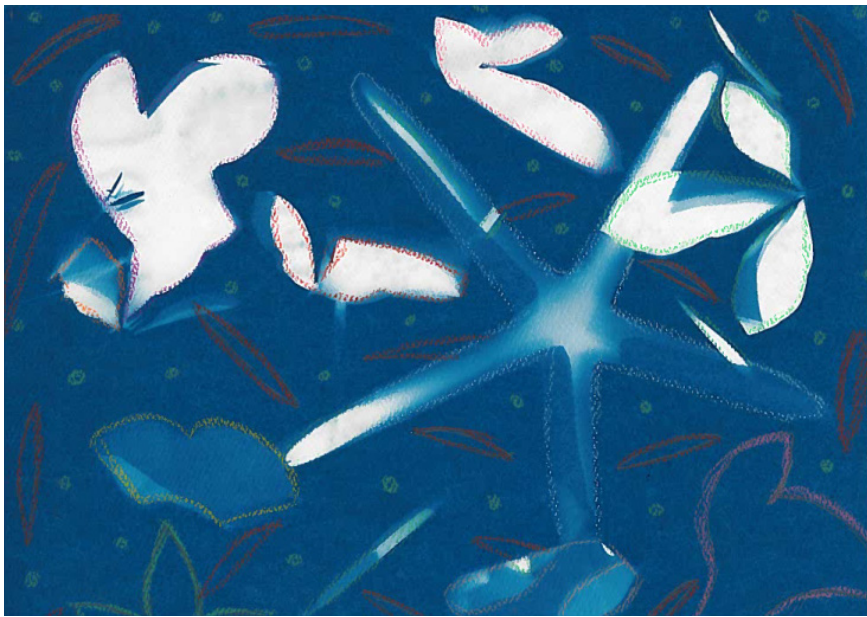
## ITZEL EVANGELISTA

### *Untitled*

The objects I used are shell, part of a tree, shower rings, china marker, and a necklace. The turtle, date, and necklace symbolize things about my relationship with my boyfriend. The big circle with many colors is part of a dream catcher. It symbolizes how much I daydream throughout the whole day and the little one means that I have dreams, things I want to do or things I dream to do. The colors on the dream catcher mean something (well at least some of them do). The black means death, the people I have lost, yellow means joy, of how happy I am all the time.







KAREN LOPEZ

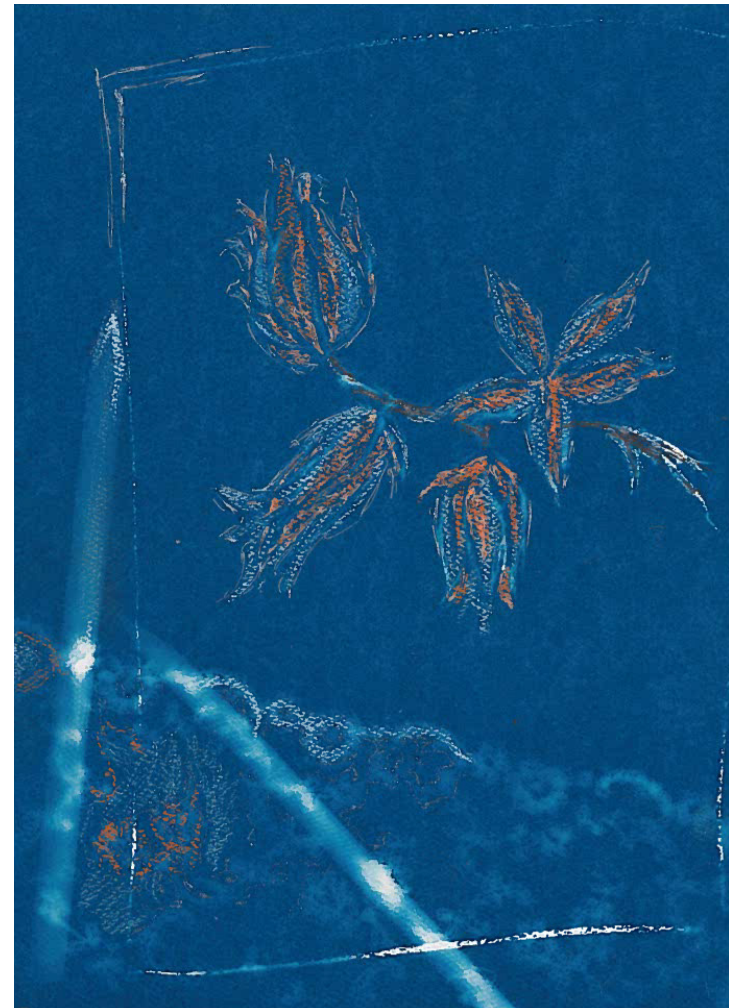
*Untitled*

On the acetate I drew flowers based on the foliage that Chelsea, who was sitting next to me, had chosen for her artwork. I drew a box around the image to frame the objects. I chose two pencils—a China Marker and an HB—to put in the left-hand corner. I also added a piece of lace in the bottom section. Finally, I enhanced the images by using gel pens and crayons.

JOANNA GALVEZ

*Seascape*

In my cyanotype, I used different kinds of organic shapes. The reason I ended up with just organic shapes was because of the starfish and plants. I ended up drawing more shapes into my cyanotype because of the negative space. I overlapped a few shapes and made it seem as if they were moving to create dynamism and depth. The whole meaning of the leaf-life shapes was to create repetition and to draw the viewer's eyes around the entire piece. I wanted my work to represent a seascape.







LEENA CORTEZ-DURAN

*Fresh Water*

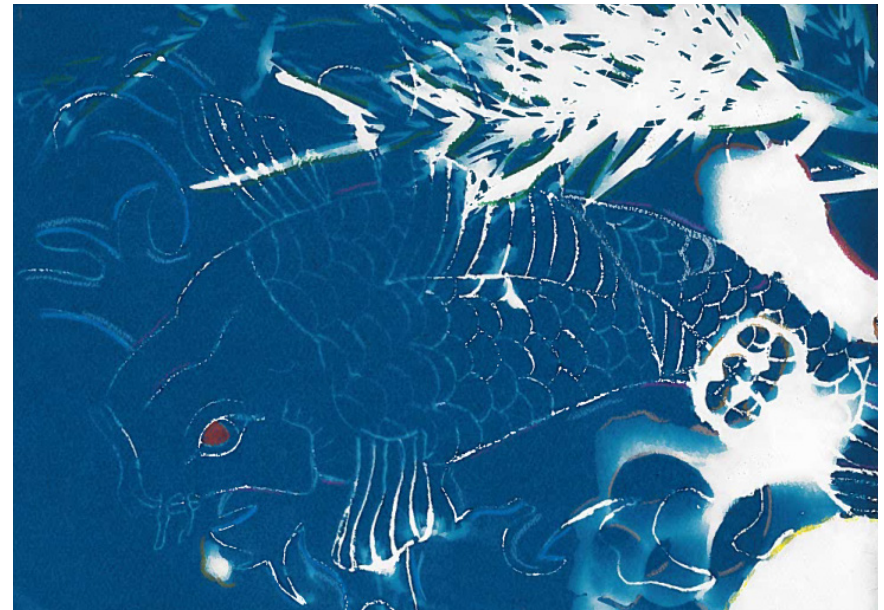
In the beginning, I started by drawing a koi fish since seeing the paper we were going to work with was dark blue, my first thought went straight to the image of the ocean. After drawing my fish, I decided to use objects related to the ocean on my cyanotype: a small rock, wood chips, a small branch, and a water bottle to give it an ocean reflection effect. But the water bottle didn't fully come out as expected, maybe due to it constantly moving in the wind. After the process of creating the cyanotype, the effect was unintentional of it resembling the depth of water effects by the fish being seen as if jumping into the water and it being surrounded by sea objects.

KATIE SORIANO

*Untitled*

When I finally was about to make my cyanotype there was a dot in the middle and a circle. Circle after circle, they have a meaning to me. They aren't just circles they are a way to connect shapes and patterns together. They bond together with no symmetrical point. The circles in

the middle are like a tribal sun, but some people say they look like snowflakes and that no two are the same. That's how people see all my circles but some will say all my circles look like suns. My whole theme would be more of a sea theme. The sea shell with a spiral, my unsymmetrical sea-like animals, and aquatic-like colors.







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MARK TOMILIN

*Untitled*

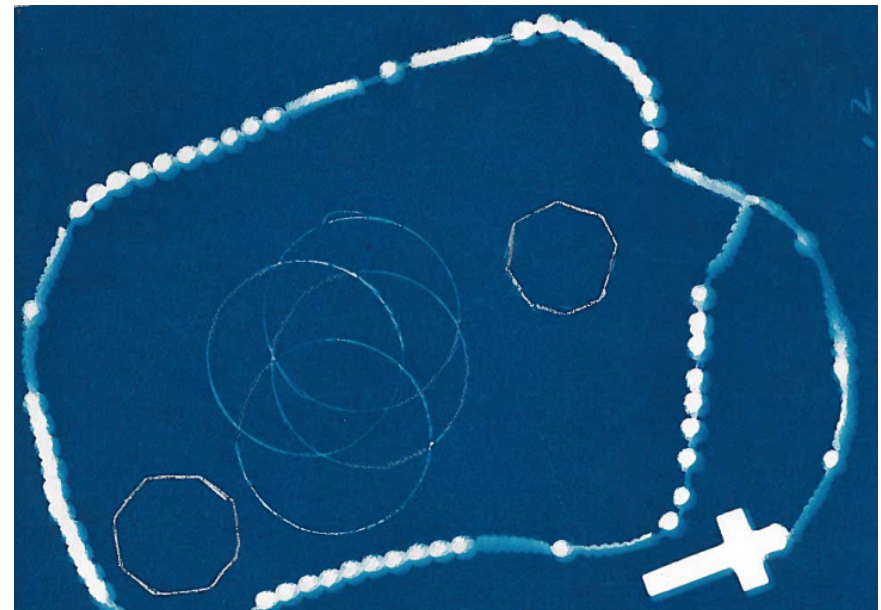
For my project, I used something most people have held in their hands before--money. Particularly, a \$5 bill. It looks like a standard sheet of blue paper with folded \$5 revealing a white part, a 'shadow' of the bill. First time, I left \$5 for ten minutes; it was not enough time for the watermarks to appear. My second time, I left the cyanotype for twenty minutes, and this time I had more success.

MAURICIO RODRIGUEZ

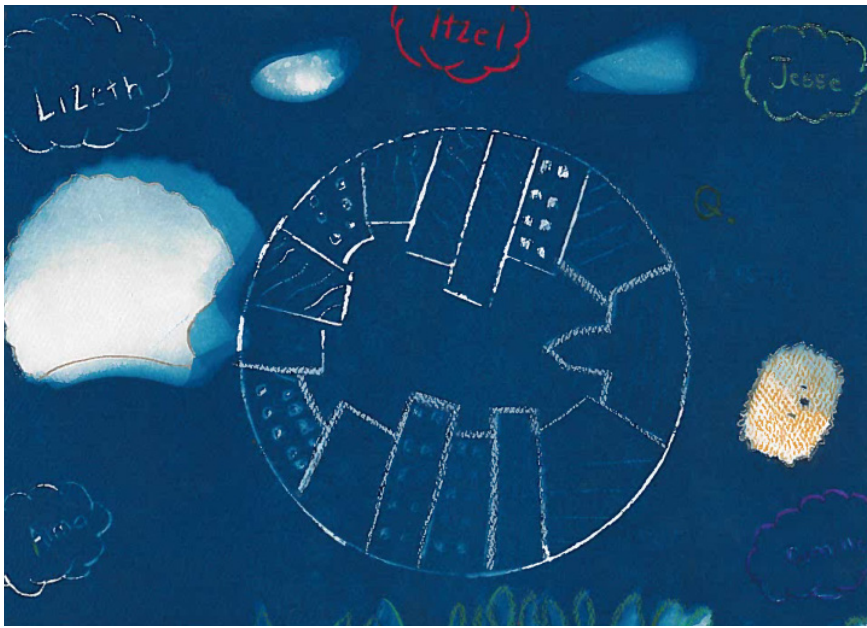
*White Rosary*

For my cyanotype I used a rosary. Inside the shape of the rosary I repeated circles, and two octagons on either side of the circles. I used the rosary because a family member had recently given it to me. The shapes inside are the result of experimenting and playing around with circles and octagons. A theme of my work is repeating shapes and patterns. The border creates movement throughout the work. The repeating beads of the rosary

also creates movement around the shapes. The movement also contributes to the rhythm of the work. Looking back at my work, the glow of the rosary beads could symbolize the beauty, serenity, and peace that religion provides for people of faith. Because of that glow I feel that the viewer could see a representation of beauty, serenity and peace in people who have a strong a religious connection. The cross may potentially symbolize the importance and power of religion to certain people. That idea is emphasized by the fact that the cross is the brightest thing in the work.







NICHOLE MARTINEZ

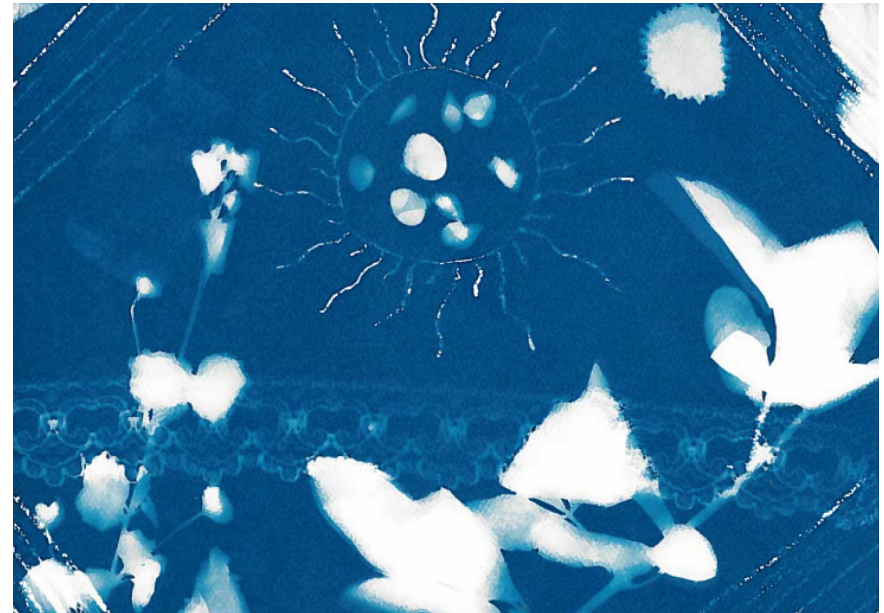
*The Flower Sun*

The name of my artwork is Flower Sun. I chose to give my artwork that name because on my artwork I drew a sun on top and flowers on the bottom. To me, the sun symbolizes joy and life. I added real plants and flowers to create my sun print. My artwork represents my childhood. When I was a little girl, I loved planting flowers in my grandma's garden that was located in her backyard. I would help my grandma plant flowers over the summer. I would wake up really early to water the plants. The sun gives flowers joy and life because the sun helps flowers to produce blooms.

NAOMY ESCOBAR

*Above and Beyond*

I used a one-point perspective that I was taught in my art class. On the acetate, I drew the world from an ant's point of view. The ant's point of view is where all lines connect onto the horizon line which leads to its vanishing point. In this case, I chose the view of buildings which meet in the sky. I chose seashells which represent how much I go to the beach. The clouds carry the names of my friends who are constantly on my mind. The grass symbolizes my earthy attitude as a vegetarian. The flowers represent a truce—it was given to me by my friend who jokingly tried to throw me off of the Getty building's roof. At the end of the day me and my friend became really close with each other.



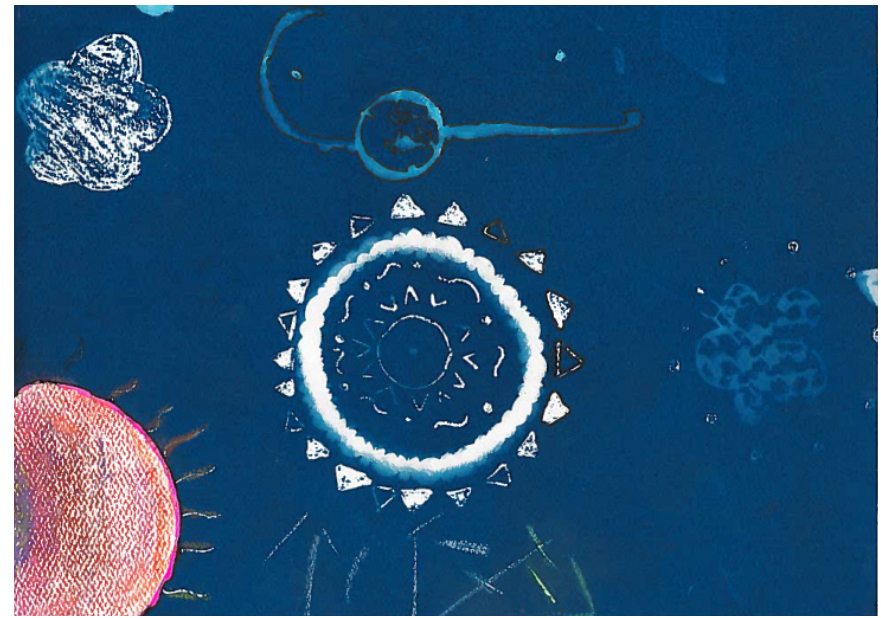
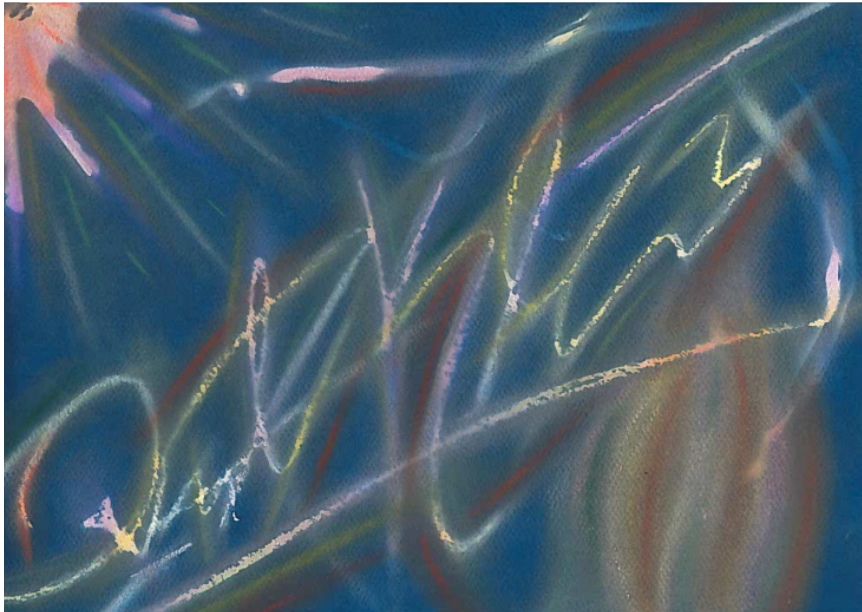


QUINTEN FRANK KLEIN

*ARAGONCE*

When I began with the cyanotype I wanted to shed light on who I am, so I figured, what better way than to place my name under the sun? Then, when we received our finished works and were given the chance to transform them, I desired to add color (as much as possible) in order to represent how diverse, intricate, and possibly complicated of a person I can be. Hence the great array of colors. I even questioned the idea that I may have incorporated too many colors,

which I believe can represent the part of me that is multifaceted. Sometimes I cannot stick to a single thing. As much as I attempt to settle with something, I always move on to the “next best thing.” During the process, the colors I used were very complementary due to my desire for something creative and nonconformist. I thought the diversity would make the piece look better, when in fact the result was a bit awkward compared to a conformist work. I believe this can prove too much diversity can sometimes be a negative trait, but to me it is always perfect, hence the title being misspelled. It may be wrong, but I am right.



RAFFAELE PETRUZZI

*Escaping in the Sunset*

At the center of the picture, a silhouette of a dream catcher colored white with crayons. The strings of the dream catcher were not visible, so I decided to embellish it. The figure above the dream catcher signifies a dream trying to escape from the catcher. On the right, hidden in the negative space, a cloud can be seen peeking through gently. It's faint and almost matches the shade of the blue background. On the left, a round sun-like

shape colored purple, pink, and orange signifies the hope that the dream has to escape from its catcher. Another cloud can be seen above the sun-like shape as well. On the sides of the piece, there are little blotches where the sunlight leaked through, changing the shade of the blue. All throughout the negative space, little spots of light can be seen where sunlight was able to get through. Yellow on the strings of the dream catcher can be seen where I tried to smudge the glitter away with my thumb. I tried to spread it around, but it stayed in one spot and it actually fits there.





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ROB RAMIREZ

*Half-Full*

To begin the piece, I first decided on an aesthetic to characterize my work, which was based on both natural and manmade objects. I opted for a very peaceful, natural vibe. The main focus of my work is the dream catcher, which takes up half of my canvas. It made me think of being at peace with myself. While in the process of creating the cyanotype, I decided to include a plant twig, which added a natural element. The curve of the twig suspended in the negative space reflected how one must stray from the ordinary to find themselves.

I thought my work was missing a large

component of what would eventually complete it. On acetate paper, I added small drawings, giving it an element of movement which made the whole piece come to life. Once the cyanotypes were finished, I found the limitations of blue and white shading inexpressive. To truly make my work pop, I added shades of blue, purple, and pink. The colors I chose to contour the objects were dark, similar to the blue background, and eventually blended in with the white.

While in the process of making the cyanotype, I found the large amount of negative space overwhelming. I took the decision to crop the piece, lending it a sense of missing symmetry. It made me want to explore beyond what is shown.



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SALVADOR VELASCO

*Mysterious Dimensions of Nature*

There is much to entice in the image presented to you. For example, there are objects that are being held together by the textured block of shading in acetate paper. One of these objects has a classic image of a shell, while there are shadows in the background of layered branches. This haunted feeling was created by exposure of the sun. The “spinal cord” branch with fringed leaves, along with the other branch, create the mysterious quality of entering a forest. I always like

a good mystery as well as a bit of nature. The texture of the artwork is not smooth but not exactly rough. It’s more of a soft canvas with the illusion of different dimensions. The colors create dimensions because of the brightness or lack of brightness. The spinal cord branch appears to be the overpowering object and the background branch and it appears that way because of the lack of light. Nature can sometimes be inexplicable and often we humans are baffled by how it works.



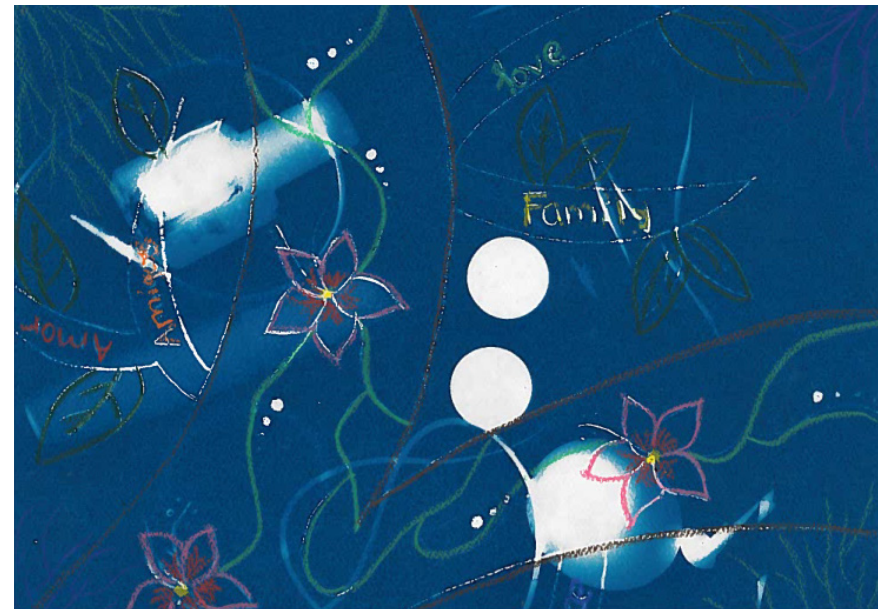


TATIANA MORALES

*Light in Dark Dreams*

The positivity in my artwork is filled with light, peace, and serenity escaping the dark forces being pushed to and fro in a sea of indigo noir. The shades, shapes and color influence emotions between turmoil and calmness.

The objects I used were a bookmark string, seashell, heart-shaped jewelry, teddy bear key chain, crown jewelry, and small keys. The origami heart amongst the stars gives the sense of a moonlit peaceful night. The smaller hearts I used represent the many forms of love. The teddy bear reminds us of a childhood full of happiness and joyful laughter. The crown is a playful reminder of youthful fantasies of wanting to become a king or a queen.



VANESSA ESPINOZA

*Lost Things*

The materials I used were quarters, mascara, a lip balm, earphones, and my nail polish. I used these materials because they are the things I use daily, and they describe me as well. I wanted my drawings to reflect the love, the peace, the union of the family, and friends of the world I live in. The tree branch and flowers which I drew represent some of the hidden beauty the world is made up of. The colors I used were all bright and representational of how happy and vivid this world can be with more love, friends, and family. I see as well the mixture of cultures in how Spanish is mixing with the English language. Throughout the process of my artwork, I realized how important these things are to me and how I feel about the world. With every step, I found out more of who I am and how I feel.



# BIOS

## ***Angel Garcia-Cruz***

Angel Garcia-Cruz is a ninth grade student at Ánimo Venice Charter High School. His favorite hobby is taking photographs. He is part of the photography club, Photo-Synthesis, at Ánimo Venice.

## ***Alondra Rodriguez***

Alondra is a senior in Ánimo Venice Charter High School and she will be attending CSU Sacramento. This is the first time she has done a cyanotype. Quote: "A thousand words can be seen in a photo."

## ***Candy Cabral***

Candy is a high school senior who will be attending UCLA in the fall. This is her first time doing a cyanotype. Quote: "You can't plan photography because it has a mind of its own."

## ***Carlos Lopez***

Carlos Lopez is a senior and is attending Ánimo Venice Charter High School. He is currently waiting to see if he will be accepted to CSU Northridge where he will want to pursue a career in Photojournalism. He is a very hard working boy and he hopes that he will be accepted and will be one step closer in have a good life and a job he loves to do.

## ***Chelsea Ramirez***

Chelsea Ramirez is a 16 year old human junior at Ánimo Venice Charter High School. An avid learner, Chelsea strives to know everything about anything, let it be small or big. When given paper, a lightbox, some pencils, and a secluded area, Chelsea creates vivid animations whose major themes consist of culture and philosophy.

## ***Danny Gonzalez***

Danny Gonzalez is a student at Ánimo Venice Charter High School. Danny is interested in photography and

software engineering. He also participated in cross country for three years and wants to attend UCLA.

## ***David Soriano***

David Soriano is a senior at Ánimo Venice. He is going to California State University Northridge in the fall. He is interested in landscape photography and street photography. He currently lives in Los Angeles, California. He enjoys spending time at the park with his two pet dogs.

## ***David Zarenejad***

Much of David's approach to life is inspired by his lifetime involvement in Mixed Martial Arts. He loves the rush when fighting. Having to go with the flow and improvising in a fight influences his approach to other parts of his life. David grew up in Venice, seeing lots of weird stuff. He will attend UCLA's Center for Prehospital Care.

## ***Joanna Galvez***

Joanna Galvez is a senior at Ánimo Venice Charter High School. She will be attending Concordia University of Portland in the fall of 2015.

Quote: "For photography you don't have to be highly skilled, you just need a good eye."

## ***Leena Cortez Duran***

Leena is a high school senior attending Ánimo Venice who enjoys creating art pieces or photography. She drew an ocean-themed image based off her life of living and attending school by the ocean.

Quote: "Art is one of those forms that people can truly use to express one's inner self."

## ***Mauricio Rodriguez***

Mauricio Rodriguez was born in Santa Monica, California in 1997 and currently attends Ánimo Venice Charter High School. Mauricio's college intention is to study construction management at Arizona State



University. He would like to focus on historic architecture which seems to be disappearing.

### ***Naomy Escobar***

Naomy Escobar is a 10th grade student that attends Ánimo Venice Charter High School. She likes to play sports such as volleyball, cheer, and surfing. Naomy tries to go above and beyond with her creativity because it helps her escape reality.

### ***Quinten Frank Klein***

Quinten Frank Klein is a native Californian born and raised in Los Angeles. While growing up he was taught to understand and relate to all people. From him, expect nothing less than the best, because that is all you will get.

### ***Raffaele Petruzzi***

Raffaele Petruzzi is a freshman at Ánimo Venice Charter High School who joined the photography club early in the year, as he had an inherent interest in the subject. He has found it very rewarding.

### ***Rob Ramirez***

Rob Ramirez is a freshman at Ánimo Venice Charter High School. Since a young age, he's spent most of his time drawing or painting images from his imagination. He recently discovered digital photography with the help of an uncle, who inspired him to pursue photography. With only a phone in hand, Rob hopes to capture the world.

### ***Salvador Velasco***

Salvador is a senior at Ánimo Venice Charter High School and will be attending Santa Monica College in the fall. He plans to transfer to a UC after two years. He is most interested in studying History, Political Science, or Business. He is the oldest of three brothers and lives in Mar Vista. Some of his hobbies include reading and playing games on his cell phone.

### ***Tatiana Morales***

Tatiana Morales, a freshman, attends Ánimo Venice Charter High School. She aspires to go to Harvard University to study law. In her free time she likes to read and work with photography.

### ***Vanessa Espinoza***

Vanessa Espinoza is a senior at Ánimo Venice Charter High school. Next fall semester, she will be attending California State University Dominguez Hills. She can be found at home with all of her family sharing all the love and joy she has for them. She as well dedicates her time to education, to make an impact on her brothers of what can be made possible in this world.



THANK YOU TO THE  
VOLUNTEERS!

Liliana Garcia  
Beth Hagenlocker  
Fritz Hoffine  
Clare Leech  
Lynn McClelland  
Andy Paschen  
Owen Phillips  
Peter Wendel