

# Queens Metro Visual Arts

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## Choice Art: #studentvoice

I'm so sorry for the delay in getting a newsletter out but we have been working non-stop on some really amazing artwork. As I explained to all the students in their syllabus we start the school year by exploring materials and building art skills. The initial projects students complete are intended to provide them with a basis for how to compose space and use new materials.

However, the work produced - though amazing - doesn't always represent the voices of our amazing kids and so in comes a new wave in art education → Choice Art. When you talk to your average teacher they think it's crazy to let students make whatever they want but when you see the work the students produce you know that we are on to something big. We need free thinking students. Creativity is not necessarily drawing a "perfect" picture but exploring ideas and images in novel and personal ways.

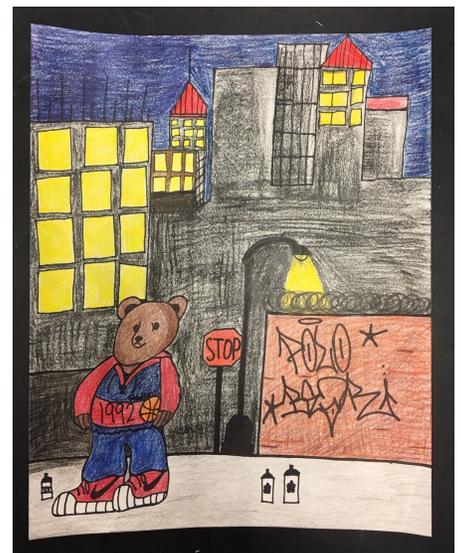
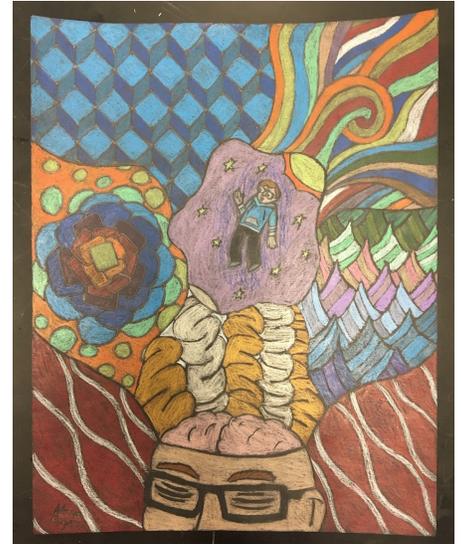
For our first choice pieces students explored the concept of Identity and how we define ourselves. They then were given free range to create drawings based upon their own identities using whatever materials they wanted from what we had learned about so far in class and with whatever imagery suited them. This freedom is scary and sometimes students struggled to come up with ideas but as they sorted through various brainstorming methods and did some sketches they came up with ideas far superior to anything I could have assigned.

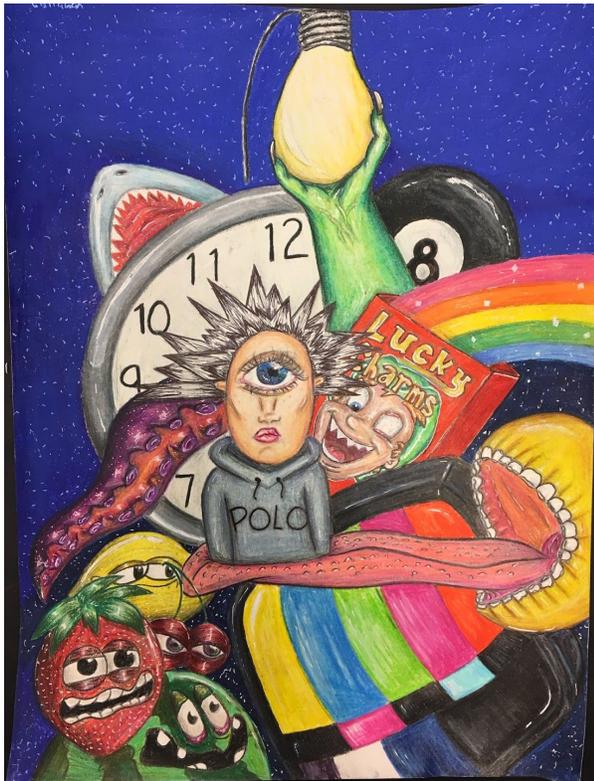
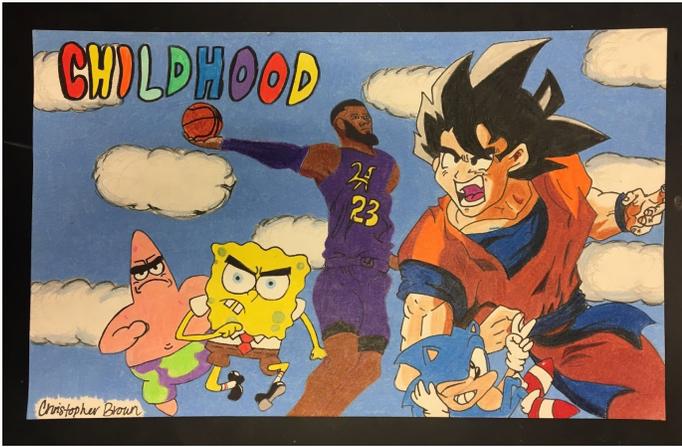
Please enjoy the tiny snapshot of the expansive and imaginative artwork from our amazing artists here at Metro!

*Top: Adrian C*

*Middle: Jacob R*

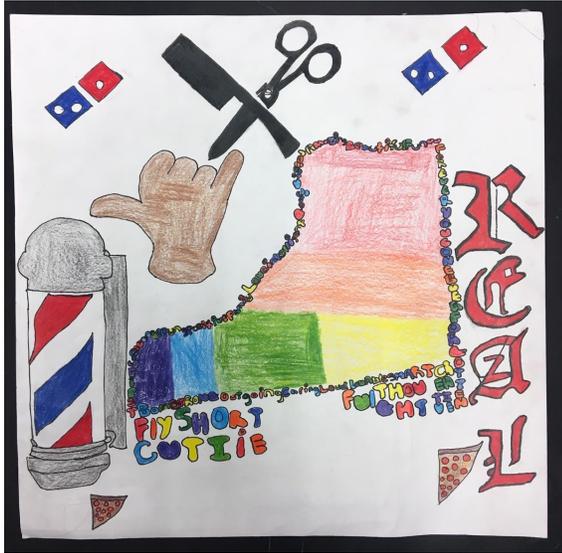
*Bottom: Neona C*



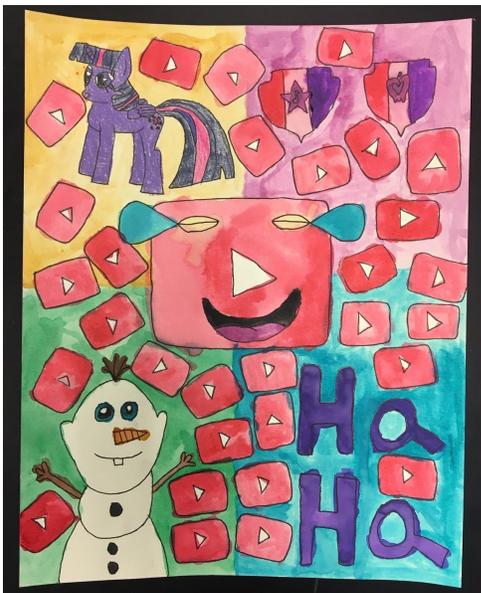


*Top: Chris B & Amisha C  
Middle: Alyssa C & Shanta R  
Bottom: Beshoi A & Sehaj S.*





*Top: Skyla N & Tanise B  
 Middle: Nabil S & Jeniya B  
 Bottom: Tiffany W & Jess C*



## Highlights from past projects

Before we did our choice work we experimented with oil pastels and composition and design in drawing. This helped the students learn how to place objects in the space to create intrigue as well as how to create highlights and shadows to show depth.



*“Art is something  
that moves from your  
insides into the  
physical world.”  
~ Kiki Smith~*