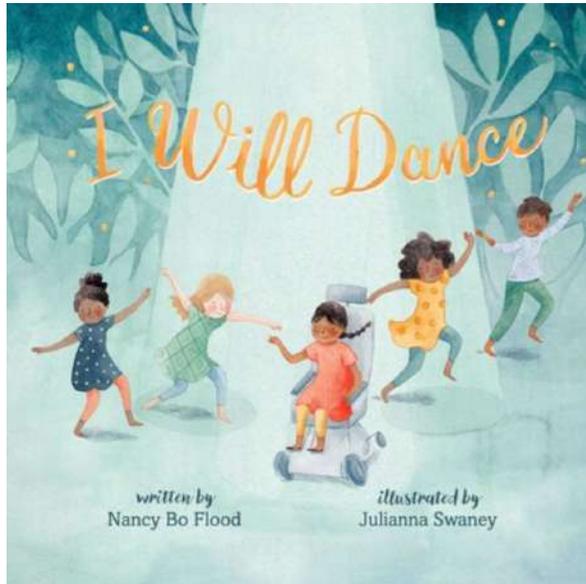


# All Kids Included (AKI) District-Wide Student Visual Art Competition 2025



The All Kids Included student art competition is open to all Miami-Dade students in grades Pre-K-12. Students are invited to submit original artwork depicting the competition theme and are asked to draw on the competition's selected book for inspiration. This year we are celebrating diversity, inclusion and empowerment.

The theme for 2025 is inspired by the book, *I Will Dance* written by Nancy Bo Flood and illustrated by Julianna Swaney. This poetic and uplifting picture book follows a young girl born with cerebral palsy as she pursues her dream of becoming a dancer. Like many young girls, Eva longs to dance. But unlike many would-be dancers, Eva has cerebral palsy. She doesn't know what dance looks like for someone who uses a wheelchair. Then Eva learns of a place that has created a class for dancers of all abilities.

Please visit [www.allkidsincludedmiami.org](http://www.allkidsincludedmiami.org) for more information on AKI programs.



The All Kids Included – Accessible Art Experiences for Kids (AKI) initiative was developed by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs in 2006 and is made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and in part through grant funding provided by The Children's Trust and The Taft Foundation. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.

A large, textured watercolor splash in shades of orange and red is centered on a white background. The splash has irregular, feathered edges and contains numerous small droplets and speckles. The text "Pre-K" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, centered within the splash.

Pre-K



Title: *Shine*

Artist: Manny Headley

Age: 5

Grade: Pre-K

School: Homeschool

Art teacher: Nila Castro-Healey

Artist Statement: I shine bright.





Title: Untitled

Artist: Siena Garcia

Age: 4

Grade: Pre-K

School: ICS Coral Gables

Art teacher: Jennifer Garcia





# Elementary School





Title: *Dancing in Nature*

Artist: Zeinab Elsahli

Age: 9

Grade: 4th

School: Tutor Me Private School K-12

Art teacher: Naw Su Nyein San

Artist Statement: We can open our heart and see every nature things are dancing. So we can all dance in our own tradition, cultures, and in our own free ways.





Title: *Dancing No Matter What*

Artist: Yeva Buchchenko

Age: 10

Grade: 5th

School: North Beach  
Elementary

Art teacher: Iaroslava  
Buchchenko





Title: *Ballerina on a Wheelchair*

Artist: Cristian Van den Berghe

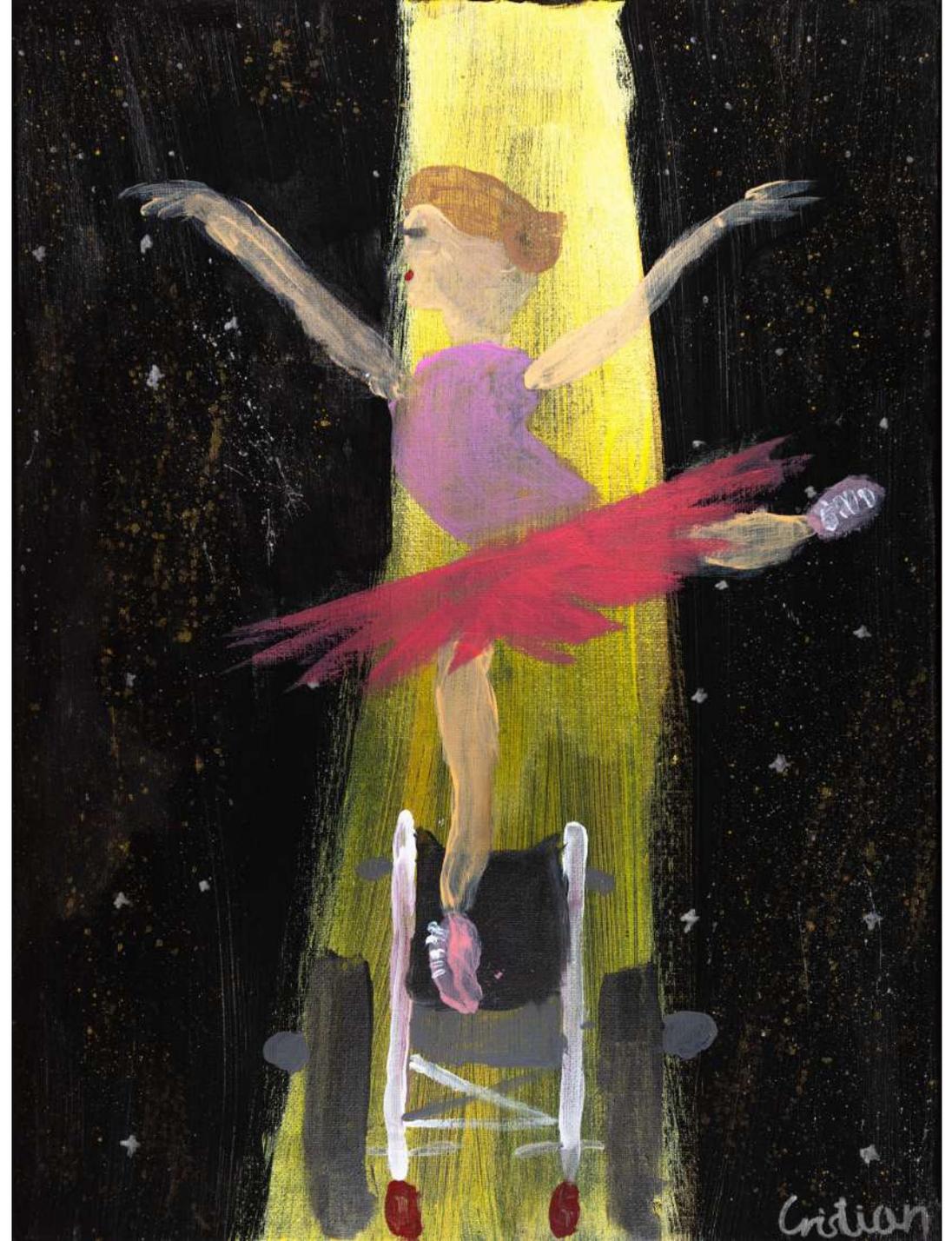
Age: 9

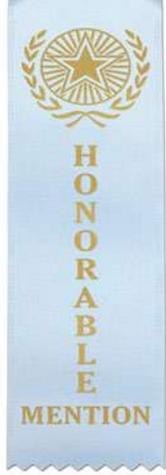
Grade: 4th

School: Homeschool

Art teacher: Ivette Gurdian

Artist Statement: Even with a disability, you can follow your dreams.





Title: Untitled

Artist: Stone Schuman

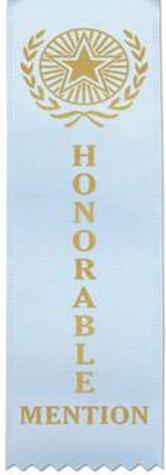
Age: 7

Grade: 1st

School: Coconut Grove  
Elementary

Art Teacher: Jian Gou





Title: A "Dancing" Flower

Artist: Ethan Vegoda

Age: 6

Grade: Kinder

School: Archimedean Academy

Art teacher: Nicole Vegoda

Artist Statement: Beauty is found on the inside as well as outside.



Title: *I Can Do It*

Artist: Mia Headley

Age: 9

Grade: 3rd

School: Homeschool

Art teacher: Nila Castro-Healey

Artist Statement: You can do anything you put your mind to. Dream it and believe it! You can do it!



Title: *Dance Floor*

Artist: Mikah Headley

Age: 7

Grade: 2nd

School: Homeschool

Art teacher: Nila Castro-Healey

Artist Statement: Everyone has their own individual dreams and goals! But everyone is special. The gold arms represent how special people are and the blue and purple inside represents their different dreams and goals.



Title: *Dancing with your mum*

Artist: Katherine Norman

Age: 10

Grade: 4th

School: Sunset Elementary School

Art teacher: Katherine Norman

Artist Statement: Music notes look different, but each one is important. Together, they form music. Without a music note, a song might lose its melody. Every person is important, and each person contributes to our society, just like notes do in music.



Title: *The Camera*

Artist: Ayden Tity

Age: 8

Grade: 3rd

School: Perrine SDA Elementary  
School

Art teacher: Sheba Gateau

Artist Statement: I like art  
because it defines my  
personality and it was such an  
honor for me to present my  
artwork.



Title: *The Dance*

Artist: Dylan Londono  
Hurtado

Age: 7

Grade: 1st

School: St Peter & Paul  
Catholic School

Art teacher:

Gloria Hurtado



Title: *Eva's Personal Park*

Artist: Enzo Giusti

Age: 8

Grade: 3rd

School: Good Shepherd  
Catholic School

Art teacher: Mrs. Villa

Artist Statement: Art  
makes me happy



Title: *Game On, No Limits!*

Artist: Andrew Geng

Age: 7

Grade: 2nd

School: Archimedean Academy

Art teacher: Tian Yu

Artist Statement: Through the artwork I want to express the spirit of determination and joy in sports. I use bright colors and bold lines to highlight the energy of the game, while the character in the wheelchair shows that passion for basketball has no boundaries. I drew the background, with a bright sun and lively scenery to show a world where everyone can play and have fun, regardless of challenges. Through this piece, I want to inspire others to embrace sports with confidence and perseverance.



Title: *Cat Rainbow*

Artist: Aiden Vegoda

Age: 8

Grade: 2nd

School: Archimedean  
Academy

Art teacher: Nicole Vegoda

Artist Statement: A cat  
tries to change himself to  
be a beautiful rainbow.



Title: Untitled

Artist: Laura Gonzalez

Age: 10

Grade: 5th

School: St. John Neumann



Title: *Sandra's Beauty*

Artist: Cassandra Manriquez

Age: 10

Grade: 4th

School: Bridgeprep Academy  
Interamerican

Art teacher: Ms. Salome

Artist Statement: In my drawing I wanted to show what it feels like to try to fit in. Sometimes it feels like everyone around you is the same, but you feel different. That can be very hard, but I also think being different. That can be very hard, but I also think being different is what makes you special. I drew my happy big eyes to show that I am happy inside. This drawing is about how it's okay to stand out and be yourself.





Middle School



Title: *Untitled*

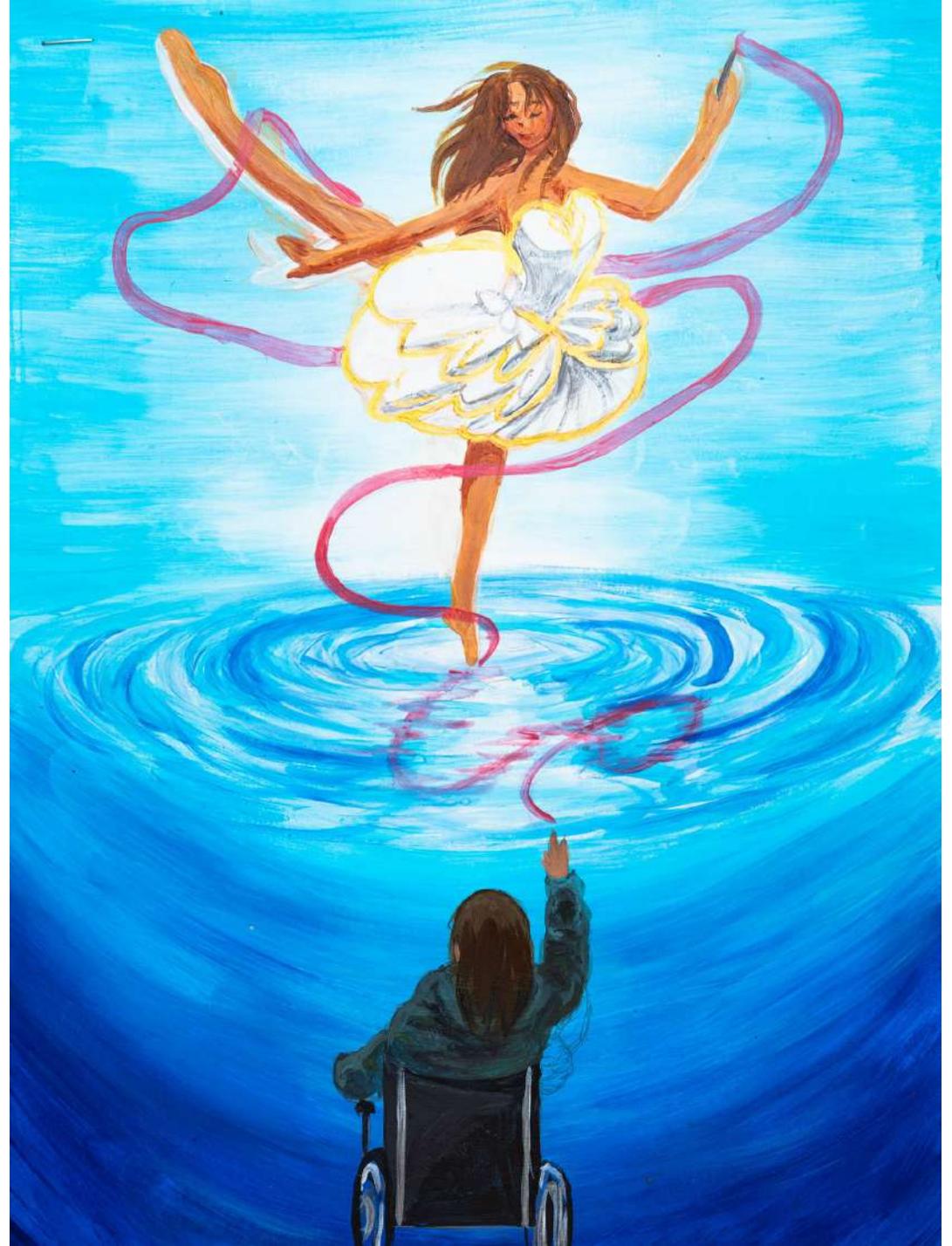
Artist: Mia Hernandez

Age: 13

Grade: 8th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez





Title: *Untitled*

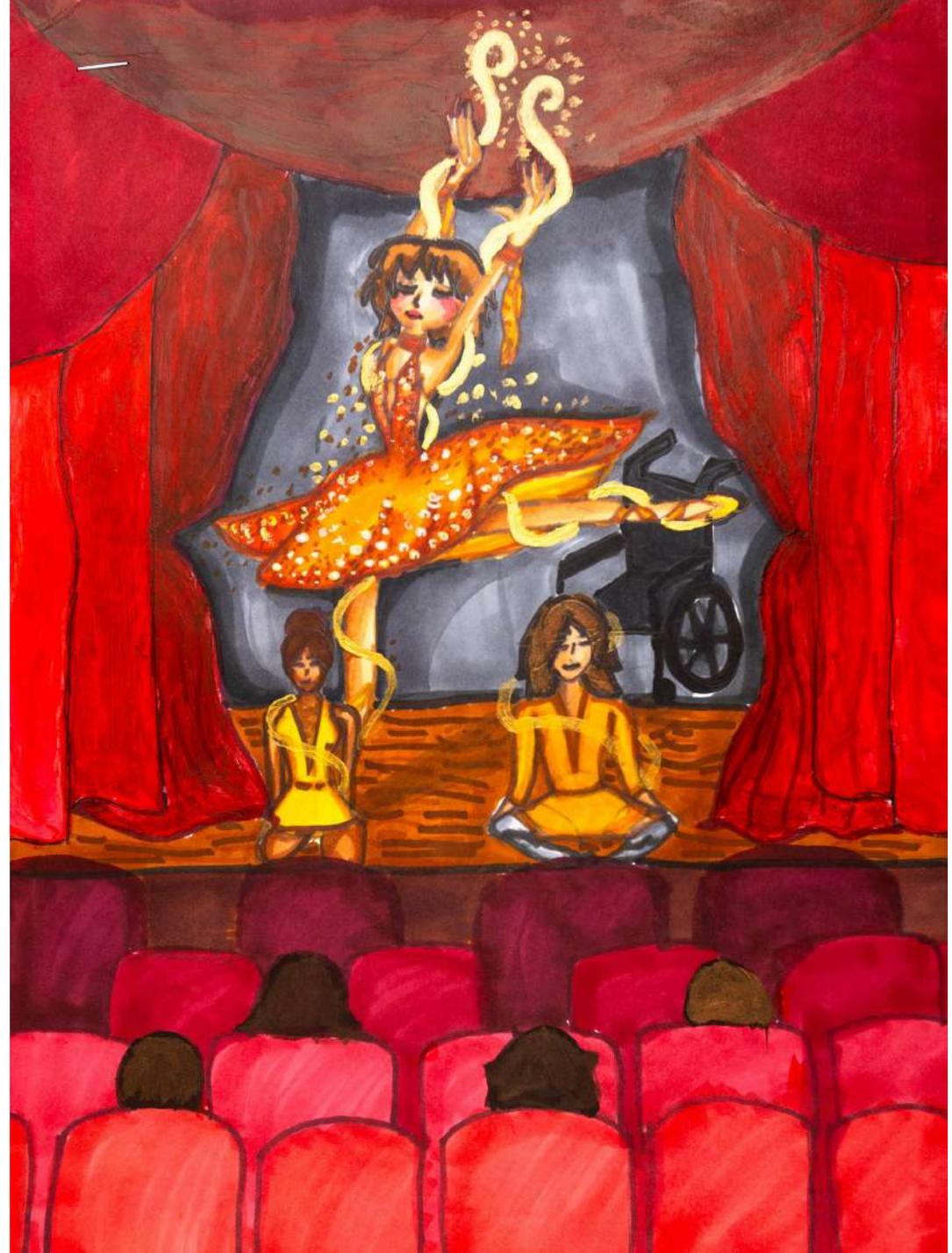
Artist: Elisa Betancourt

Age: 12

Grade: 8th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez





Title: *Untitled*

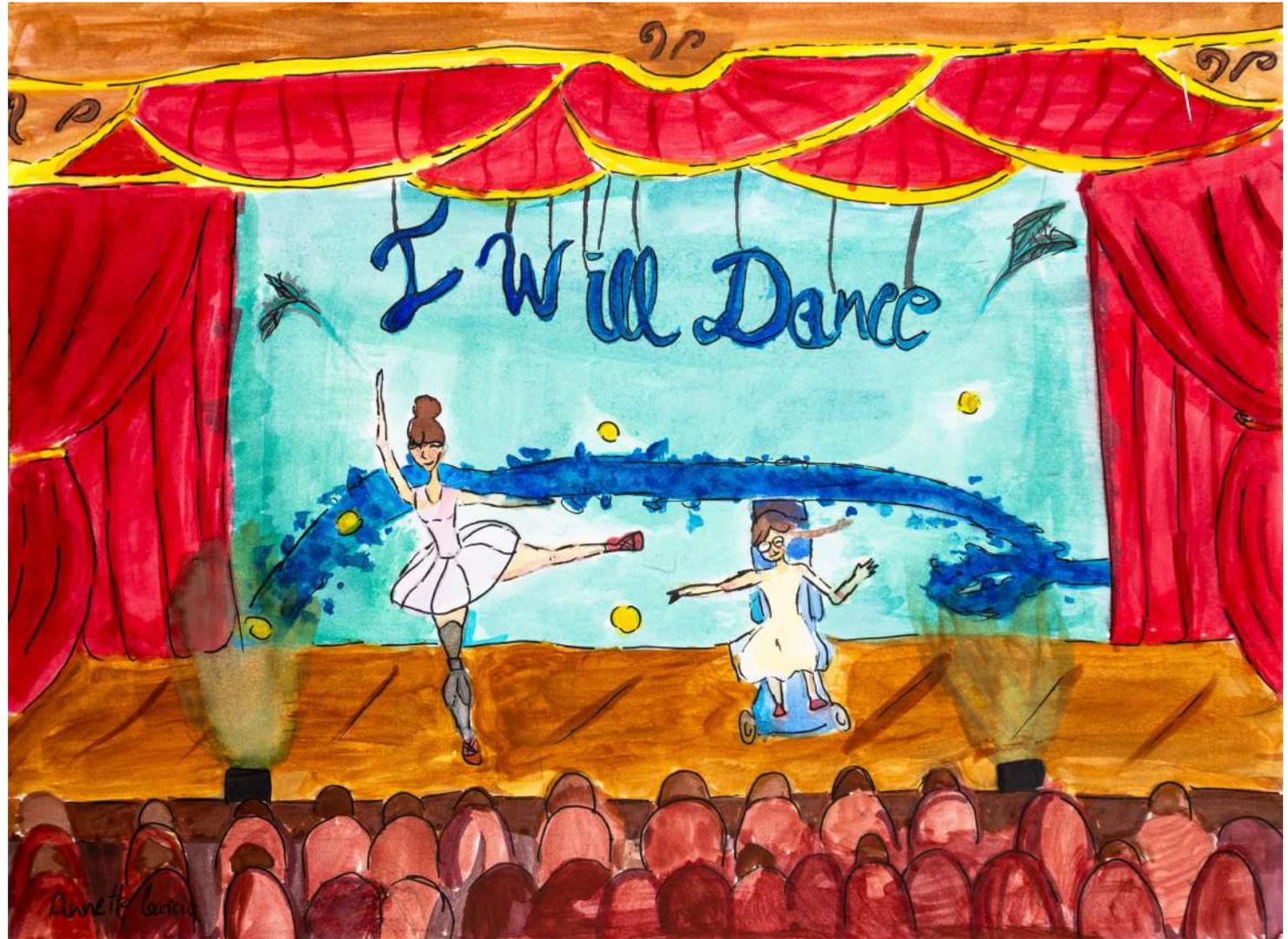
Artist: Annette Garcia

Age: 12

Grade: 7th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez





Title: *Untitled*

Artist: Mileydis Leon

Age: 11

Grade: 7th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez



Title: *Untitled*

Artist: Emerald Soriano

Age: 13

Grade: 8th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez



Title: *Untitled*

Artist: Auril Esquivel

Age: 12

Grade: 7th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez



Title: *Untitled*

Artist: Vanessa Maldonado

Age: 12

Grade: 7th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez



Title: *Untitled*

Artist: Ashley Polone

Age: 12

Grade: 7th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez



Title: *Untitled*

Artist: Lauren Oliva

Age: 12

Grade: 7th

School: Hammocks Middle School

Art teacher: Katherine Martinez



Title: *Lost in Thought*

Artist: Sara Tucen

Age: 13

Grade: 7th

School: Palmetto Bay Academy

Art teacher: Krisa Cotino

Artist Statement: This is a portrait of an original character of mine, sitting in a forest. She recently went through an eye injury and has begun to accept her life.



Title: *Always Believe*

Artist: Amayah Granados

Age: 13

Grade: 7th

School: Master Preparatory  
School

Art teacher: Julissa Granados

Artist Statement: Nothing or  
no one can stop your dreams



Title: Sea and Land

Artist: Lorraine Tirado

Age: 14

Grade: 8th

School: Howard D. McMillan  
Middle School

Art teacher: Lorraine Tirado





Highschool



Title: *Joy of Dance*

Artist: Gabriela Cabrera-Flores

Age: 18

Grade: 12th

School: Arthur Poly Mays Conservatory of the Arts

Art teacher: Gerald Obregon

Artist Statement: In this piece, I wanted to express the girl's love and excitement for dancing through vibrant colors and a lively expression. The spotlights shine brightly behind her and as she is surrounded by light she emanates and is also surrounded by warmth to show the joy of self-expression and acceptance.





Title: *The Jitterbug*

Artist: Siri Duba

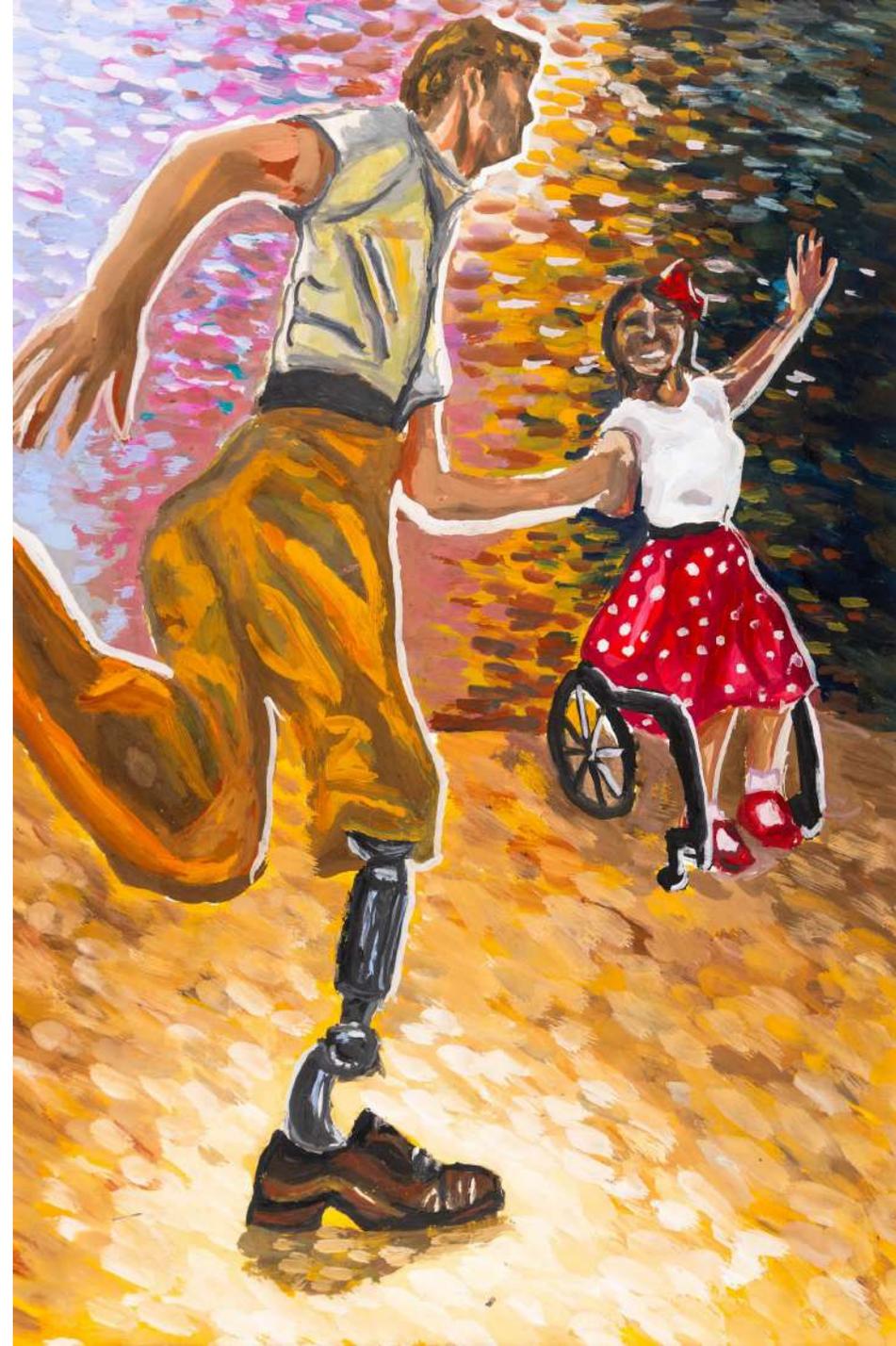
Age: 15

Grade: 10

School: Arthur Poly Mays Conservatory of the Arts

Art teacher: Gerald Obregon

Artist Statement: My piece was based on the jitterbug dance, which was popular in the 1930's - 40's. It is a fairly energetic and live dance that is fun and enjoyable for anyone, regardless of disability. I also wanted to contrast the time period with the representation I included. In the 1930's, many disabled people were faced with discrimination and abelism. By being able to transform that prejudice into a positive rendition, I can further express my point that anything is possible throughout my artwork.





Title: *Dancing Wheels*

Artist: Melanie Falcon

Age: 18

Grade: 11th

School: Arthur Poly Mays Conservatory of the Arts

Art teacher: Gerald Obregon

Artist Statement: I did this piece about the joy and beauty that dancing can bring, regardless of physical abilities. It's a powerful reminder that art and movement transcend physical limitations, allowing everyone to express themselves fully and beautifully. This piece captivates the extraordinary moments of beauty and joy.





Title: *The Strength to Continue*

Artist: S'Niya Shelton

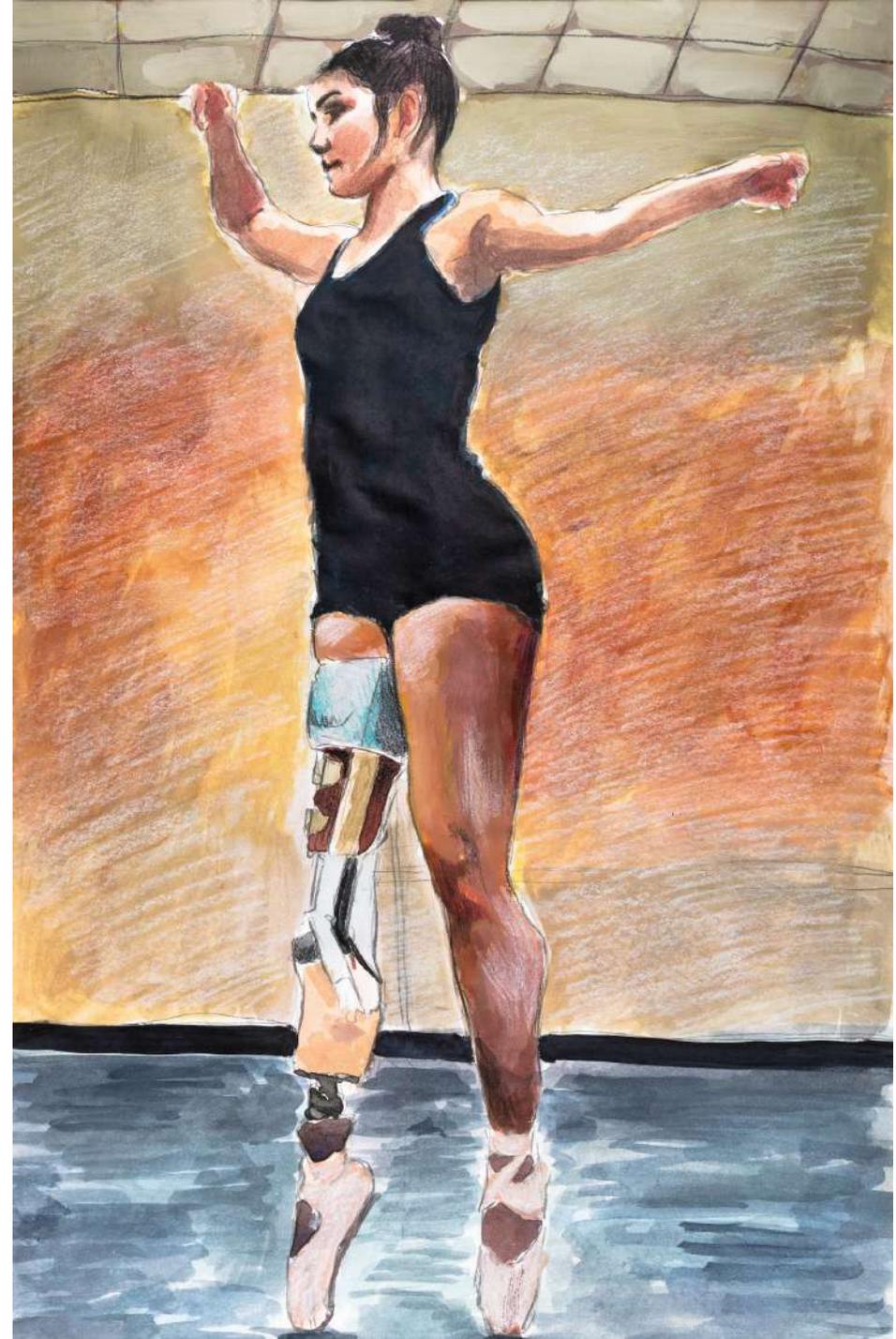
Age: 16

Grade: 10th

School: Arthur Poly Mays Conservatory of the Arts

Art teacher: Gerald Obregon

Artist Statement: And with every moment, she began to believe again that she could soar. Not in the same way she did before but she could still move. And sometimes that's all you need to remind yourself: it's not about what you've lost, but about what you still have the strength to create. Even when chance feels like it's against you. There's always a way forward - sometimes you just need to try.



Title: *Everyone on the Dance Floor*

Artist: Amanda Rodriguez

Age: 16

Grade: 11th

School: Homeschool

Art teacher: Ana Ducasa-Rodriguez

Artist Statement: "You don't have to be perfect to be extraordinary."  
- Ryan O' Connell



Title: *Reaching for the Stars*

Artist: Alex Gabriel-Martin

Age: 16

Grade: 11th

School: Arthur Poly Mays Conservatory of the Arts

Art teacher: Gerald Obregon

Artist Statement: The point of this drawing is to bring awareness to those with disabilities that they too can achieve happiness doing what they want to do. The use of warm colors brings in a bright and happy tone. I named the piece "Reaching for the Stars" to help show that happiness can still be achieved while trying to reach your goals. The prosthetic arms shows that having a disability shouldn't limit or stop you from doing what you want to do.



Title: *Passion in the Stars*

Artist: Yirabel Rodriguez

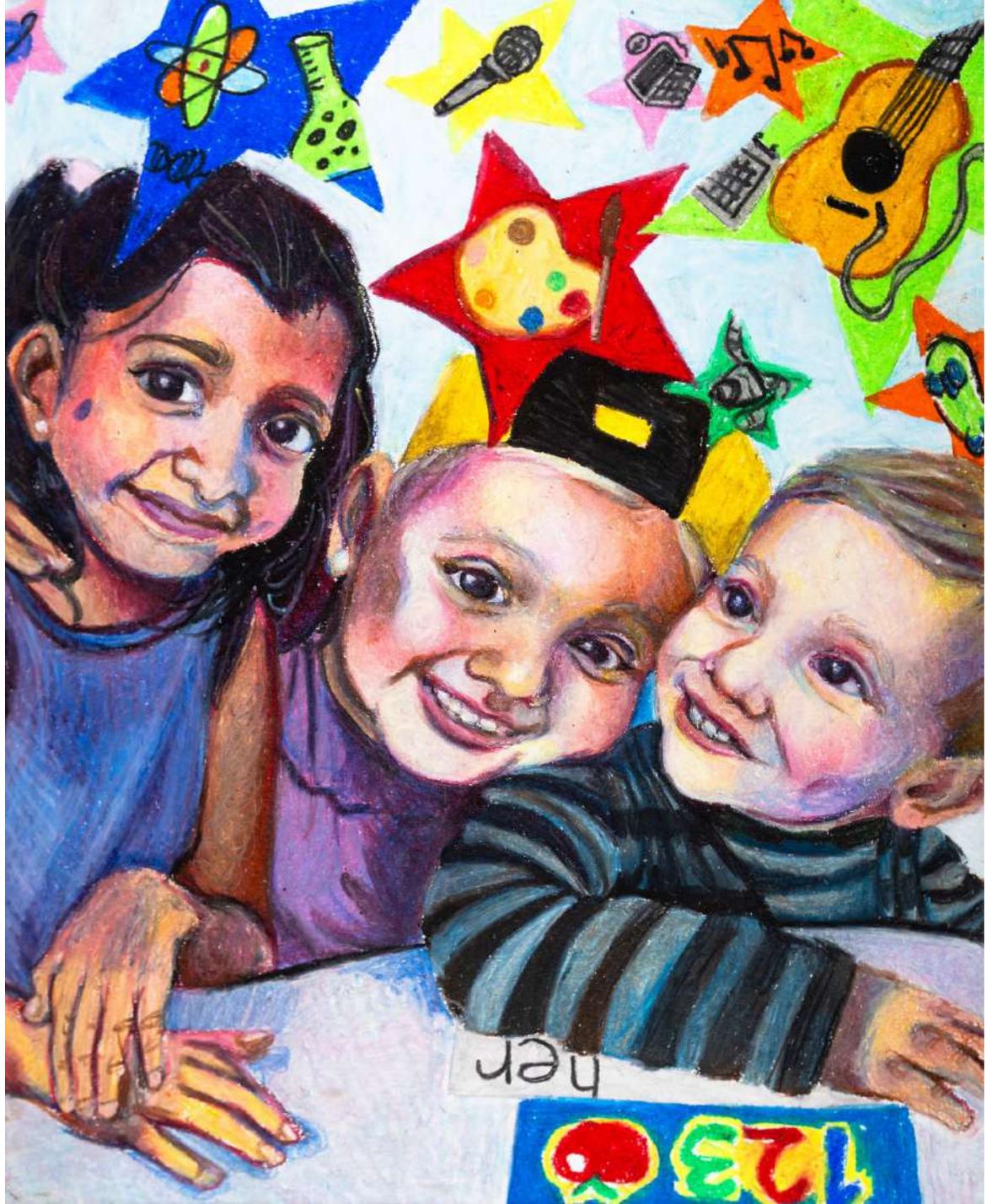
Age: 18

Grade: 12th

School: Arthur Poly Mays Conservatory of the Arts

Art teacher: Gerald Obregon

Artist Statement: The piece is done of me, my brother and my childhood friend as children. It represents that when you include all children and provide them with opportunity, passions and bright futures can form just like that. The stars represent the separate passions that we later pursued in our lives.



Title: *Lifted Spirits*

Artist: Katie Bella Florio

Age: 15

Grade: 10th

School: Dash Design & Architecture

Art teacher: William W. Charles

Artist Statement: "Lifted Spirits" captures a moment of hope, reflecting themes of inclusion, resilience, and empowerment. The central figure is a little girl suspended in the air with a balloon. This symbolizes the dreams that we all hold. Below are four girls that showcase a diverse community which emphasizes strength found in support and connection. The girls on crutches is the embodiment of resilience, showcasing determination in the face of adversity. The releasing of the gold tinfoil signifies letting go of all limitations and embracing individuality. Gold is known as a symbol of worth, in this case it is reflecting the richness of our shared humanity. This piece allows viewers to recognize how powerful unity is in all the unlocked potential within us. "Lifted Spirits" is a celebration of all our journeys towards empowerment, inclusivity, and resilience.



Title: *The Arcane*

Artist: Aubrey Cruz

Age: 17

Grade: 12<sup>th</sup>

School: Palmetto Bay Academy

Art teacher: Krisa Cotino

Artist Statement: Viktor's horrible tragedy breaks his heart so he does some silly moves in a dramatic way.



Title: *Sunshine, Lollipops, and Rainbows*

Artist: Ashley Martinez

Age: 15

Grade: 10th

School: Miami Palmetto Senior Highschool

Art teacher: Nathanael Martinez

Artist Statement: My artist statement is a shoutout to Mr. Flaum in Jack D Gordon Elementary School. Cool, inspiring art teachers save lives.

