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## Outstanding Art for an Unconventional Time

Cardigan Students Recognized in the Scholastic Art Awards 2020, Interview with Mr. Forse

*Editor-in-Chief* | Harrison Huang

Mid-January this year, two Cardigan participants Amanuel “Mano” Levine ’23 and Joonseong “Jake” Lim ’23 were notified of the regional recognition of their outstanding artworks in the Scholastic Art Awards. Mano was prized Gold Key for his charcoal drawing, “The Old Man”; Jake received a Silver Key for his watercolor painting “Not Much Time Left”.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation’s longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens, and gives students opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. Students across the United States entered nearly 320,000 original works in 2020 in 28 different categories of art and writing.



In this intensely competitive venue of creativity and originality, the artistic creations of Mano and Jake stood out among their peers, reflecting distinctive values beyond being simple artistic creations.



Jake’s watercolor painting “Not Much Time Left” aligns with the theme of the 2020 Scholastic Art Awards by reflecting the volatile political and environmental landscape of the world.

Mano’s charcoal drawing “The Old Man” demonstrates the influence of artistic expression on emotions and experiences.

### 1. What came as an inspiration for Jake and Mano?

Although Mano generated his submission outside of Cardigan’s Art class, I believe Mano generally derives a lot of inspiration from creating portraits that capture the identity of his subject. Jake submitted two pieces of art. One of which he created over the Winter Break at home while he created the other in class. One of them dealt with the worsening climate situation as his theme. He created this painting for our project dealing with street art that reclaims space. Jake decided to bring the narrative of climate change to the forefront of his work, and it led to a great composition.

### 2. How was the creative process?

Both Jake and Mano worked hard to develop details in their artwork. Mano used graphite that allowed him to generate depth in his art. Jake used watercolors for one of his submissions and a combination of color pencils and graphite for the other. Jake's pieces of art benefited from the range of colors offered by both these mediums. All-in-all, both artists pushed themselves out of their comfort zone to generate their

their best work with great efforts for the competition.

3. What characteristics of their work do you believe that gained recognition for these young artists?

I think both artists earned recognition for their work due to their stellar compositions. Mano's work showcased a strong grasp of graphite skills and is a great portrait due to its level of detail and texture. Jake's submissions dealt with pertinent themes, including climate change and COVID-19, while also showcasing his own unique creativity and originality through color combinations and design. I am quite proud of their work and continued growth and improvement as capable young artists and students this year.



Not Much Time Left, by Joonseong “Jake” Lim ’23



The Old Man, by Amanuel “Mano” Levine ’23

4. How is the recognition significant to Art at Cardigan?

The success of Jake and Mano is great for the arts at Cardigan. With the new art spaces available in Wallach and the continued excitement around the arts, Cardigan is continuing to develop a strong community for artistic expression and development. Mano came to Cardigan with a strong skill set and understanding of the arts, while Jake really developed his skills and artistic interests this year. Both artists are great examples of how art classes can help students either refine their skills or discover a new interest. This is delightful news for me as of seeing how the Cardigan Arts Program will continue to evolve and succeed.

Snowstorm in Texas

Reporter | Kyle Jia

Last weekend, the state of Texas coped with a severe snowstorm and until now, the state is now devastated by the blackout. According to PowerOutage.us, more than 4 million people were out of electricity, and around 450,000 remained without power now. At least 38 people have died nationwide from the storm. The deadly blackout was induced because the storm that struck Texas had frozen the coal, oil and nuclear power stations. To solve the problem, experts tried to import energy from states that are not currently in a shortage. However, Texas operates its own electrical grid, separate from the bulk of the continental U.S., meaning the state is in fact isolated from power imports. With no way else to go, people in Texas are scrambling for alternative heating such as generators, fireplaces, running cars and etc. Political crisis had also occurred in Texas.

Amid of this disaster, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz travelled to Cancun, Mexico on Thursday, leaving constituents suffering in the power storage. His irresponsible action had triggered protests around his household in Texas. All equipped with signs and megaphone, the protestors asked Ted Cruz to leave his position. Ted Cruz had promised to work remotely in his vacation, but when he was asked if he will return to the state soon or cut the vacation short, he left no response.

*"As it became a bigger and bigger firestorm, it became all the more compelling that I needed to come back because our priority should be fixing this problem and making sure it doesn't happen again," Cruz added. "I didn't want all the screaming and yelling about this trip to distract even one moment from the real issues that I think Texans care about, which is keeping all our families safe." (From Fox News)*

The mayor of Colorado City, Texas, Tim Boyd, was resigning his position after slamming Texas residents as Lazy, Crybabies. He mentioned in his lengthy post on Facebook,

*"no one owes you or your family anything" and that "the city and county, along with power providers or any other services, owes you NOTHING!"*  
*"Bottom line, quit crying and looking for a handout! Get off your ass and take care of your own family!" Boyd later apologized and said, "I would never want to hurt the elderly or anyone that is in true need of help to be left to fend for themselves." (From TMZ)*



Texas Snowstorm Cuts Power Elmoudjaweb.com