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2017 Artist of the Year: 2D Visual Arts Top 10s

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From a list of 88 nominees, the following 10 students have been named finalists for the 2017 Artist of the Year in 2D visual arts. The students were chosen by a panel of teachers from based on applications, performance videos and artistic résumés.

Included are the styles of art they create as well as quotes about how they relate to their craft.

Visual artists include those who work in painting, drawing, digital and film photography, mixed media and graphic design.

The final round of adjudication will take place over the next few weeks, during which the students will be interviewed by a panel of distinguished artistic professionals and faculty members from Southern California universities as well as a few representative high school teachers. Interviews will include a live presentation by the students followed by a question-and answer-session. One student from each of the seven disciplines – theater, dance, instrumental music, vocal music, film, 2D visual art and 3D visual art – will then be named a 2017 Artist of the Year.



Elisa Kim, senior, Crean Lutheran High School

drawing, painting, mixed media, printmaking

“Growing up, I experienced art in many different arenas: Chicago, Hong Kong, Seoul and Los Angeles. These travels made me realize that art is not necessarily confined to museums, but permeates all life. In Hong Kong, I observed art morph into an integral part of pro-democracy movements. To protect themselves against tear gas, activists used umbrellas; overnight the umbrella became an artistic symbol for pro-democracy. In Seoul, despite the overwhelming technological landscape, touches of art graced the city. Seemingly ordinary establishments like McDonald’s or Starbucks would tailor themselves to the unique tastes of Korean society — often you can find burgers infused with kimchi. In Los Angeles, I witnessed the power of graffiti and its forms of self-expression. Popularly thought of as vandalism, this unique medium has become synonymous with the urban landscape dominating Southern California.”

