

VARSITY ARTS

2017 Artist of the Year: 3D Visual Arts Top 10s

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From a list of 31 nominees, the following 10 students have been named finalists for the 2017 Artist of the Year in 3D 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 ceramics, sculpture, metal work, mixed media, and 3D computer modeling.

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.

The Artists of the Year will be announced Thursday, April 20, with full profiles appearing Sunday, April 23, in The Orange County Register.



[Jiwoo Lee](#), senior, Crean Lutheran High School

mixed media

"I feel like I've always lived my life in a frame of limitations with some invisible force confining me to a room. When I was a child, I conformed to every rule and guidance. Parents and teachers loved me because I never stepped over any lines. However, as my journey in art began, I found that restrictions only keep me trapped in my frame. By drawing outside the lines, I not only explored my creativity, but also discovered a safe outlet for my frustrations."





Ze Zoe Zhou, senior, Crean Lutheran High School

sculpture, mixed media

"While art had always been a part of my life, I did not take it seriously until I moved to America. My language skills were barely enough to communicate in daily life. I wasn't doing well in school, and I still wasn't comfortable living with my host family. I did not feel confident, and there was quite literally no one I could talk to. I felt isolated, powerless to verbally express my thoughts and ideas. Art saved me from the loneliness I felt. With a pencil in hand, I showed the world what was in my mind without having to worry about my accent or poor vocabulary."

