



Contact:

Kris Rodolico
Executive Director
info@fyamelrose.org
(781) 665-4140

Nicole Morse
Create Your Opportunity Coordinator
cyo@fyamelrose.org
(781) 665-4140

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emerging Artist Gallery Show Opens at Follow Your Art

MELROSE, MA | April 25, 2024 – A year of creative growth by a group of high school artists is coming to a close with a gallery show and celebration of their work at Follow Your Art Community Studios (FYACS) at 647 Main Street. Starting with a public opening reception on Friday, May 10th from 6:00-8:00 PM and on display through May, this show highlights artwork by students in the Create Your Opportunity program.

In partnership with the Foundation Trust and with support from the Mass Cultural Council, Follow Your Art Community Studios has mentored seven emerging artists from area high schools, offering guidance on portfolios for future engagement in the arts, and coordinating paid commissions in the community.

The high school students in the program met regularly throughout the academic year to check in and work on their projects under the guidance of FYACS artists and mentors Sara Gravante and Chiara Pieri. “The artists in this year’s cohort have made tremendous progress and it has been exciting to see how much they have grown, as individuals and as artists,” noted Chiara Pieri, Program Coordinator.

Over the past several months, community organizations commissioned art created by the students in this program, which both leveraged and challenged the students’ talents. “The community really stepped up for these students and the artists delivered with creative, quality artwork,” shared Kris Rodolico, Executive Director of Follow Your Art Community Studios.

Gabe Hunnicut, a Junior at Melrose High School, created a private commission for a retiring employee of one of Melrose’s businesses. Gino Zermani, a Senior at Winchester High School, and Janelle Irvin, a Senior at Austin Preparatory School, designed a kindness-themed mural that was on view on the wall of the Melrose YMCA. Dierdre McCarron, a Junior at St. Mary’s High School in Lynn, created a piece of art inspired by Melrose’s Victorian street lamps as a gift for an outgoing Melrose Chamber of Commerce Member. Anirudh Seethamraju, a Junior at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, created a coloring sheet for the Friends of Melrose Public Library, using the architect’s rendering of the new library as reference. Zohar Forman-Schwartz, a Junior at Melrose High School, has been working on a commission with Rabbi Jessica Lowenthal of Temple Beth Shalom, and Elm Mook, a Junior at Melrose High School, is working on an installation design for MMTV.

“This program has fostered new, intergenerational creative connections in our community this year. We are so proud of everything these students have accomplished, and look forward to welcoming more students into the program in the future.” Nicole Morse, Create Your Opportunity Coordinator.

The Gallery at FYACS is free and open to the public 6 days a week, Monday-Friday from 10am to 6pm and Saturday from 10am until 2pm.

Follow Your Art Community Studios is a nonprofit arts center located in Melrose, MA, builds community through offerings in visual arts, craft, writing, and performance for people of all ages, abilities, identities, cultural backgrounds, and economic situations. Learn more at fyamelrose.org