

Carissa Yang - Mixed Media

Junior Carissa Yang makes wire sculptures, jewelry and digital art. She discovered these hobbies in middle school, but her first exposure to different art mediums was in elementary school, when she took weekly art classes and experimented with clay, ceramics and sketching.

"When I do art, I get to ... focus on creating something that I think is pretty or meaningful," Yang said. "It's time I get to spend with myself. Art tends to be that escape where I don't think about [anything else]."

Yang uses simple, practical materials like malleable copper wires to shape her creations.

"[Jewelry is] expensive [and] I [felt] like I could figure out how to make it myself," Yang said. "I also see cool [room decorations] that I want but can't afford, so I figure out how to make them with junk or stuff I have lying around. I recreate things I see online or in stores with materials that I have."

The "junk" Yang refers to include items such as the metal part of a car tire, a broken lock, part of a car headlight, soda cans, cardboard and cereal boxes, some of which were picked up on walks. Over winter break, Yang made wire animal sculptures of an orca, a giraffe, a lizard, an elephant, an owl, a dolphin, a corgi and a goat as holiday gifts for her friends.

"What art means to me is connecting with other people and making other people's day by giving them something I know they'll appreciate," Yang said. "You can't personalize something store-bought to someone's taste [like you can with handmade gifts]."

Another one of Yang's projects was a gift set for her friend, inspired by the book series "Keeper of the Lost Cities."

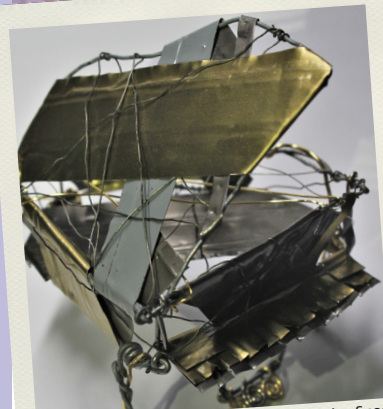
"It's our favorite book series and it's how we met," Yang said. "I went through the book and found every single item I thought was cool and that I could make. I searched their descriptions and made three necklaces, pins and several gadgets."

Yang has used her talent in digital art for school activities, like making graphic designs for Aragon's music programs and Jabberwocky's website. She also aspires to publish her own webcomics.

"I have a few ideas for full scale stories that I would publish on Webtoons, which has a wide audience and is more accessible [than physical comics]," Yang said. "I actually have a webcomic published. It's snippets of moments in life that I find beautiful and I wanted to capture those for people."



Carissa Yang - a baby goat constructed out of plated copper wire and pieces of scrap metal



Carissa Yang - a grand piano made from several different gauges of wire and scrap metal

Luke Childress - Trumpet

Junior Luke Childress uses music to express his creativity and has done so since he was young.

"I started playing piano when I was four," Childress said. "As a kid, I listened to a lot of music, and when fifth grade came around, I chose trumpet and stuck with it."

School musical ensembles have been a large part of Childress' experience as a musician. A member of both Aragon's wind ensemble class and zero period jazz band, Childress balances performing in Aragon's ensembles and ones outside of school, like Peninsula Youth Orchestra and the College of San Mateo's Symphonic Band.

"Playing music and practicing is fun for me," Childress said. "It's more of a hobby and a passion [than something academic]. I do it as homework [and] compartmentalize my time to say, 'Okay, I'm going to practice for an hour,' and set that time aside."

As a member of multiple musical ensembles, Childress builds friendships with his fellow musicians over time.

"There's a really great community around it," Childress said. "[I've made] most of my close friends through music. [The best part] is when something you've been working on for months comes together. [Hearing] all the layers [of instruments] and hearing all the parts together is really cool."



Michelle Jin - oil painting



Michelle Jin - oil painting

Michelle Jin - Oil Painting

Junior Michelle Jin first started creating art over 10 years ago when she enrolled in an art class at a young age. Ever since then, Jin has been exploring a variety of art mediums.

"My favorite medium is oil painting, but I [use] colored pencils ... [and do] sketching [and] acrylic paintings too," Jin said.

Taking art through middle school and now Advanced Art at Aragon, Jin has begun to refine her own artistic style.

"My oil paintings are kind of a merge between abstract and nonabstract," Jin said. "I think it leans more towards [the] nonabstract, but they're kind of like [art from the] impressionist era."

Jin enjoys oil painting for its versatility and visual effect.

"When I took art lessons, our teacher exposed us to many different mediums," Jin said. "Oil painting was just the one that I enjoy doing the most. The colors are very expressive and ... you can do so many things with the textures of the painting on a canvas."

The real world plays a large role in Jin's artwork. On a trip to Japan in eighth grade, she used the scenery and experience as inspiration for her paintings.

"I really like painting pictures of my family when we go on trips," Jin said. "I enjoy painting things from my own life [because it] gives me inspiration to paint things I enjoy, things that I'm passionate about. That really fuels my creativity."

While many may see artwork as the finished product, Jin highlights that it is ultimately the culmination of the work and effort that is put in.

"I think art doesn't have to be pretty, it doesn't have to be visually appealing, it's [more so] ... the feeling [art] gives you when you make it," Jin said. "The actual outcome, I think, is less important than the process."

Parker Guban - Dance

Dance Team co-captain and senior Parker Guban began taking dance lessons when he was five years old, although his passion for it emerged even earlier.

"As a child, I used to dance all the time in my house even when there was no music," Guban said.

After joining Aragon's dance class, Guban was introduced to other styles of dance like jazz, tap, modern and lyrical dance. Hip-hop and contemporary, which are his current focuses, remain his favorites.

"I get to show off a confident side of me that I don't normally get to show off," Guban said. "People usually view me as a shy person, but when I dance hip-hop, I'm more outgoing. Contemporary shows so much emotion that you can't put into words."

Guban also values the friendship dance brings him.

"The community [dance] brings together [is so] tight-knit," Guban said. "It makes me feel like I belong somewhere."

In addition to class hours, Guban dedicates two hours every Tuesday and Thursday after school to practice with the team.

"Dancing has never made me feel drained," Guban said. "[Rather], it's what I do when I feel drained about everything else. It's always fun. There's not a time when I'd complain about it."

For Guban, dance has helped him express himself and even learn important life lessons.

"A lot about dance is just being yourself and having fun," Guban said. "Dance taught me to live in the moment rather than in the past."



Parker Guban - courtesy of Brienne Martin



Parker Guban - courtesy of Brienne Martin

Artists of Aragon

Abbie Yin - Ceramics & Jewelry

Senior Abbie Yin creates many forms of art, utilizing her skills to express herself through bracelet making, ceramics, glass work and more.

"I've been making things since I was a kid," Yin said. "I got into making friendship bracelets."

In the past, Yin sold her bracelets, using her art as a source of income.

"Back when I was 15 and living in Oregon, I started a business on Instagram called Yin bracelets," Yin said. "These days I make them as a hobby for fun."

A student in Advanced Placement 3D Art, Yin also uses the mediums of clay and glass to express herself.

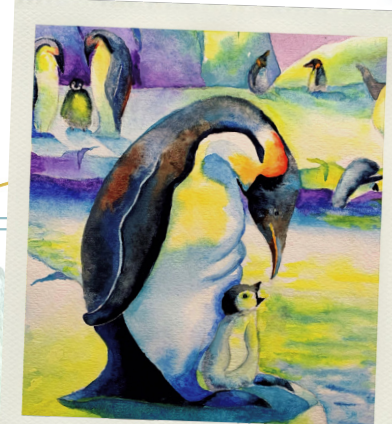
"I love experimenting with glass and clay," Yin said. "You never know how the piece will turn out."

Yin encourages other students who are interested in art to give it a try.

"If I can make stuff, you can too," Yin said. "The process is cool, and sometimes you'll surprise yourself with how things turn out."



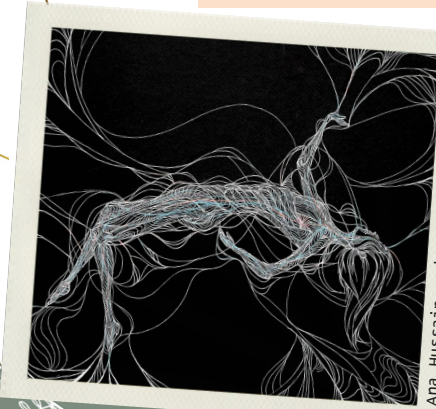
Abbie Yin - glasswork



Vivian wang - watercolor



Vivian wang - watercolor



Ana Hussain - drawing

Vivian Wang - Watercolor

Although junior Vivian Wang has been doing art for a long time, she currently focuses on the art program at Aragon.

"I've taken a lot of art classes outside of school, and mostly watercolor classes, but right now, it's just art classes at school," Wang said.

While Wang has taken lessons on the utilization of watercolor, she has begun to explore, and enjoy, different mediums.

"I like doing digital art [because] I think it's more flexible," Wang said. "I started seeing some posts of other creators' digital art, and I thought it would be fun to try out."

Although Wang has the freedom to explore various mediums and styles of art at home, she has come to enjoy the structured nature of art at Aragon.

"I think I like both; it's kind of like a balance and that's cool," Wang said. "If there's a prompt, if I get stuck or something, there's something for me to go on. At home, if I'm just on my own, I don't always have inspiration."

Wang has continued to practice and work on art almost every day as a means to take a break from school, as well as have a period of enjoyment in between the rush.

"[Art] offers a way for me to express myself and it's also very therapeutic when I'm really stressed," Wang said. "I think art just helps me calm down and relax."

Although the learning curve may be difficult or feel tedious towards the beginning, Wang feels that it is inevitably worth it.

"When you first start, art might be a little bit boring since you always start with the sketching and the shading but I think once you get into it [and] get your basics, it's actually really fun," Wang said.

Sannie Wan - Ceramics & DIY

Junior Sannie Wan is Aragon's DIY Club President and an Advanced Placement 3D Art student.

"I've always been engaged in arts and crafts, and just making and fixing my own things," Wan said. "Later, I did a lot of colored pencil [drawings], and since freshman year, I've been [taking] ceramics."

Wan became DIY Club President after graduating senior officers last year encouraged her to run for the position. Since then, she has led multiple projects ranging from making friendship bracelets, wire rings and phone chains to designing personalized terrariums.

Wan's love for ceramics began when she worked on clay projects in middle school.

"I like the meticulous, detailed and technical aspect of this kind of art and the fact that it can be either decorative or functional," Wan said. "The process ... from inspiration to personalization to manifestation [is appealing]. I like how there's no such thing as 'wrong' with your art and even accidents can turn out looking decent, even if it wasn't exactly how you pictured."

AP 3D Art students were assigned to do a project called a Sustained Investigation, in which they create 3D art with any material.

"The project has helped me develop my own style more and also taught me a lot about my topic when researching it," Wan said. "My topic has to do with wildlife and human impact on nature, and for inspiration for my projects, I've had to learn peripheral knowledge about human activity and its effects, such as climate change, and how this has impacted the planet's vital ecosystems and biodiversity that we coexist with and depend on."

Wan continues to explore her interest in art, both in school and through her extracurricular activities.



Sannie wan - a handled mug with an alcove containing a silver dolphin



Sannie wan - a cylindrical shark container with an open mouth (made with slab cylinder technique)



Ana Hussain - drawing

