

Mind over Mind Exhibit Showcases Vicksburg High School AP Art Students

By Caitlin Burr

This year's AP Drawing Art students enrolled at Vicksburg High School have the opportunity to share their original pieces in the Prairie Ronde Gallery located in Vicksburg, Michigan. The students titled their collective work "Mind of Mine 2021". This exhibit will allow each student to reveal their personality to the public in a different light. Throughout the school year, students have worked hard to create a body of work containing fifteen pieces of art that encompass their passion. Each student used their own experiences, struggles, and research to express those passions without words. Along the way, these students learned how to use their strengths and refine their weaknesses to make their work a successful reflection of their artistic ability. "Mind of Mine 2021" will include mixed media and mixed creativity as each student's work is entirely original.

Vicksburg High Schools AP Drawing class was fortunate enough to receive financial assistance through the Vicksburg Community Schools Foundation's Bardeen Grant to help fund this event. This money helps provide funding for publications and the development of a digital art gallery. This digital art gallery has multiple purposes. Not only will it be archival so the students' work will be accessible for future years to come, but it will also provide access to viewers from the safety of their home when social gatherings are limited. This event will take place in person with mask and social distancing requirements. The opening reception will be on Friday night, May 14th, from 6-8 pm, Saturday, May 15th, 2-5 pm, and Sunday, May 16th, from 2-5 pm at the Prairie Ronde Gallery, 101 E. Prairie in downtown Vicksburg. The digital galleries will be available at vicksburgarts.com.

In preparation for this exhibit, The Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center, with direction from Syd Bastos, President and acting Director of the Cultural Arts Center, paired the AP art students with area artist Natalya Critchley. When these students were not working on their pieces in class, they spent time going on trips to local art galleries and personal meetings with Critchley. During these visits, students learned about Critchley's experience and growth as a professional artist to prepare for their own AP portfolios. In Critchley's studio, students gained inspiration with her advice and direction to follow their artistic voices. The growth each student has gained from this experience will help them take the next steps in their artist journey.

Three independent studies art students will also have works on display in the gallery. Interested readers can get more information from vicksburgarts.com or (269)501-1347.