

1. THE SURREAL DEAL:

Sophomore Kai Pang sketches his surrealist piece for drawing class. The drawing is a closeup of the face of a man who has a body crawling out of his mouth. "I really like the person crawling out of his mouth," Pang said. "I think it's really unique and really weird. I plan on the background being a pattern. It may be pink and green because that reminds me of *Alice in Wonderland*, which is surrealist which is what this is."



2. HUDSON OR BUST?

Sophomore Noe Lozano-Palmilla shapes the head of Hudson Humphrey (a junior in his class). "The first step was wrapping newspapers on the armature," Lozano-Palmilla said. "Once we got all the face details down we added on the hair."

3. AN OLD-SCHOOL SELFIE:

Junior Cassie Hartle works on her oil painting of herself. The painting took about six weeks to complete. "I was inspired by the styles of some Renaissance art but also just my own ideas," Hartle said. "My favorite part was painting the face because it's my favorite thing to paint."



4. A VIRTUOSO JAZ PERFORMANCE:

Freshman Jaz Mahr sculpts the hair of her project in Sculpture 1 class. The sculpture was of Steele Bradford (a sophomore in her class), who she chose because she sat next to Steele. "My favorite part was the nose because it looked good and it was easy to make. The most challenging part was the eyes because it's hard to make them smooth and realistic." Photos by Molly Gardner.



BEEN THERE DONE STACKED: Mr. Martinez demonstrates acrylic painting techniques to his first-period Painting 1 students. The class contains students from Drawing II, Drawing III and Painting III spread throughout the room and hallway. "[This is] why we do stacked classes," Martinez said. "So that students have choices about where they can go at different periods during the day." Photo by Kristen Tibbets.

brushes with greatness

minute no. 17.69



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"You absolutely can do what you want to do; you just have to fight for it."

—Zulmy Galindo



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The new AVID teacher Zulmy Galindo gave the chin-up bar an effort during Pink Week. Photo by Dave Winter.



"I like the pop of color on her hood and on the wolf's eye because it balances it out."

Paloma Cisneros, 10

artists discuss their work



"The concept was reaching ... to get out of something bad and ... into something good, which is why the color changed from black and white to color."

Carter Cordes, 11

for these artists, it's all about that VASE

The face of an old woman, a bust painted to look like marble, a vase with a face, a teapot full of eyes and a woman fighting a dragon. A few things all of these items have in common is that they all placed in the district VASE competition, and they were all created by McCallum students.

VASE stands for Visual Arts Scholastic Event. VASE takes place across the state of Texas at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels. Entering VASE isn't as hard as it might seem to those who are uninvolved. For some students, VASE is a privilege, but for others, like freshman Ruby Borden, it is required to attend for their fine arts major.

"Well I'm a major so I had to, but I also decided because I entered VASE as a middle schooler and I really enjoyed it and I like seeing all the artwork at the end and walking around," Borden said. "That's also why I stayed later, to see all the art."

Sophomore Vanessa Lee, who entered VASE for the first time this year, further laid out the VASE process. "The teacher suggests if you would like to go or not, unless you're an art major, then, the teacher gives you some paperwork asking different questions on your piece and why you decided to join VASE."

The art teachers who sponsor their students assist them with the entry process, the preparation of their pieces and everything in between. "I think it starts with encouraging them,"

McCallum ceramics and sculpture teacher Carey West said. "[We help] them find a piece that they think is suitable, then we sign them up digitally and help them through that process, check their UIL qualifications and then, when it gets closer to the event, we start helping them prepare the pieces. Up to the point where they get interviewed, we're there to fix any problems, or get them on the right track or make sure they're in the right place. After that, it's all up to them in the interviewing and judging."

This year, the high school level VASE took place on the March 2 at San Marcos High School. State VASE was on April 26 and 27 at the same place.

"You go on a bus to a high school and you wait outside until the judge lets you inside and then they grade you on your piece and they ask you a few questions," Lee said. "After you finish being judged you wait in the cafeteria of the school."

According to the artists involved, the waiting around can actually be more fun than the contest. "I got to see a few of my friends from my old school, and I miss talking to them," Lee said. "I actually reconnected with my friend. We took drawing class together back in middle school."

A variety of 3D pieces can be entered in VASE along with the 2D. This includes ceramics, sculptures, fibers and many other unconventional mediums. Junior Graham Protzmann took advantage of the 3D categories by entering his

ceramic piece, which advanced to state.

"[My piece] was a set of three ceramic things. There was a bowl, a plate and a jar and they were all glazed in the same way," he explains. "It was a couple of pieces from different projects, and then I glazed them all the same way to make them a set. [The technique] was a kind of glazing thing that I'd never tried. I asked the teacher how it would turn out, and she didn't know either. I just wanted to see what would happen."

Freshman Gage Sanchez also had two pieces make it to state. Both of his pieces captured the essence of everyday life by romanticizing the constants in his life.

"My sculpture was more about global change, how it's affecting kids and how kids could learn to change just slightly in their day to help our world."

Another McCallum student advancing to state VASE is sophomore Bridget Russo.

"I did an embroidery piece where I just sewed on a canvas of my sister, and I did a mosaic style piece where I cut pieces of paper out that were different colors and glued them to look like this photo I took in Spain of some fountain," Russo said.

For a piece to advance to state, it first must first receive a four on one through four scale. The judges award silver seals to state-bound pieces after reviewing all of the pieces that earn fours.

—story by Olivia Watts