

2020 Ohio Watercolor Society
Hodnett-Hacker Memorial High School Student Scholarship



Anya Parsons, Kenston High School



As a little girl, I was always drawing. I doodled and colored every day and after years and years of practice, it is no wonder that art became a foundation of who I am. I am very grateful to my high school art teachers, Andie Quinn and Todd Malkus, for their endless effort and guidance in my growth as an artist. In my four years of high school, they showed how to go from the kid that could draw a realistic eyeball to a young artist that can use art and all its principles to portray the complexities of a topic. I will be attending OSU in the fall to study Studio Art with an emphasis in Art and Technology.

My piece entitled *James* is a gouache painting on illustration board. It is one piece of a three-piece portrait series with all paintings encapsulating a person smiling. One painting is a student at Kenston, one is a teacher at Kenston, and “James” is a member of the Kenston faculty. The goal was to show the different groups of people in my school district united by positivity: the beauty of their smiles, happiness, and joy. The three portraits were also a study in broadening the color theory behind skin tones and exploring colors than peach and brown. For instance, James’s skin is composed exclusively of purple, orange, and blue. The series ended up being life changing (for my life in art at least), as it completely altered the way I view colors in art. For this reason, it is one of the most important pieces of my high school career.

