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Dear Admissions Officer:

I am sharing a few pieces of my artwork to provide you with a more complete picture of me. They are meant to show my pursuit of a passion rather than to demonstrate a talent.

I have selected these pieces from a compilation of artwork that I have created throughout high school. Each piece took anywhere from a few hours to a couple of days to complete. They were either done for my AP Studio Art Class or independently in my spare time.

Making art is something that I have always enjoyed doing. It allows me to express my beliefs and interests more effectively. It has helped me become more observant in my daily life and enabled me to communicate better with others.

Thank you,  
Michael Johnson



### **Red-head Ducks**

Colored pencil

This work was my entry in the Oregon Junior Federal Duck Stamp Contest in support of wildlife conservation. It was awarded an honorable mention. The unusually vibrant colors and tranquil atmosphere of the piece serve to signify the unique beauty and fragility of nature.



**Stigma**  
Gouache

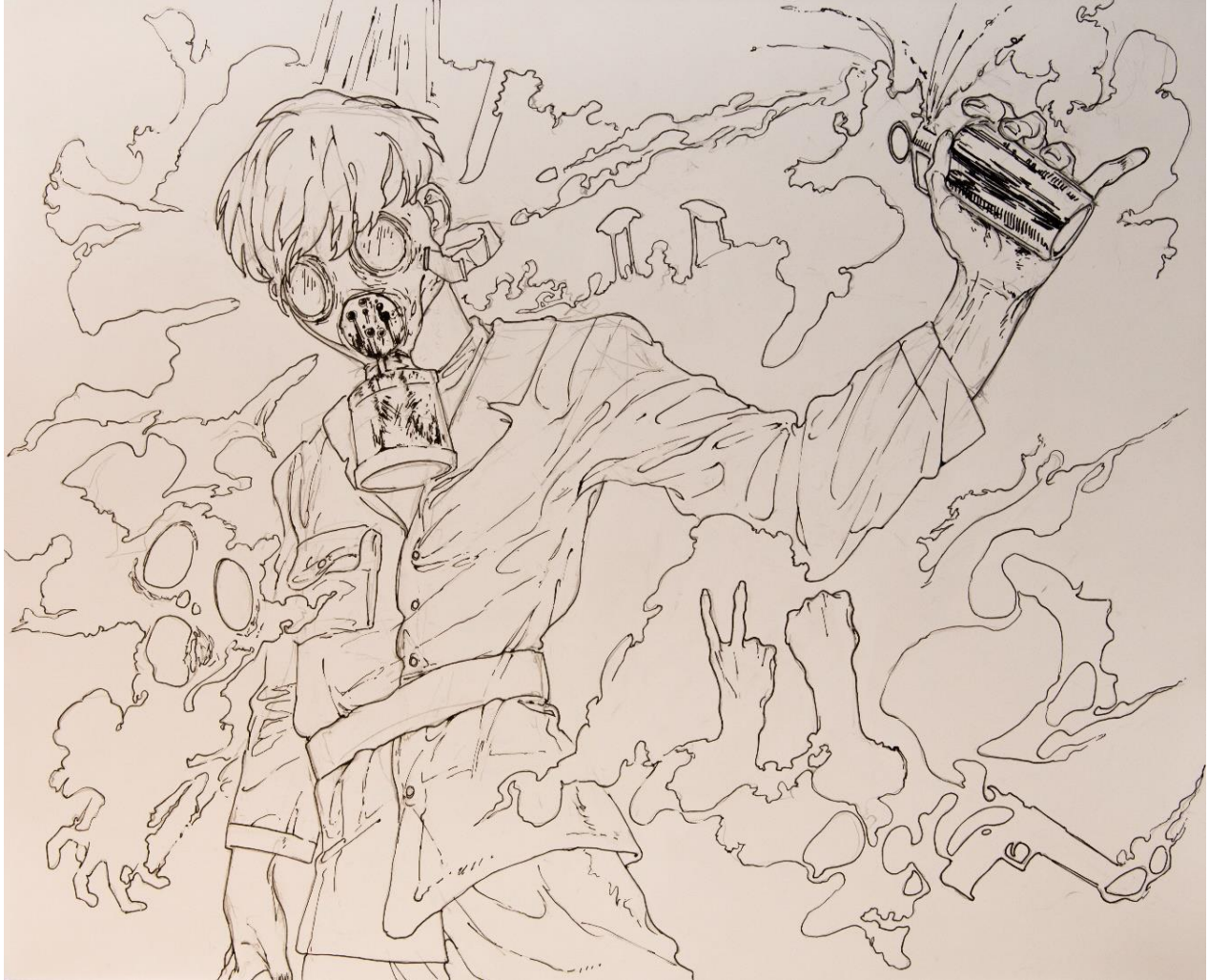
This piece was heavily inspired by a novel which centered on one young boy's progression into adulthood and the moral and religious conflicts that he faces. I found it relevant to our generation's struggle to mature and to discern right from wrong. The dynamic nature of the painting reflects the desperation and fervency of youth, the sprouting of the wings is a tribulation that could eventually blossom into achievement or progress.





**Pollux**  
Mixed Media

I have always been intrigued by the perplexities of conspiracy theory, for instance, on subjects of such stature as space exploration. The deliberate red lines and torn scraps from books imitates the classic demented portrayal of a conspiracy theorist's mind. I intended to create a mood of isolation and inexplicable alarm.



## **Smoke Signal**

Ink pen

I created this sketch to reflect on a long history of civil rights movements necessitated by social unrest and the suppression of beliefs. A startling proportion of our world is still being marginalized, peoples' voices obscured as if by smoke. Here, I used the visual effect of tear gas, the kind that is used by police to scatter protesters, to form the outlines of symbols of societal control or conflict, unity and raw emotion.