**ArtEsteem Website: Captions for Artwork**

Artwork1:

**Zero  
Jesus Maldonado, 8th grade – KIPP Bridge College Preparatory**

This is my first time exhibiting art. But I draw all the time. Sometimes I make drawings about my race, like drawings of low-riders because they represent me. My painting, as you can see, is about “good is in evil as evil is in good”. Each thing has its opposite. Like sun and moon, day and night, sound and silence. Even we have an opposite, a dark side and a light side. We are half dark and half light. We are not equal until we have light and dark and dark and light. This character is a Superhero and a villain. His name is Zero because the good and evil in him cancel each other out. He follows people’s actions – if they do good, he does good. If they do bad, he does bad. People have to realize that their decisions are affecting each other.

Artwork2:

**Red and Blue Butterfly  
Mikayla Johnson, 8th Grade – KIPP Bridge College Preparatory**

In the left-hand corner of the painting, I drew the weapons that Red and Blue Butterfly uses. They are the Chain of Love, the Wand of Craziness, the Happiness Mirror, the Love Mirror and the Hug of Love. The Chain of Love is Level 1, and it is used to destroy hate and put love in your heart. The Wand of Craziness is Level 2, and it causes chaos with love. The Happiness Mirror is Level 1 ½, and it is used to destroy anger and put happiness in your heart. The Love Mirror is Level 3, and it is used to reflect love and annihilate hate. The Hug of Love is Level 2 ½, and it is used to destroy hate put love in your heart. The color of the Chain of Love, the Hug of Love, and the Love Mirror is orange. The color of the Happiness Mirror and the Wand of Craziness is yellow. On the right corner, I drew Red and Blue Butterfly flying over buildings. In the bottom left hand corner, I drew Maki John and Red and Blue Butterfly holding hands, talking to each other. My artist statement is “the wolf in me isn’t gone, it is waiting to be released.”

Artwork3:

**Princess and Queen  
Lauryn Dozier, 7th grade – Kizmet Middle School**

The Princess and the Queen they both take over the entire world so they can stop people who shoot or fight with each other. Their goal is to stop all of the violence.

Artwork4:

**Self Portrait  
Sharmika Jeffery, ASA Academy**

My portrait is about the two sides of my personality. The face in front represents the image I want to project. This image shows my physical appearance, like how I look, how I dress, the way I put my hair, and also my race. But this is only part of me… The other represents a part of me that no one but a few people have seen. That’s why this side is shaded in. That represents the fear inside of me, the anger, my weakness, some of my dreams and my secrets.

Artwork5:

**Fog  
Yaminah Abdur-Rahim, ASA Academy**

This piece is a display of figures in the Bay Area--the S.F. skyline, the Golden Gate Bridge, the lights around Lake Merrit and a fence.  It’s also about being caught in between, going away and staying where I’m from, and it represents reflecting your environment.

Artwork6:

**The Inside of My Mouth  
Antonio Moore, 8th grade – Frick Middle**

This picture is of the inside of my mouth.  They look clean and nice with no cavities at all, and they are always white and shiny.  I have false teeth.  I don't remember why I have them, and I don't even remember when it happened to me.  I guess it was a long time ago.

Artwork7:

**Mick Eye  
Mikhi Woodley, 6th Grade – Westlake Middle School**

I created a painting about different philosophies. I used a lot of green in my painting. To me, green represents change or rebirth. People keep switching their philosophies. The yellow represents all philosophies. The large eye represents the people. To me the painting is how contemporary society invents different philosophies and changes older ones. It is an ongoing cycle.

Artwork8:

**Why?  
Dayonna Martin, 7th Grade – Westlake Middle School**

My piece is a representation of different situations happening over my life. Different layers of events cause me to ask, why? Why that? Sometimes we get an answer and sometimes we do not.

Artwork9:

**Broken Orbit  
Sara Gonzalez, 6th Grade – Westlake Middle School**

My painting is about focusing on the whole of life rather than the fragments. I painted Earth to represent wholeness. The background of my painting is made up of meteors, stars, and the sun, which represent fragments or distractions. I feel that as a community we often focus on the fragments rather than the whole. In the painting, the Earth is cracked and damaged by all the chaos occurring outside of it. I hope that we can take better care of our Earth and each other, but in order to do so we have to remember we are all connected. We are one.

Artwork10:

**Radio Active Kid  
Xavier Smith, 8th grade – Explore Middle School**

My character Shuri is one of the most powerful super human beings. He began his superhero saga at age 5. Shuri was born in Kyoto, Japan in 1989. When he grew up in Kyoto, he was a Judo teacher before he had any super human powers.

Shuri’s powers are shape shifting, earth, water, fire, air, and thunder. He uses them to help the world. The world needs Shuri because of his superhuman strength and his ability to use the four major elements. He helps fight global warming by controlling the heat waves. When his planet, Zuri, was almost destroyed by the Big Bang, he was able to reverse the destruction to save the planet.

Artwork11:

**No Justice, No Education  
Arwa Omar, 11th grade - McClymonds High School**

I decided to do my artwork based on past experiences working with organizations that deal with urban youth working towards quality teaching. I feel that OUSD schools receive fewer resources for students to be successful in high school, compared to private high schools. Too often, we are set up to fail by lacking in teachers and school supplies, such as books. Sometimes we are put into a class that is set to fail us. Most of this is happening in urban areas with people of color, like Oakland. The experiences I have had, motivated me to express my thoughts visually in art.

I feel that we live under a system based on the color of our skin.

Why is education determined by politics?

Why is it that schools are funded based on the area and the students?

Educational Justice.

Artwork12:

**A Piece of Me  
Takiyanna Hamilton, 11th Grade – Ralph Bunche High School**

This is a poster expressing my life with a word. It’s a picture or drawing if you will, of a woman who’s gone through hard trials. It’s painted with various colors, bright and bold. The woman expresses the life she’s gone through. Her scarred skin is a story of abuse. Her sad eyes tell a tale of sorrow. The expression her face is her story, her life.

Artwork13:

**Tragic love  
David Silas Hokes Jr., 9th Grade - McClymonds High School**

The reason I created this piece is because of my love for people, and my past relationships. When people break up, they feel hurt and can’t concentrate on what they are doing. That is what was happening to me, so I had t do something so that I could stop feeling hurt by the break-up.

This piece is not just for me. It is for everyone who has broken up with someone. Everyone has something in common because everyone has loved something. This shows five things; one – love something, two – love is strong, three – love could be good, four – love could be bad, and five – love can feel like heaven but hurt like hell.

Artwork14:

**Stop Crime & Clean Air  
Willani Powell, 3rd Grade – Santa Fe Elementary**

The problem in my community is that people keep littering here. Another problem is that people keep shooting each other. We need to stop! My power is to clean the air and stop crime. I push clean air out of my eye and I tell the criminals to stop the crime to help fix the problem.

Artwork15:

**Me So Scared  
Malcolm Thompson, 6th Grade – Westlake Middle School**

My painting is about fear. My grandfather has been getting sick a lot lately which has been scary at times. In my head I've been howling about how much I worry about him. I thought a howler monkey would be a good representation of how I feel. I decided to paint the monkey face large and threatening. When I care about somebody who is not feeling well it is like having someone looming over me, like someone hanging over my shoulder, reminding me that someone close to me is ill. I feel that the painting was a success, it has that feeling I wanted to describe. Since the monkey face is so large and bright, it is hard to evade the monkey's screaming face.