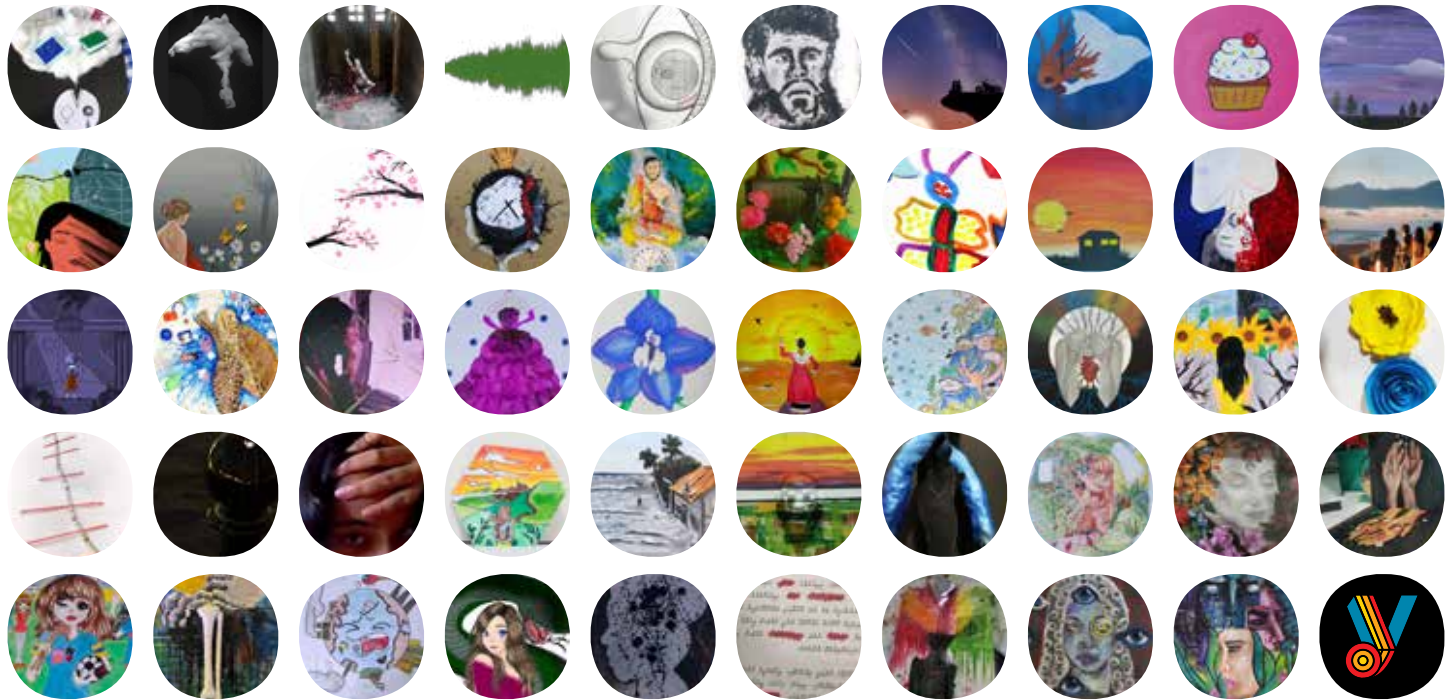


YOUTH VISION

AN ART WORKSHOP

EKANI EKUGA 2020 ¹כ"ג ¹ט' _שתשפ"ו





YOUTH VISION

AN ART WORKSHOP

EKANI EKUGA 2020 *ኢክኒ ኢኩጋ*



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EKANI EKUGA

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2020

***THIS BOOK IS A CULMINATION OF
ARTWORK BY 49 YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE YOUTH
VISION WORKSHOP 2020 ORGANIZED
BY UNDP MALDIVES IN ASSOCIATION
WITH THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORTS
& COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT,
OOREDOO MALDIVES AND EMMENGE.
THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION.***

Ekani Ekuga reflects on an array of challenges and shortcomings from our communities across the islands. Exploring intimate narratives from youth during a time of exceptional uncertainty, these artworks reflect on themes of loneliness, abuse and loss as well as societal pressures and a growing anxiety around the destruction of the natural environment.

This new unpredictable future holds even less familiarity than we are accustomed

to but there is no better time than now to pay close attention to the collective stories and personal narratives our youth are constructing. Underlining our shortcomings as individuals and groups, it takes immense bravery and courage to tell these stories and rebuild community bonds in virtual spaces.

These artworks are a testament to the hope this nation holds in its future. Afterall we are the stories we create.



AALAA ALI WAHEED

THOUGHT, 2020
COTTON, SPONGE, FABRIC AND WIRE
ON PAPER
37CM X 26CM

STATEMENT

I created my artwork with 'thoughts' as a title. It shows all type of thoughts people have. I was inspired to do it after watching one of my favourite series. My artwork was made using 'everyday materials' instead of using paint or colours, as I wanted to make it 3D. I made this artwork so I could have more self awareness of how sometimes my mind is unorganised as it is stressfull if your thoughts are a mess.

BIO

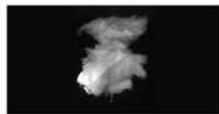
Aalaa Ali Waheed was born on 25th January 2007. She is a student in her teens with a hobby of doing art and craft. She gets her inspiration to create artworks from either music or beautiful animated drawings. She prefers to draw people over drawing sceneries.

BIO

Abdulla Hamdhoon Hussain (born on 23rd January 2001) is a Maldivian who loves to bring his creative imaginations to the World as a form of art. He visualizes common scenery, just to bring a personal twist of perspective to his artwork. He takes inspiration the likes of Vincent Van Gogh and Pablo Picasso, who are known for having their unique style of artistry.

STATEMENT

I have been observing how our generation, in this era of modern technology, seem to be oblivious of our physical surroundings. I remember, when I was a kid, I used to play the game of guessing the shapes of the clouds with my friends. These days we spend more time looking down (at our phones) than looking around us. In this piece, I am trying to relive the memories of my childhood by recreating the shapes of the clouds that I remember seeing back then. I took the photographs in order to store those memories in a safe place before it fades.



ABDULLA HAMDHOON HUSSAIN

FRAGMENTS OF A MEMORY, 2020
PHOTOGRAPHY
58.4" X 82.5"





ADAM IGYAAN MOHAMED

SELF STRUGGLE, 2020
MIXED MEDIA
18.9 X 11.7"

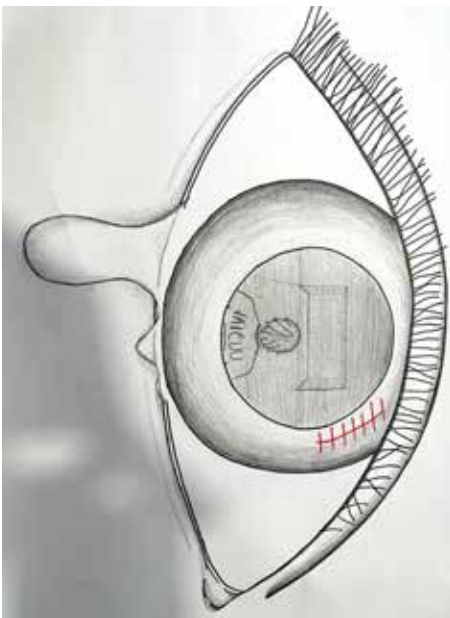
STATEMENT

My art piece, 'Self-Struggle', is about the dangers of remaining within the barriers of the comfort zone. I was inspired to make this piece not only by playing video games, but also by being in my comfort zone for too long. I experienced a variety of problems and delusions and struggled mentally and physically to get back on track and start drawing and creating again. The piece shows a chained-up prisoner trapped and struggling within the torturous walls of his own distorted, dank prison. My motivation for making this artwork was to show the story of how I broke the chains of my own reluctance, doubts and laziness. The carved-out holes in the box represent the windows of my salvation through different opportunities, which are represented as

random paintings outside the box. I want the viewer to understand that it is not too late, that we can always win the battle within us if we try new things to become better people and that new opportunities are waiting.

BIO

Adam Igyaan Muhammad (b.2000) is a Male' born, Villingili raised artist, who started drawing as a child. He later transitioned in to digital art after developing skills in photoshop. He is a recent graduate of MI College with a Diploma in Graphics and Multimedia. Igyaan is inspired by cartoons and is currently experimenting with mixed media as he attempts to find his own style of art.



AHMED JAAH MOHAMED

***STRUGGLE OF DREAMS, 2020
PENCIL COLOUR AND SKETCH
38 X 26.5 INCHES***

STATEMENT

This artwork is inspired by my experience with trying to achieve my goal with great difficulty. When I was a kid my goal was to become a good football player. However at that time I met a tragic accident and got my eye damaged . Therefore I couldn't see properly. Due to this I thought I couldn't become a good football player. However with time my eyes got healed due to me following the instructions of my doctor and now I can see perfectly. For this art piece I used pencil colour and markers.I want the viewers to know that even with great difficulties you can achieve your goal if you put your heart and soul to it.

BIO

Ahmed Jaah Mohamed is from an island which is known for its beautiful underwater life and sandy beaches, which is K.Maafushi. He was inspired by his life story and a certain difficulty he had to face while growing up. He is currently using pencil colours and markers, but in the future he would love to explore more mediums. What inspires him the most is that the tragic incident he faced was in fact a wakeup call for him to try to be a better person and made him realise the importance of working hard.



AISHATH EASHA

THE INFINITE UNIVERSE, 2020
DIGITAL ART
HD

STATEMENT

My art piece reflects on two things that I love the most- sunsets and astronomy. The main inspiration is from myself as I've always admired the beauty of the sunset skies as well as the starry night skies with the beautiful moon making the scenery more perfect. I made this digital artwork using the app "ibis Paint X". I tried to put together three photographs and I love how it turned out. People ask me "why sunsets?" And this is all I could say; every sunset is an opportunity to reset, a possibility to change and make tomorrow better. A chance to be a better version of yourself the next day. I love how the colors are blended which reminds me of the beauty of nature. One thing I adore the most is the fact that the sunset is different everyday, which portrays that everyday won't be the same for you and that there are ups and

downs in life. Sunsets inspire me to not give up because you never know what tomorrow may bring. What I adore about astronomy is that there is just so much of it. No matter how much we learn, or observe, we will never see it all. We will never understand it all. Yet that constant pursuit of knowledge and understanding is like a drug. It's about imagination. In an infinite universe. These are my ideas for making this artwork and what I meant to portray through my work. Thank you.

BIO

Aishath Easha, (b. 2004) is a Maldivian artist from AA. Rasdhoo. She practices digital art and paints on canvases for commissions through her online business (@easharts.mv). Easha enjoys different forms of art but is particularly inspired by Henri Matisse. She strongly believes in his philosophy that "Creativity takes courage".

BIO

Aishath Fainaan , born in the year 2004 is self motivated to create art to express emotions and intriguing matters of the society. She takes inspiration from the mess of her school life and abstract and figurative art pieces by other artists. She is in the process of discovering different art mediums and currently resides in Addu city.

STATEMENT

The feeling of confusion surrounds Trapped in an ocean of endless depth, anxiety soaks to bone. Being in the darkness unrecognized and unidentified, fervour of hatred burns towards self. Lost and driven to escape.

AISHATH FAINAAN

SUBMERGED, 2020
WATERCOLOUR ON PAPER
WIDTH 13.1/ LENGTH 8.7 INCHES





AISHATH IMAAMATH AHMED

***IMSCAKE, 2020
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
210MM X 148MM***

STATEMENT

What I want to draw is food items. I want to colour it with colour pencils. I am mostly interested in drawing deserts. The way deserts are presented makes me want to draw it more. And also I have a sweet tooth.

BIO

I am a student living in Male' and my name is Aishath Imaamath Ahmed. Friends call me ima. My biggest influence to draw is the food I eat and how they are presented. I love to draw on canvas with different types of colours.

BIO

My name is Aishath Reesha. I am a student living in K. Male'. My biggest inspiration is watching over influencers through social media. The colorful palletes make me interested in the field. Make up and art is the main area I am focused on now. I have been keeping myself up to date through youtube tutorials and tutorials provided by influencers I follow. Hence I keep seeking for more information.

STATEMENT

I love to paint sceneries using different types of colors like tube color, watercolor and pencil color. I am more interested in drawing in canvas. It satisfies me while drawing sceneries. Blending the colors are my favorite part of it.

AISHATH REESHA

SWEETER PLACES, 2020
ACRYLIC AND POSTER COLOR ON
CANVAS
148MM X 210MM



**AISHATH SABA**

CONNECTING, 2020
DIGITAL ANIMATION
6 SECONDS

STATEMENT

Digitalisation has taken over the world. With time we have strayed further away from nature. I too am guilty of this. In this animation I have attempted to portray the feeling of disconnection from nature. The inhuman feeling of losing yourself into the digital world. Nature is a necessity for us, to stay sane, to survive. Our health and well-being lies in nature. I have chosen a digital medium to show how inevitable it is to cut out digitalisation from our lives. The digital world and nature are like the yin-yang. There is good, there is bad and there is the good in the bad, and the bad in the good. It is all about finding the right balance. "Plugging" in is all we need.

BIO

Aishath Saba was born in Fuvahmulah, Maldives. She is a full time Occupational Therapy student and a part time artist. Saba's artworks are heavily influenced by nature and its connection with humans. She works with a variety of mediums such as watercolor, acrylics and digital art. Saba strongly believes in art as a means of global communication and the therapeutic use of art.

BIO

Currently based in the capital city of Maldives Aishath Shaaliny (b.1998), is a self-taught artist who mainly focuses on traditional art. She works with a wide range of mediums, mainly acrylics, watercolor, charcoal and spray paint. She is currently experimenting with resin art and is mostly inspired by people around her and nature. She likes to explore big emotions in the form of paintings.

STATEMENT

This piece represents the struggles of a woman who suffers from polycystic ovarian Syndrome (PCOS). PCOS is a hormonal disorder that a lot of women, including myself, suffer from. Unfortunately, there is very little awareness of PCOS and its effects on the mental and physical health of a woman. Here I made an acrylic painting that was inspired by my personal experience of

struggling with PCOS. It is a piece that is very close to my heart as every element in it is personally related to me. The purpose of making this artwork was to shed light on a side of PCOS which most people are not aware of and to give strength to women out there who are suffering from this silently. I want to show that it is okay to talk about this and share with people. The way I have used color here represents the effects PCOS has on the mental health of a woman due to public pressure and expectations. The silhouette of the tree with only branches and no leaves represents the infertility caused by PCOS. The flowers surrounding the lady represent longing, hope, courage, strength and affection. The butterfly represents transition, celebration, and lightness. It is a spiritual symbol for life after death because of its metamorphosis from a caterpillar that crawls on the ground to a beautiful, almost ethereal

creature that flies through the air. I want to show there is hope as things continue to change. I decided to make the butterflies 3D to give it more significance as it is so personal and close to my heart. It symbolizes the loss of a child, unsuccessful pregnancies and miscarriages.

AISHATH SHAALINY

HOPE, 2020
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
297MM X 420 MM





AISHATH SHINA

BLOSSOM, 2020
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
8.3" X 5.8"

STATEMENT

I want to draw a flower. I want to use different colors in my drawing. I want to use every type of colors. I want to draw flower because its beautiful and pretty.

BIO

My name is Aishath Shina, currently a student living in K. Male'. My biggest inspiration is to put a smile on my parents face. The most interesting instrument I have come across is piano. The main area I am focused now is music. I always try to dig in to music while I'm listening to it. And try to get some information while I am listening to it.

BIO

Ali Bunyamin (b.1985) is a Maldivian Graphic designer working on digital and vector art. He is currently exploring photography and painting skills. He got interested on drawings at a very young age. He enjoys making crafts, water coloring, pencil drawing and exploring other mediums as his art.

STATEMENT

My art piece explores and resonates the power of time in my life. Time that was to be given, long back to my family was forgotten until when I lost a loving member of my family so dear. I was waiting to visit her, but heard of her death before I got to her. Having these regrets and taking lessons from my past mistakes, never wanting to repeat again. I have made this art piece with real objects, truly symbolic of every action that I felt was going on in my life. I want the viewers to take lessons from my life and to address. Give love and show and care that you have for your family. Spend time with family even through busy schedules of work. Once you lose them, you will regret the time that you neglected to give them. People tend to forget this till they lose them.

ALI BUNYAMIN ABDULLA

TAKE BENEFITS OF YOUR TIME, 2020
REAL LIFE OBJECTS
31" X 24"




ALI NAJAH

TRANSITION, 2020
MIXED MEDIA
8.3 X 11.7 INCH

STATEMENT

As a kid I always had these ideas of what actually represents a person and what their story is. People go about their lives with masks on, to the point where many are unable to even recognize themselves. As I grew up reading stories and novels, I gradually found a path to represent others around me: Turning real life people into fantasy characters. I start out by listening to their story, their beliefs and origins. After analyzing and capturing the different aspects of a subject's life, I try to portray them as a whole in my art pieces. This gives me a sense of closeness with the subject and deepens my understanding of them as a person. Having given it some thought, I decided on mix media instead of a single medium, since I thought different mediums too should come together to create a symphony similar to the stories I hope to portray.

BIO

Najah (b.1997) currently residing in Hulhumale', Maldives, is a mix-media artist who loves to draw art depicting personifications and symbolism. He loves reading fantasy novels which was an earlier inspiration for him. He started out with pencil drawing and later on dabbled in watercolor and acrylics, before finally settling on mixmedia. His aim is to create art that manifests a story on its own.

BIO

Alima Mohamed (b. 2001) is a Maldivian art relief-teacher from the island of F. Magoodhoo. She has been interested in arts as long as she remembers. Alima enjoys exploring painting, designing, henna, paper crafting and sketching. She loves drawing and painting landscape. She enjoys paper crafting the most. She finds inspiration from other people's work and her own life experiences. Art is more like a hobby for her, but she aims to make a business out of it someday.

STATEMENT

The art I made is a paper sculpture about rising through despair to reach for the strength to move on. I decided to make flowers that represent negative emotions like despair, grief and distrust. A hand rising through the flowers to reach the branch of an oak tree which represents strength. I love paper crafting and this is one of the reasons why I decided to use paper mostly in this artwork. What inspired me to make this artwork are my own experiences of trying to make it through difficult times and needing strength to do it.

ALIMA MOHAMED

ARISE, 2020
CRAFTS AND MODEL
35CM X 35CM X 47CM



**AMINATH RUTHBA**

***IMAGINATION, 2020
COLOUR PAPER, WATERCOLOUR AND
PENCIL COLOUR
11" X 16"***

STATEMENT

I want to draw a heart or a butterfly. I want to use pencil colour in my painting. I really like butterfly and flowers because its beautiful.

BIO

my name is Aminath Ruthba. I'm a student who lives Male' my biggest inspiration is watching over influencers through social media. Make and art is main area I am focused on. I am being keeping my self up to date through watching youtube videos.

BIO

I am a student living in Male' city, my name is Aminath Shaina. The biggest inspiration is to put a smile on my parents face. What interests me more is a piano. I have a huge interest in music field and I have been learning music through workshops and through internet but I urge to learn more.

STATEMENT

I want to draw a sunset. I want to use shades of orange, red, yellow and white. I want to draw sunset because when i see sunset it gives me peace of mind and its beautiful.

AMINATH SHAINA

PEACE OF MIND, 2020
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS.
5.8" X 8.3"





ASHIYATH AINEE SHAFEEU

MÅTMOS, 2020
WATERCOLOUR
28CM X 27.5CM

STATEMENT

One of my oldest childhood memories was the day I fell into the open sea. I remember everything vividly. My eyes were wide open and it felt as if my ears were blocked. I was surrounded by endless blue and nothing else. No fishes, no plankton. Just the infinite blue, silence and me. It was as if I was all alone in and endless abyss of blue. It was only

for a moment yet the fear I felt is deeply engraved in my mind. My biggest fear is the ocean and my biggest fascination is the mind. The reason I stated this is because I believe the ocean is quite similar to the mind. Some of us love spending time in the ocean, similarly there are those who love spending time with their minds. The way some scream when underwater there are those who are constantly screaming in their heads, yet neither can be heard. There are those who have drowned in the ocean and there are those that are devoured by their minds. Both the mind and ocean are endless and filled with wonders. I view the mind as a creature itself, something that can produce in infinity and stretch like an abyss. So fascinating yet so dangerous. Only few can truly tame this incomprehensible creature. In order to create this i have used poster colours,

water colours, pencil colours, spray paint, digital art, sea water and red yarn. The reason i used a variety of mediums is to portray the complexity and the idea of infinity of both mind and ocean. I have used blue to depict the ocean, black to depict silence and red yarn as the mind. I decided to use Yarn because if you aren't careful with it you tend to knot it easily, the same way you need to be very careful with your mind. I used sea water because i wanted to establish a firm connection with my this art piece and my statement.

BIO

Ashiyath Ainee Shafeeu (b.2004) is a Maldivian artist who thrives to create art that can speak volumes in the mediums of conceptual art and abstract art. She is greatly motivated by her father who was a former artist that practiced various mediums of art.

BIO

Asiya Zaeem (b. 2002) is an 18 year old student who enjoys art in all sorts of mediums. Being born to a naturally diverse country she finds inspiration mostly from her surroundings. She has always been interested in art but began to pursue and experiment with it only recently. With an exceptionally supportive family backing her, she hopes to make it as a successful artist in the future.

STATEMENT

At first glance, this piece is centred around friendship- or rather, interpersonal connection. It depicts my nostalgia for life before quarantine, when lack of connection was hardly the norm. The out-of-focus, blurry effect pays tribute to over- thinkers. With a racing mind, it is easy to lose grasp on the present, creating a series of negative thoughts. A cycle that needs to be actively broken. The curious angle from which it is portrayed is what drew me to this certain picture; it perfectly captures the feeling of not belonging, even when surrounded by others.

ASIYA ZAEEM

BURNT OUT, 2020
OIL PAINT ON CANVAS
60CM X 50CM





FATHIMATH GHANIYA

PEER PRESSURE, 2020

DIGITAL ART

11" X 8.5"

STATEMENT

Beware, Beware,
Those who share,
Things that aren't
Theirs to share.
Harassed, Haranged,
Bereaved by fear.
I shall make of you a puppet, my dear.
To toss and dance by the empty strings.
I will make you fly with guilty wings.

BIO

Ghaniya was born and raised in Male', Maldives. She spends her days reading, gardening, and getting into turf wars with the neighbourhood cats. She gets inspired by the boring mundane things in life. She uses watercolours and digital art to bring those things to life. She focuses on the idea that everything has a story to tell, no matter how boring they are.

BIO

Fathimath Hamdha Ahubar (born on February 25 1996) is currently an employee at Maldives Custom Service. In her leisure time, she loves to showcase her artistic talents through different mediums, such as canvas paintings and even Bas relief. Through her different forms of art, she hopes to bring light to social and environmental issues of Maldives. She aims at making the people aware of these issues and bringing people together through art!

STATEMENT

I believe that the modern world is like a trap where citizens are stuck inside with all the technology and development it has to offer. The issues which should be of concern are being neglected. I believe that it is high time these issues are brought to light!

Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastics overwhelm the world's ability to deal with them.

In this artwork I used different forms of plastic as well as other non degradable materials collected from the beaches of Male', the capital city of Maldives. This is to show how much plastic we use on a daily basis, consciously and subconsciously, and its effects on the environment.

Through my artwork, my aim is to highlight how the oceans went from being a visual treat to being an ocean filled with plastics!

FATHIMATH HAMDHA

THE PLASTIC CATASTROPHE, 2020
MIXED MEDIA
14" X 14"





FATHIMATH HUYAM

HOPE, 2020
VIDEO
6 MINUTES

STATEMENT

This artwork, which I named Hope, shows my constant need to remind myself that despite my struggles and suffering I should always hope for a better future where all I went through will pay off. The artwork shows a video of myself, struggling to complete a puzzle. But in the end things become clearer and I end up with a finished puzzle. The picture in the puzzle shows a girl looking out of a window. And the light coming out of the window illuminates a brighter future. I made this artwork as a reminder to myself and other youth like me who are struggling with getting on with life.

BIO

Fathimath Huyam (born 9th may 2002) makes drawings and digital art. Her work is inspired from what she sees in everyday life, particularly people and different styles of clothing. It is her curiosity of how complex folds in a piece of clothing or a certain facial expression would look like if simplified on her laptop screen that makes her focus on these aspects more often. She is interested in all mediums, although most of her works are digital portraits. She also likes to explore different themes and particularly enjoys abstraction. As a hobby she observes abstract artworks and portraits done by other artists and that fuels her love of art. Huyam is a student and currently lives in Hulhumale'.

BIO

Fathimath Rifga was born in Male', on June 23rd 2004. Since childhood she loves watching how other people do their artwork and learn new things from them. She's inspired by the artworks done in national art gallery. In 2012 , she won first prize in her school art competition which encouraged her to find out her talent in arts. After finishing her studies she's looking forward to being an interior designer and a craft artist.

STATEMENT

I am someone who is very interested in nature. Whenever I go out in the fields or the forest, I feel enchanted as I am surrounded by nature and its beauty. Nature frees me from all onuses of life. More importantly I was also very interested in art and to show the emotions, the sensations that I feel without being able to express them in words. I also love creating drawings such as fashion illustrations that are related to nature. In my art piece I used boganvilla flower petals for the girls' dress. In my art piece what I am actually trying to tell people is that it is important to work hard and follow their passions and never give up on their goals.

FATHIMATH RIFGA

***GIRL IN FLOWER DRESS, 2020
COLOUR PENCILS AND FLOWER
PETALS
8.3" X 11.7"***



**FATHIMATH SHALINEE**

LARKSPUR
WATER COLOUR ON PAPER
13" X 8.5"

STATEMENT

I drew the larkspur flower which represents the strong bond of love. It signifies an open heart, ardent attachment to someone and the celebration of positivity. As with many flowers, the symbolism changes with the colour of the bloom. Blue larkspur symbolizes trust, support and appreciation. Pink larkspur symbolizes contrariness. White larkspur symbolizes happiness, joy, innocence and purity. And the purple larkspur symbolizes royalty, spirituality, sweetness and first love. I chose larkspur because it is my birth flower and also because I love nature. I used water colour on paper to draw this. I want the viewers to understand that genuinely loving themselves would bring more joy to their hearts than pretending everything is okay and keeping a smile on their face.

BIO

Fathimath Shalinee, (b.2000) is a maldivian artist who works with traditional art mediums, she has recently started exploring digital art and graphic designing. Her brother, a realistic sketch artist has been a huge influence on her creative practice, she is inspired and strongly motivated by him. Shalinee aims to create uplifting art that nurtures the spirit of community and connection.

BIO

Fathimath Sheneen Hassan (b.2004) is a Maldivian artist who practices in the mediums of photography, painting and mixed media art. She is inspired by famous artists like Cindy Sherman, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh and Anne Geddes. She believes that these artists have captured their emotions, lived with their passion and devoted to do things they love. Sheneen has always loved art and is passionate about it. She also sees how beautiful it will be to create her own masterpieces while doing the things she love and is passionate about. Her aim is to show how art can be a space for people to reflect their feelings and sentiments.

STATEMENT

Women are underestimate by many people. Through this art piece, I want to show that every women deserve the same respect, have every right to make their own decisions and reach every level they want, and they can. I want to dedicate this painting to my superwoman, my mother who is so strong, Independent and hardworking always aiming herself higher no matter what the circumstances are, which makes me fall in love with her everyday. I made this artpiece using poster colour on a 38cmx 26cm block paper.

FATHIMATH SHENEEN HASSAN

RISE & SHINE, 2020
POSTER COLOR ON PAPER
26.5CM X 38CM



**FATHIMATH ZAHAA IBRAHIM**

CORAL REEF, 2020
PENCIL COLOUR ON PAPER
10.5" X 14"

STATEMENT

Always love to play with colours and also want life to be so colourful but maybe I am not so lucky to have a life like a rainbow.

BIO

Fathimath Zahaa Ibrahim from Dh. Hulhudheli is a 17 years old girl, doing her O' Level. She finds little happiness from helping others also finds art very interesting and wants to explore new businesses.

BIO

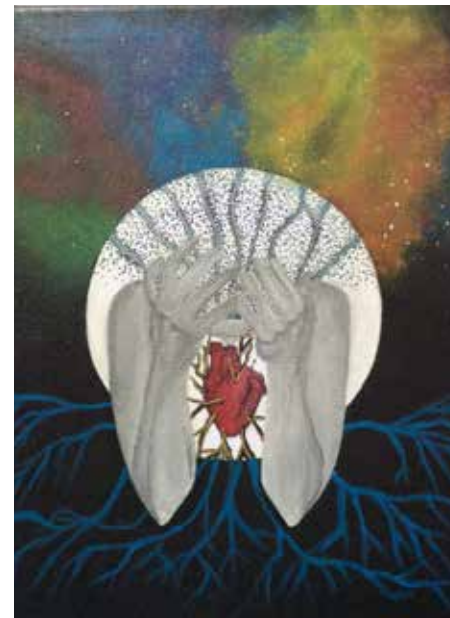
Fathin was born on 19th September 2004 in the Maldives, currently living and studying in Male'. She is an artist who creates beautiful paintings which she gets inspiration from her past experiences, different perspectives and psychology or mental trauma. She mostly uses different acrylics and pencils on paper.

STATEMENT

Ever since I was a kid I've always been interested in psychology, I was very quiet and always observing the people around me. I am very private as I don't always share what I am feeling with people and during this year it was a very dark time period for me as there were a lot of family problems going around. So in this art piece I will be showing what I have felt during those times and what it was like. In this art piece I will be showing different textures and colours with acrylics on canvas.

FATHIN IBRAHIM

OVERWHELM, 2020
ACRYLIC ON PAPER
23.5CM X 30CM





FAZEELA MOHAMED

TRAUMA, 2020
POSTER COLOUR ON PAPER
11" X 15"

STATEMENT

It felt like the past was always pulling me back. It felt like there was no way imagining how different my life could be. I kept seeing it in front of my eyes. But I was too scared to feel it. It felt what was before me was just a dream, not the reality. But I am finally trying to stop my trauma and emotions define me.

BIO

Fazeela Mohamed was born on October 23, 1995 in the Maldives. She is a visual artist experimenting with image making techniques. She uses photography and drawing to explore memories, child abuse and women's right issues. Because the thing we still have with us whether it's a negative or a good thing is memories. If it's a terrible memory or a sad memory it's never going to get out of our mind. She want to inspire and examine how she feel about child abuse and women right through her art work and encourage them that they are not alone and that help and resources are available. Recognize that abuse can be painful for them to talk about. Listen carefully and if they want to talk be empathetic.

BIO

My name is Hawwa Shamma. I am a student living in Male'. I like playing Dodge ball. And creativity itself interests me.

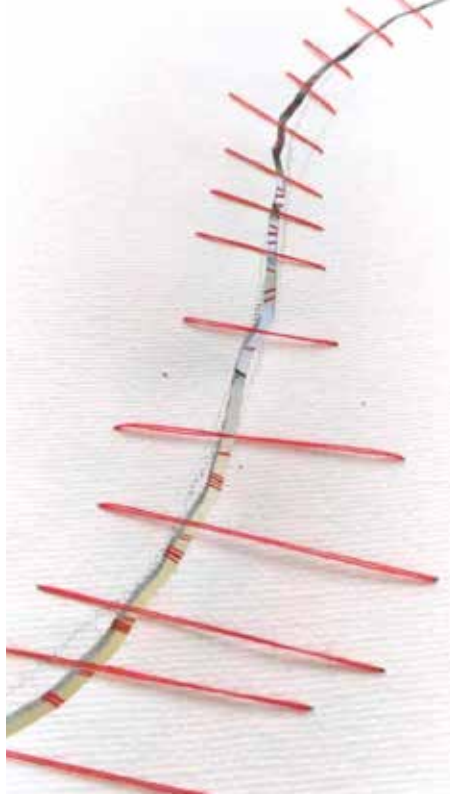
STATEMENT

I want to make a flower using color papers. I like red and blue color. I want to make a flower because its beautiful.

HAWWA SHAMMA

***FLOWER, 2020
COLORED PAPER
4" X 5" X 10"***





IBRAHIM ANIF

UNDO MY THOUGHTS, 2020
THREAD AND GLASS ON CANVAS
15CM X 30CM

STATEMENT

My artwork explores wretched memories and past moments. Specifically, the hard times I have endured and memories that live inside me. Like waves, happiness is a feeling that comes and goes without any control. Thoughts are involuntary and we think about things we may not want to in an attempt to figure them out. We don't speak up in fear of judgment by people in our society who can be really negative. The process of making this artwork was complicated for me. It is a mixed medium piece. I used red thread to stitch a scar that I cut out on the canvas. The width of the canvas relates to my age, 15, and the height of it, 30, relates to a special reason.

With this piece, I want to share that I also have untold stories within me due to insecurities and many reasons I am unable to share right now.

The cut on the canvas shows that we all have scars on the inside. A broken wound that is loosely stitched up and when we are emotional or feel upset, the stitches loosen to let our stories out. I have placed pieces of a mirror inside the wound so the viewer is reflected back multiple times in the shards of glass. I want to show we are still whole even in the fragments, even when it feels like the darkness has swallowed us, we are still here. Society labels us weak and broken but by sharing our stories we are brave and resilient.

BIO

Ibrahim Anif was born to the tropical islands of the Maldives in 2005. He is an artist who is very optimistic and easy-going. His work is inspired by photographs and the reality he captures with his eyes. He is currently experimenting with acrylic but wants to learn more about photography in the future. Anif has been interested in painting since the age of 13. This year he got the opportunity to exhibit and do a live-art performance of his acrylic paintings at the "Crack of Dawn" exhibition in Noon Atoll, Velidhoo. He paints to share his thoughts, express his creativity, and practice his skills.

BIO

Ibrahim Salim (b.2000) lives on the island of H.A Hoarafushi in Maldives. He is a freelance event designer and a digital artist who enjoys vector graphics, icons, illustration, 3D & 2D modelling. His works are Influenced by his past. He uses various computer programs to create his art.

STATEMENT

The pawns is the first to get knocked out and to some, it is the most dispensable piece on the whole chess set. The rules are set in a way that it has limited spaces to move. Even if it wanted to, even if it tried to, it is unable to move further than one square at a time.

Some might refer to it as useless, but it is the soul of the whole game. They might have generic powers yet it allows them to shape society. Like the stars that I have reflected upon its surface, the pawns have the potential to become queens, knights, rooks, or bishops.



IBRAHIM SALIM

PAWN #1216, 2020

*DIGITAL ART PRINTED ON PAPER
16.5" X 23.4"*



I'm playing tricks on my own mind because i can't get close enough to find the people still in this game of hide & seek - Our families and friends are safer at an arm's distance & our bodies have turned into numbers

*If this is what we have left of home
Why do we keep locking ourselves out?
There must be another way to love this world other than by ruining it*

*Outside there are claws that cling to the sky
Like they are begging back for their colour,
Clouds that layer the sky like bandaids for the wounds that we have inflicted.*

*Yet i can still feel the horizon on my fingertips tracing exactly where the sky and the sea meet for a kiss -
How unfortunate is it that there is more than one kind of freedom?*

*That it is not the hands that are tied in some Straitjackets,
sometimes it is the mind that needs to be confined - the mind that keeps discolouring the world like an infection.*

IMAAH SUHAIL

"CALL DISCONNECTED", 2020 VIDEO/AUDIO - SPOKEN WORD POETRY 5 MINUTES 25 SECONDS

STATEMENT

I am going to explore mental health and human emotions in my writing piece. With this I want to show the whirlwind of emotions I have experienced the past year, living abroad for studies in the middle of a pandemic. The unusual circumstances of this year has intensified the uncertainty and panic in my surroundings, and I felt extremely lost and disconnected with friends and family given the circumstances. I feel that it is important to share vulnerable experiences with others as a reminder that we are not alone in our struggles

and that all our emotions are valid. I was inspired during the lockdown this year as I was able to understand the need for human connection and interaction and how art can be used as a tool of uniting people in times of chaos.

I chose to do my performance through the view of a zoom call because I felt that this was the most appropriate setting for my poem. We have all spent way more time on Zoom this year than we ever thought we would, and by using special effects of 'disconnecting' I wanted to emphasize how lockdown was a similar experience for me, when I felt completely isolated and shut out from the rest of the world. I also felt it was important to put in random clips of myself to show that this is a very honest and intimate experience of mine.

I feel that I resonate with the Spoken Word poet, Blythe Baird. Aside from her

poetry book *If My Body Could Speak*, I've seen many videos of her doing slam poetry about mental illness.

BIO

Fathimath Imaan Suhail (born 23rd October 2002) is a Maldivian writer currently doing a Bachelor of Arts in New Zealand. She developed an interest for poetry at a very young age, inspired by some of her favourite writers, Lang Leav and Rupi Kaur. Her poems explore the ideas around relationships, friendships, mental health and gender inequality. In 2018, she published a poetry book, *'Happy After You'*, which revolves around her experience with love and relationships. With her poetry she aims to show the significance of addressing one's emotions and using vulnerability as a strength, not a weakness.

BIO

Imsa Shakir (b. 1997) lives in one of the most densely populated cities in the world, Male' city, Maldives. She is an avid lover of puzzles, codes and card games. She is a social statistician who is passionately curious about the livelihoods of people from all walks of life. Imsa is an advocate for self-improvement, social cohesion and open-mindedness. The data she collects inspires and motivates her journey to find her voice as she experiments with different mediums in her creative practice. She usually likes to incorporate mathematics and geometric designs in her art.

STATEMENT

Self-discovery; the process of acquiring insight into one's own character, feelings and abilities.

This piece was made by a 4 x 23 strip of paper which was folded into equilateral triangles to form a hexagon. After securing it, this hexagon can be transformed to show three complete images painted in acrylic. (there are technically 9 unique images, which is the 3 complete images in a jumbled state). It definitely takes a few tries to figure out how to transform this flexagon, even then you may not get the complete image. Once you take the time and effort to fiddle with this piece of paper, learn the creases, how it unfolds, what works and does not, you will eventually reach the complete picture. You are truly the only thing in your life you can control. The puzzle-like and transformative nature of this piece will give you a sneak-peek of my journey to self-discovery.



IMSA SHAKIR

PERPLEXAGON, 2020
ACRYLIC ON PAPER
8CM X 9CM





IRSHAM SHAKIR

2004 INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI 2020
ACRYLIC PAINT
23.5" X 12"

STATEMENT

On the 26th of December 2004 it was one of the deadliest disasters in the modern history. Here I share my story with you all. I was 1 year 10 months old at that time. I was sitting on my sisters lap while my sister, my brother and one of their friend was playing a game, until they heard a loud sound from the outside. People were screaming for help. (as per my sister). My sister hold tight and took me with her to the rooftop (accompanied by friend and brother) She was about to look down to check what was going on and she slipped me from her hand and I was fell down to the waves. The friend of my sister without any hesitate he jumped to the water to rescue me. Within a few seconds he grabbed my hand and took me up-to my sister who was in the rooftop. He climbed from a light pole. I thank my sisters friend who rescued me. This is the story behind my painting Thank you!

BIO

Irsham Shakir (b.2003) is a student from K.Maafushi, Maldives. His interests are football and art. He is inspired by the work of Bob Ross. Irsham enjoys acrylic painting.

BIO

Looth Abdhulla, (b.2001), is an artist from the loneliest island in Maldives, Fuvahmulah City. He works primarily with sculpture, painting and photography. He finds inspiration in his daily life, nature and imperfections. Looth enjoys all forms of art but is particularly fascinated by the work of Bob Ross.

STATEMENT

“Man In Nature” is about connecting with nature. It shows a person blending in to the natural environment. The colors that spread across my canvas aim to connect with how exhilarating and terrifying nature can be. I have chosen to only use the head of a man as my artwork aims to explore the feeling of living free no matter the challenges in life. An experience that lies in the mind more than the body.

I have used natural materials for the piece, the head of the man is a clay sculpture fixed on to a watercolor painting. The paper used here is DIY recycled paper, once again connecting back to the theme of cycles in nature. I love Nature, and I hope the viewer can take some time to appreciate their presence in the natural landscape after viewing this work.

IT'S LOOTH

MAN IN NATURE, 2020
CLAY SCULPTURE + WATERCOLOR ON
RECYCLED PAPER
32.5CM X 40CM




LUHA ABDULLA

REACHING FOR LIGHT, 2020
MIXED MEDIA
9.8"×5.9"×4.3"

STATEMENT

By using the ocean as a metaphor to show the depth of life and how there are light and dark aspects in it, this piece attempts to express that even if someone is going through hardship there is a light beyond the darkness. The layered paper hand shows the many challenges of life and the clay columns represent how a person may feel trapped. To me this piece shows how even in the darkest of times there is always hope.

BIO

Luha Abdulla (b. 2002) is an artist from the Maldives. She is inspired by the natural wonders of her country. Her artwork focuses on the consequences of people's attitudes and behaviour towards the natural environment and combines it with different social issues. Luha's work is a call to action, serving as a voice for those who need a helping hand as she highlights the beauty and fragility of her home. She hopes her art inspires people to reach for their dreams and never lose hope.

BIO

Mariyam Luha Jihadh was born on 21 June 2004 and lives in Maradhoo, Addu City. She mainly uses watercolour on paper but is exploring digital art as well. Luha takes her inspiration from animations, films, and musicals, and she prefers bright vibrant colour palettes. She is also passionate about photography and cinematography as well. Luha's main goal is to find the beauty in life and remind people there's hope.

STATEMENT

I've chosen to talk about escapism, because it is a common coping method and it affects many people, including myself. Escapism is seeking out distractions from the harsh reality we live in. I have represented this by creating a fantasy world in an orb. The glass shows how fragile it can be and the fine line between it being healthy for you and being destructive.

LUHA JIHADH

FAIRY IN BUBBLE, 2020
WATERCOLOUR, ACRYLIC
4.5" X 4.5"





MALAHA HASSAN

***LOVE OF FATE, 2020
FLOWERS DISPLAY BOX
47CM X 30CM X 8CM***

STATEMENT

i seek self confidence and trust through the works i do. I like my art to look real and lively. In this work i am trying to tell, we have no guarantee of how long we are going to live on this earth. We should start to appreciate people we love while we have them with us. I remember crying in bed at night as a little kid and even into my teenage years thinking about my loved ones dying. Losing people is a part of life. A really scary and sad part of life. My father died when I was 10 years old. And i still remember the day like it has happened yesterday. I wish I

had spent some more time with him to tell him how much I love him and how important his presence was in my life. I have been through a lot but I never gave up. In some point of life I felt like life is being very unfair with me but today I am happy that I managed to overcome every hardship that came into my life. I became more and more stronger. Strong enough that no one could ever break me. I have learnt from my downs. Because I believe that after every storm the will smile. For every problem there is a solution. I don't respond to people who dictate to me or try to bring me down. If I fall I will rise up even stronger because I am survivor and not a victim. I am in control of my life and there is nothing I can't achieve it is the source of all true art and science. If we had no courage to attempt anything would it even be called a life? Life is where sometimes you are ahead

or sometimes you are behind. Life is like flowers. It grows on a bush until they are ready to be cut, then we place them in water in an effort to preserve them, However their death is unavoidable. I don't sit around feeling sorry for myself, nor let people mistreat me.

BIO

Malaha Hassan, (b. 1999) is a Maldivian self taught artist. She was born in N. Manadhoo. She lives in Male'. Her interest for art began way back in 2010, through Youtube videos which shows realistic pencil art. She practiced to make her art more realistic and detail in lockdown. She spent her maximum time to try new techniques and improve her art works. Art has become her hobby. Her art works takes her back to the days where photographs were black and white.

MARIYAM MAMDHOOHA

LOST & NEW LIFE **ACRYLIC, CLEAR VANISH ON WOOD** **19.5CM X 20 CM**

STATEMENT

When I was only 16 years old I started working. I have always loved to earn by myself but I had to change jobs frequently because of sexual harassment from my bosses. Whenever I faced these incidents I changed my work place immediately. I went through a mental breakdown after every incident. I couldn't share anything with my parents because it's very hard for me to express my emotions. To be honest I don't know how to share my secrets with others. I fear if I tell my parents about what happened they may misunderstand and put the blame on me. Everything is still like a bad nightmare for me.

At the time I couldn't share this with

anyone. I was so scared, but I never gave up.

When difficult things happen to me, painting helps me relieve my stress. I paint whenever I feel scared, worried, sad or even happy. Mostly I paint hands when I feel sad because I want someone to give me a helping hand and I want someone to take care of me. To me, hands are the perfect symbol to express this longing. I made two paintings to express my past and present. The painting with flowers and leaves shows how I stopped feeding my past with the help of my husband. And it shows my identity as a wounded girl is disappearing and I am so much more drawn to ease and simplicity. And it shows how my life is improving beautifully.

Second painting shows my past. How I struggled and how broke I was. And how much I needed someone's help. With the help of my paintings I want to say who has a past like me to Learn from

the past but don't dwell there. And take responsibility for your own happiness. If you want to heal from the past, put your attention on your present moment experience. Past has no power unless you give it power or meaning. Free yourself from the past and Live your present.

BIO

Maryam Mamdhooa, (b. 1994), is self-taught artist who launched her own painting business online a year ago. She uses Acrylic to make landscape and portrait paintings. Her husband helps source canvases and wood to paint on for her commissions. She is inspired by Vincent Van Gogh, who battled with mental illness and persevered in his art despite the enormous challenges he faced. She loves his use of bold color to express emotion in his paintings. Mamdhooa is currently exploring different types of art and learning new marketing methods





MARYAM ISRA

YOU'RE PRECIOUS, 2020
PENCIL COLOUR WATERCOLOUR &
CRAYON ON PAPER
8.3" X 11.7"

STATEMENT

Discrimination, bullying and harassment are very common in our society. Mental damages of the victims are ignored when they need someone most. I am one of those victims who experienced this during school days. My confidence was totally broken but I followed the voice inside me which always told me that no matter what happens I can do anything. Through my art I want to convey a special message to my viewers; that people might take you down, but always remember you are precious and you have the power to do anything you want!

BIO

Maryam Isra was born in Male', on December 5th 2002. Currently she lives in L.Fonadhoo, studying at LAEC. Since childhood she has loved cartoons and she's inspired by Disney cartoons and anime series. In 2017, she had done an art and design certificate, one which has encouraged her to bring out her own creativity. Moreover, she focuses on color pencil art of her own creative characters which improves her art creativity.

BIO

Mohamed Salim Ismail (11 May 1996), is a painting and photography artist and lives in Male' Maldives. The art is inspired by life stories and the feeling surrounded by him. The art he unfolds speaks to him and to others.

STATEMENT

I love playing football, it takes my fears away. I injured my leg in a tragic accident and it brought an end to my sports career. Even though the injuries forced me to stay away from the grounds for years to come, I wanted to get involved in every sports-related activity possible. The tragedy ruined my career but the truth is it could never take away my passion

and it only made my will stronger. I recommend to anyone who has experienced similar pain from memories like this to not give up, but rather to have the courage to move on from it. This art piece is about unforgettable memories and shattered dreams. Through the use of texture and layers I have attempted to recreate the mixed feelings of pain and joy I experience when I think about this memory.

I used wool thread to make a goal net and wall putty to make a trophy and an angel wing. The idea is to create memories behind and create a bone structure to describe the pain of broken bone.

MOHAMED SALIM ISMAIL

MEMORIES AND PAIN, 2020
WALL PUTTY, ACRYLIC, BANDAGE,
FORM & WOOL ON PAPER
500MM X 400MM



**MOHAMED WAAIL**

POLLUTION, 2020
PENCIL COLOUR ON PAPER.
15" X 11"

STATEMENT

I made a drawing of pollution by pencil on an art book. And I coloured it exactly like to get realistic look that inspires people about the dangerousness of pollution. I placed it in the back garden for documentation when it started to rain. Reminding me that however much we try to control thing, nature will find a way to creep in. I made this drawing to decrease or to stop the number or the percentage of the pollution in the world day by day.

BIO

I am Mohamed Waail. From M. Maduwari. I'm 16 years old and I have fond of drawing pictures and painting.

BIO

I'm Mohamed Zamaau Niyaz, from N. Manadhoo. I'm into acrylic painting and digital arts.

STATEMENT

This drawing reminds all not to judge some one based on their looks and their race. A person you avoided can be someone's sunshine or a reason to smile.

MOHAMED ZAMA AU

FAKE FRIENDS, 2020

DIGITAL ART

768 PIXELS X 768 PIXELS





NASHMA KHALEEL

MIGRAINE, 2020
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
11" X 8"

STATEMENT

I have chosen to use black paper and white crayons for its simplicity. My artwork explores the complexity of a migraine compared to a headache. I chose to do this because i feel no one really talks about it, I want to express how I feel about this as it has affected my life greatly. I have used an A4 size canvas and used the color black for the background because its really dark and painful. I also used water color and crayons to do the painting.

BIO

Khadheejath Nasma (B. 1998). Writing Poetry is my medicine I never treat this like a hobby Sometimes it helps me to go through everything. I am someone who wants do something that I love but never had a chance. Still proud of who I am today. Working as a clinical assistant make me realized that I wanted to help people around me. Choosing pencils and a eraser to Express my thoughts instead of social media is something that I never regret. Taking pictures and keeping it in a album is my hobby.

BIO

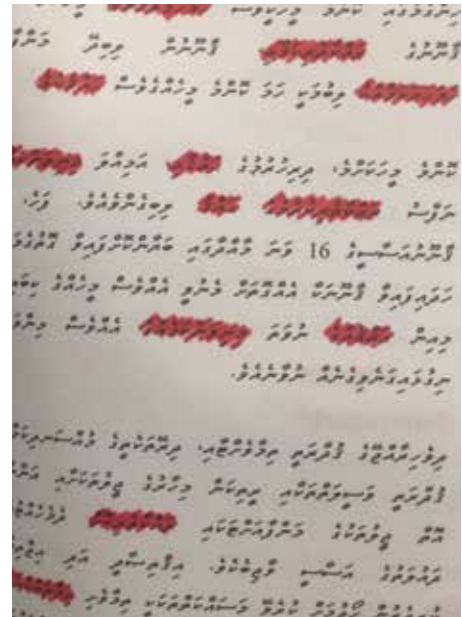
Aniyath Rukha Zifan, born on 14 November 2002 is a Law student who is inspired by the stories and cases she reads and hears from her studies and also her personal time. She wants to convey the different kinds of emotions related to those stories in her Art Pieces.

STATEMENT

I had chosen two simple objects which are the “Qaanoon Asaasee” and a marker. I wanted to erase/cut the words related to justice in the Maldivian “Qaanoon Asaasee” as to represent that even if the words are there not many people heed to it.

RUHA ZIFAN

INJUSTICE, 2020
PAPER AND MARKER
7" X 10"





SHAHAMA AHMED

DEPRESSION, 2020
FABRIC PAINT ON A SCHOOL UNIFORM

STATEMENT

The artwork talks about how I struggled in my school days. After I completed grade 7, I had big aspirations of becoming a successful accountant in the future. I was good at school and getting better results than the students in my class. During my time in secondary school they started to get jealous and bully me, separating me from them in all kinds of activities and saying things indirectly to me. I became very stressed and fell in to a deep depression. My personality changed a lot. I started to get bored of studying and I put my big dreams away. I feel I used to be kindhearted, caring, friendly and fun before all this, but now because of depression, stress and loneliness, I am a very calm and quiet person. This painting on a school uniform represents

how my dreams were robbed from me and how my personality changed because of what happened. I used fabric colors because they bleed in to each other easily, I wanted to express the subtle way bullying stained my mental health by seeping in to my mind, my personality and my dreams.

BIO

Fathimath Shahama Ahmed, (b.2001), is a student currently in her second year of a Bachelor of Business degree. Her work is rooted in memory, resilience and transformation. She is interested in experimenting with various mediums. Shahama is currently exploring ways to use her art practice to aid her in her future dream role as a hospital manager.

BIO

Shain Nizam is an eighteen year old student living in Villimale. Through painting and other mediums, she derives inspiration from fiction and philosophy. The underlying themes of her work follow the famous line from philosopher Jean Paul Satre "hell is other people".

STATEMENT

My piece reflects that notion that the perception of others are something we cannot escape and, something that hinders us from being true to ourselves. Particularly as someone with anxiety, I find myself fine-tuning my opinions, my art and myself, to amuse others perceptions, so much so that my own identity is lost within the distress. The abundance of eyes indicate the watchful gaze of those around me that burden me, and fuel my need to please others. I've chosen to use wool to show the connection between me and eyes.

SHAIN NIZAM

***UNTITLED, 2020
ACRYLIC ON PAPER
11" X 15"***





WAZEENA MOHAMED

***A WALLFLOWER, 2020
PENCIL & WATERCOLORS ON PAPER
32CM X 38CM***

STATEMENT

My art expresses my emotions, who I am on the inside and what I am going through.

This piece means a lot to me as it allows me to explore my hidden emotions on surface level. I have used pencil, watercolor and paper layered together to show the depth of the art work. I want people to understand that although a person looks happy (normal) on the outside they can't judge as they never know what is going on in their minds or what they are going through!

Through my art I am able to express my feelings from a comfortable and safe distance without oversharing. My art helps me to get back in touch with my true self.

BIO

Wazeena Mohamed, (B.2000) is an aspiring artist from Maldives who works as an audit trainee currently doing a Bachelor of Science (hons) Accounting and Finance. Her interest in art stems from her father who would draw different types of flowers for her when she was in grade school. Art is a crucial part of her life; it brings her happiness and helps her relax. Wazeena prefers pencil colors but loves watercolors too. Drawing portraits is her favorite thing.

**Youth Vision Workshop 2020
and Exhibition Ekani Ekuga**

UNDP Maldives in association with Emmenge

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Fazail Lutfi

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