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Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 618-2380, or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

Security procedures: Members of the public will be directed enter the West Annex at the front of the building through the sliding door. All other entrances will remain locked for entry. Oversized bags or backpacks will not be allowed in the Council Chamber or Commission meeting room. All bags are subject to search.

Any correspondence received after 2:00 p.m. on MONDAY on any item on the agenda will be provided to the Commission electronically and available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office. A copy of the correspondence will be available for public inspection in a binder at the back of the Council Chamber or Commission Meeting room.

**TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. IN THE WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AT 3031 TORRANCE BL.**

**THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED
ON THE AGENDA**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission members: Cabrera, Candioly, Carrasco, Duncan, Klinenberg, Polcari and Chair Hsiao

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 15-minute period)

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for comments on items on the Consent Calendar or not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission cannot act on items raised during public comments but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker.** If presenting handout material to the Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.*

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 18, 2025

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – ACCEPT AND FILE CULTURAL SERVICES UPDATES

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission accept and file monthly updates for the Cultural Services Division.

7B. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – APPROVE RECONSIDERATION OF NEW UTILITY BOX SUBMISSIONS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission;

- 1) Approve reconsideration of the August 18, 2025, Commission Item 7G – Review and Discuss Utility Box submissions for presentation to the City Council; and
- 2) Select twelve (12) artist submissions for recommendation to the City Council which include late submissions.

7C. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – DISCUSS AND APPROVE EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss and approve the Subcommittee’s recommendations for the 2025 Excellence in Arts Awards.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

- 9A.** Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to Monday, October 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Conference Room.



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2025, in the West Annex Meeting Room, 3031 Torrance Boulevard.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Candioty, Duncan, Klinenberg and Vice Chair Polcari and Chair Hsiao

Absent: Commissioners Cabrera and Carrasco

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Monica Harte

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Duncan.

3. REPORT OF THE AIRPORT STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Cultural Services Manager Harte reported that the agenda was posted on the City's Public Notice Board and Website on Thursday, August 14, 2025.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

Cultural Services Manager Harte announced there is a withdrawn utility box submission from item 7G.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the public spoke.

*Commissioner Cabrera walked in at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Klinenberg moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Carrasco for today's meeting. Commissioner Candioty seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Carrasco absent).

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES: JULY 21, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Klinenberg moved to approve the minutes of July 21, 2025. Vice Chair Polcari seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Cabrera absent).

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – MOTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF 2025-2026 CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

City of Torrance Cultural Services Manager Harte recommended the Commission formally approve the appointments of the Chair and Vice Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Duncan moved to elect Commissioner Hsiao as the Chair and Commissioner Polcari as Vice Chair for the Term 2025-2026. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Carrasco absent).

7B. BRAINSTORM PRODUCTIONS – UPDATES ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS

Cultural Services Manager Harte introduced Sylvia Owens, the program supervisor for Brainstorm Productions.

Ms. Owens gave a presentation on Brainstorm Productions.

Brainstorm Productions is a Regional Center funded program serving young adults on the autism spectrum. The three-year training program focuses on developing skills in computer animation and fundamental drawing, with the goal of preparing participants for employment in the animation industry. The program emphasizes job readiness and community contribution. Upon completion, participants have the opportunity to apply for positions within Brainstorm's in-house animation studio.

MOTION: Vice Chair Polcari moved to receive and file Brainstorm Productions updates. Commissioner Klinenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Carrasco absent).

7C. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – DISCUSS AND DETERMINE COMMISSION DARK NIGHTS

Cultural Services Manager Harte initiated a discussion with the commission to select a dark night for either the month of November or December.

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to declare the December 15th meeting a dark night. Vice Chair Polcari seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Carrasco absent).

7D. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – RECEIVE AND FILE CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES

Cultural Services Manager Harte provided updates on the Cultural Services Division.

The Torrance Theatre Company's *Something Rotten* was a huge success and received great reviews.

The Torrance Art Museum will host the opening of *SUR: biennial* exhibition in the main gallery on August 23, 2025. The event will feature a special display of three lowriders, provided by the Lowrider Alliance.

The City Academy of the Arts will celebrate its official launch, following the overwhelming response to its successful soft launch.

Torrance Summer Nights has two remaining concerts in the season:

- Sangre Nueva - August 23, 2025
- Petty Theft - August 30, 2025.

MOTION: Commissioner Klinenberg moved to accept and file the Cultural Services Division updates. Commissioner Cabrera seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Carrasco absent).

7E. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – APPROVE THE 2024-2025 CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Cultural Services Manager Harte submitted the 2024-2025 Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report.

MOTION: Commissioner Duncan moved approve the 2024-2025 Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report. Commissioner Klinenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Carrasco absent and Commissioner Candioly abstained).

7F. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS

Cultural Services Manager Harte initiated a discussion to approve the Subcommittee's recommendations for the October Excellence in Arts ceremony.

Services Manager Harte clarified that there will be no voting on artists at this time, as submissions and nominations are still being received.

The subcommittee is currently facing challenges in selecting a venue due to budget constraints.

7G. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – REVIEW AND DISCUSS UTILITY BOX SUBMISSIONS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented the artists' submissions for the 2025-2026 Utility Box Program.

The commissioners reviewed the forty-three Utility Box submissions and voted for the top twelve submissions.

The twelve selected Utility Box submissions were:

1. Adriana Arias - Goddess of Fish
2. Mariah Camille Foston - Wild Haven: Madrona's Ecosystem
3. Leadership Academy Happy 2 Help - Japanese Pine Wind Garden and Madrona Marsh
4. Kat Trevino - The Wave
5. Tuan Nguyen – Santa Fe
6. Felicia Ramirez – Blink
7. Leadership Academy The Strayz – 1
8. Leadership Academy The Strayz -2
9. Leadership Academy TEAM MEAT – Torrance in Bloom
10. Ana Suarez – Blossom
11. Mary Arakawa – Ocean Depths
12. Leadership Academy Happy 2 Help – Downtown Torrance

MOTION: Commissioner Cabrera moved to accept the twelve selected submissions for the 2025-26 Utility Box Program. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Carrasco absent).

8. COMMISSION ORAL REPORTS

None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

9A. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 08:50 p.m., Commissioner Klinenberg adjourned the meeting to Thursday, September 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, 3031 Torrance Boulevard. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Carrasco absent).

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER
SUBJECT: CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission accept and file Cultural Services Division updates.

- The Torrance Theatre Company (TTC), production of **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**, opens October 4, 2025, and runs through October 25, 2025. The play is based on the film by Roger Corman, screenplay by Charles Griffith. This production is directed by Chris Tiernan, who recently received rave reviews as Nick Bottom in the Torrance Theatre Company's summer musical hit **SOMETHING ROTTEN**. The musical director is Angelica Roque, and the choreographer is Daniel Scipio. Seats are \$35 each, but season ticket holders can see 5 shows for \$130 - \$26 each.
- The Torrance Art Museum (TAM) **SUR: biennial** opening had more than 300 people attending. As part of the exhibit, the Lowrider Alliance presented four stunning cars. An excerpt from Genie Davis's review posted by *Diversions LA* is below. The exhibit runs through September 27, 2025.

The entire exhibition shines with a glorious light, from those exhibited cars outside to culturally resonant photos taken by The Lowrider Alliance inside, to Carlos Rittner's large and exciting neon, and Chris Velez' glowing anime-style figure offering blessing from inside a tech version of a confessional booth (<https://www.diversionsla.com/sur-biennial-at-torrance-art-museum-revs-up/>).

- The City Academy of the Arts – Torrance launched officially this Fall session. The private lessons are a brand-new element and can be easily explored by going to [Lessons.Rec.Us](https://www.lessonsrec.us/). Staff are preparing workshops in numerous classes related to Torrance Theatre Company and Torrance Art Museum for our career track courses and adding instructors in theatre, dance, music, and art.
- Torrance Summer Nights was a success with a total of 30,100 guest attendance. All the bands had large turnouts and we're looking forward to extending the series next year. Staff are in the finals for the Levitt Music Series Grant for up to \$120k over three years and hope all the Commissioners and music aficionados in Torrance and the South Bay vote for Torrance by **texting "TORRANCE" to (877) 409-5525**. You can also vote online at [Vote.Levitt.Org](https://www.votelevitt.org/).

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

Attachment:

- 1) TTC – Little Shop of Horrors
- 2) TAM – SUR: biennial
- 3) CAAT – Lessons.Rec.US
- 4) Torrance Summer Nights

TORRANCE THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS



BOOK BY **HOWARD ASHMAN**

MUSIC BY **ALAN MENKEN**

LYRICS BY **HOWARD ASHMAN**

BASED ON THE FILM BY ROGER CORMAN, SCREENPLAY BY CHARLES GRIFFITH

This deviously delicious Broadway musical, has devoured the hearts of theatre goers for over 30 years! The charmingly tongue-in-cheek comedy is the longest-running Off-Broadway show, and it has been produced across the globe becoming one of the most popular shows in the world. Come and feed your need for musical hilarity with this sci-fi smash about a man-eating plant.

DIRECTED BY **CHRIS TIERNAN**

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY **ANGELICA ROQUE** - CHOREOGRAPHY BY **DANIEL SCIPIO**

OCT. 4-25, 2025 **INFO & TICKETS**

1316 Cabrillo Ave. Torrance, 90501

www.TorranceTheatreCompany.com



*A program of the Cultural Services Division of the Torrance Community Services Department.
www.TorranceCA.Gov. Sponsored in part by Friends of Torrance Theatre Company.
Little Shop of Horrors is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International
(MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com*



ATTACHMENT 2



Photo by Genie Davis

ATTACHMENT 3





CITY OF TORRANCE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT		
JUNE 7 5:00 PM	BRITAIN'S FINEST <i>Beatles Tribute Band</i>	SPACE ODDITY <i>David Bowie Tribute Band</i>
JUNE 14 7:45 PM	FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT <i>Dog Man - La Romeria Park</i>	ABBA LA <i>ABBA Tribute Band</i>
JUNE 21 5:00 PM	LOCKED OUT OF HEAVEN <i>Bruno Mars Tribute Band</i>	GET LIT - WORDS IGNITE <i>Spoken Word & Live DJ Set - Torino Plaza</i>
JUNE 28 5:00 PM	BLUE BREEZE BAND <i>Blues, Soul, R&B, Jazz</i>	FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT <i>Sonic the Hedgehog: 3 - Wilson Park</i>
JULY 5 5:00 PM	ANDY & RENEE & HARD RAIN <i>Woodstock Retrospective</i>	LA CHARANGA CUBANA <i>Grammy-nominated Salsa Band</i>
JULY 11-13 12-6:00 PM	TRYST INTL ART FAIR & NOMAD <i>Del Amo Crossing - Hawthorne Blvd</i>	SANGRE NUEVA <i>Salsa Band</i>
JULY 12 7:45 PM	FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT <i>Moana 2 - De Portola Park</i>	PETTY THEFT <i>Tom Petty Tribute Band</i>
2025 TORRANCE SUMMER NIGHTS PRESENTING SPONSOR 		

For Commission Meeting
September 15, 2025

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURALSERVICES MANAGER

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL UTILITY BOX SUBMISSIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission;

- 1) Approve reconsideration of the August 18, 2025, Commission Item 7G – Review and Discuss Utility Box submissions for presentation to the City Council; and
- 2) Select twelve (12) artist submissions for recommendation to the City Council which include late submissions.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Following the Cultural Arts Commission meeting of August 18, 2025, three utility box artwork submissions were received by staff. Due to the quality of the submissions and the timeliness of submission, staff recommends the Commission consider the recently submitted artworks as part of a revised recommendation to City Council for the next 12 utility box artwork installations.

Should the Commission wish to add the three artwork submissions to the current pool of artworks under consideration for the next 12 utility boxes, it is recommended that the Commission approve reconsideration of Item 7G from the August 18, 2025, agenda and ultimately make a recommendation for 12 utility box artworks for forwarding to the City Council.

The Commission may also choose to take no action. In that event, the three recently submitted artworks would be included in a future pool of submissions that the Commission would consider.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

Attachments:

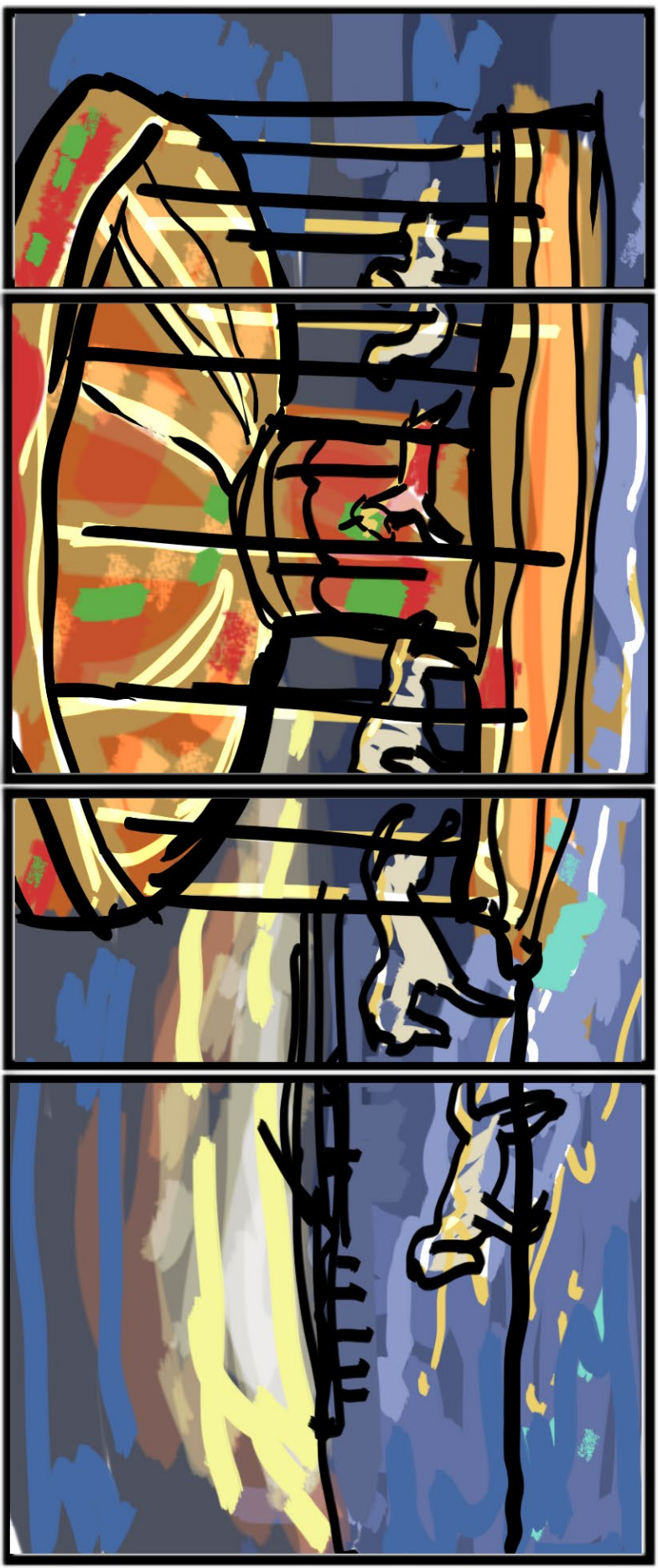
- 1) Three Additional Utility Box Artwork Submissions
- 2) Artwork Submissions Considered at August 18, 2025, Commission Meeting
- 3) Staff Report for Item 7G. from the August 18, 2025, Commission Meeting

ATTACHMENT 1

Lazaro de la Rúa
the butterflies and elves of Wilson Park
8/31/25



Trash C
Merry Go Round into the sea
8/31/25

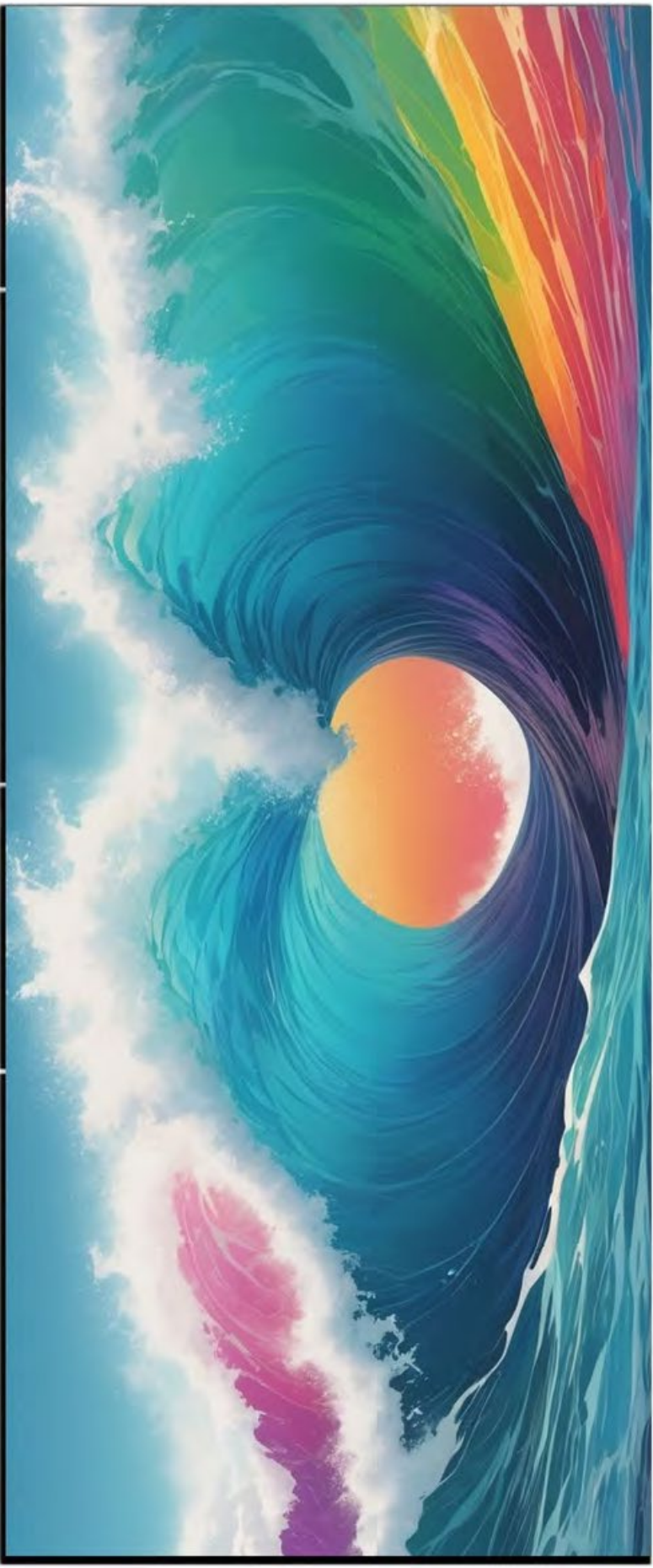


ATTACHMENT 2

Adrian Arias
Goddess of Fish
01/30/2025



Kat Trevino
The Wave
03/26/25



Roxanne Siciliano
Oranges
04/08/25



Roxanne Siciliano

Shells

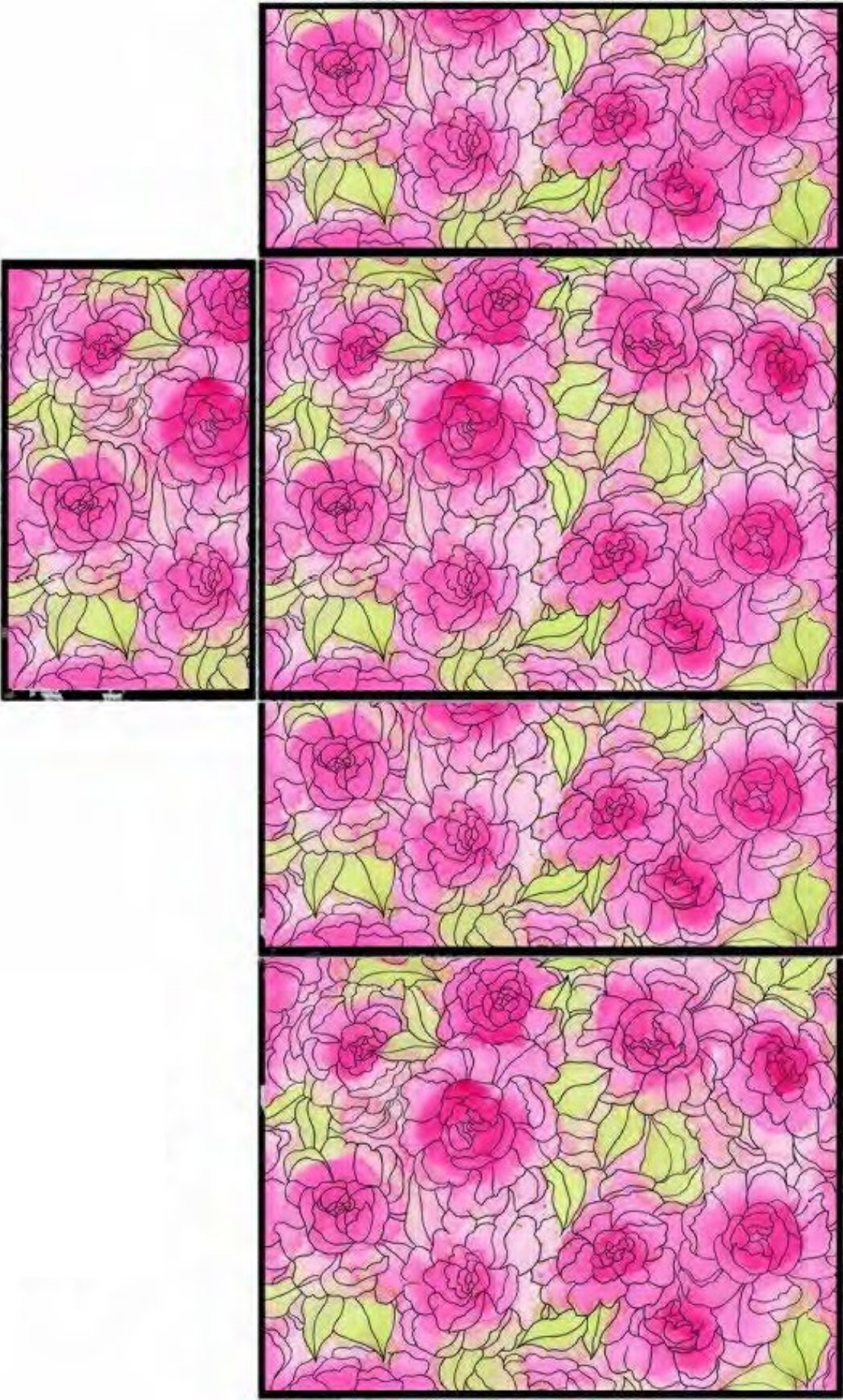
04/08/25



Roxanne Siciliano

Roses

04/08/25



Ana Suarez
Blossom
04/13/25



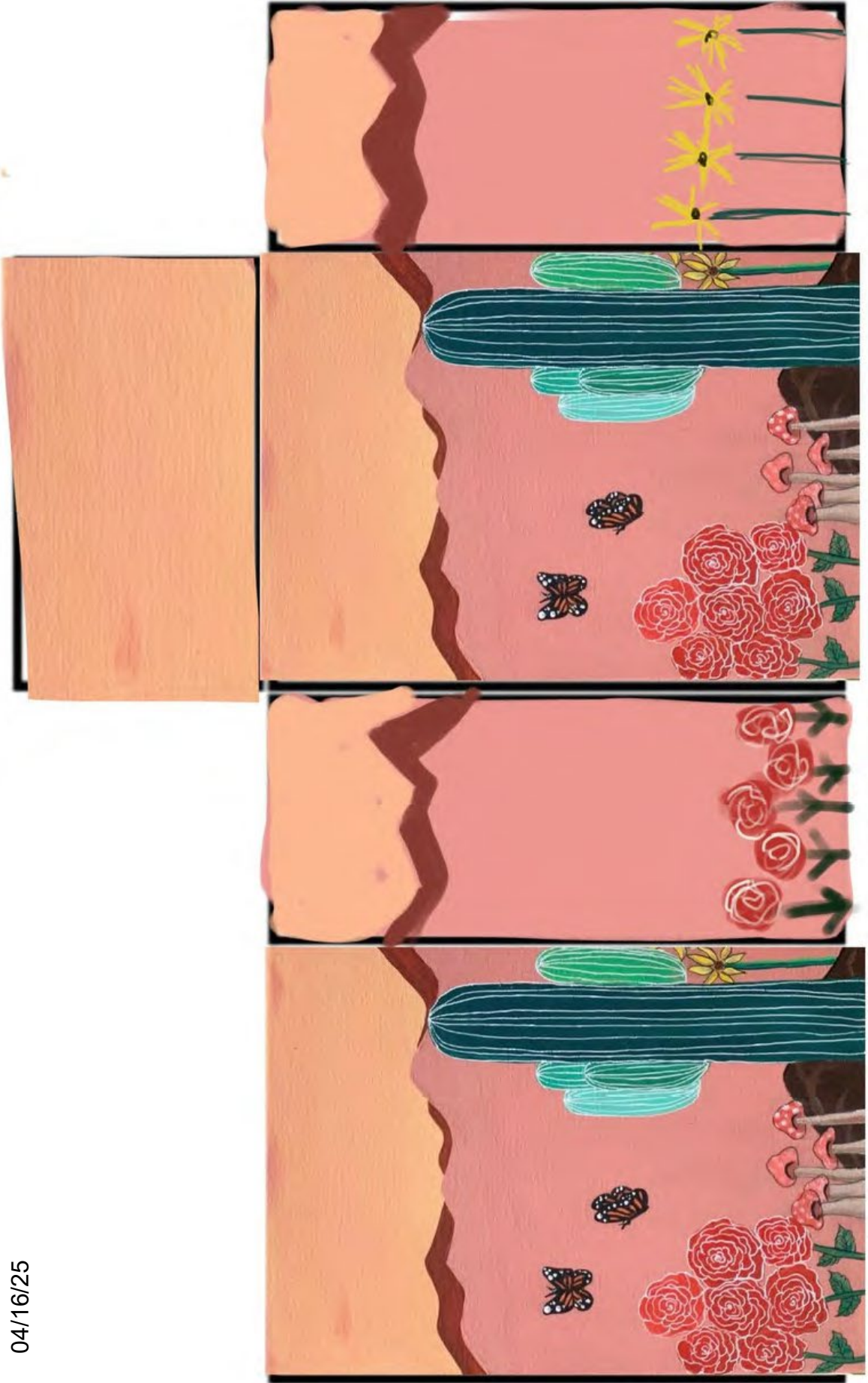
Lilibeth Ruelas
N/A
04/15/25



Angela Rosales
Bright Colors
04/16/25



Angela Rosales
Cactus
04/16/25



Angela Rosales
Flowers
04/16/25



Tuan Nguyen
Flowers
04/19/25



Tuan Nguyen

Vase

04/19/25



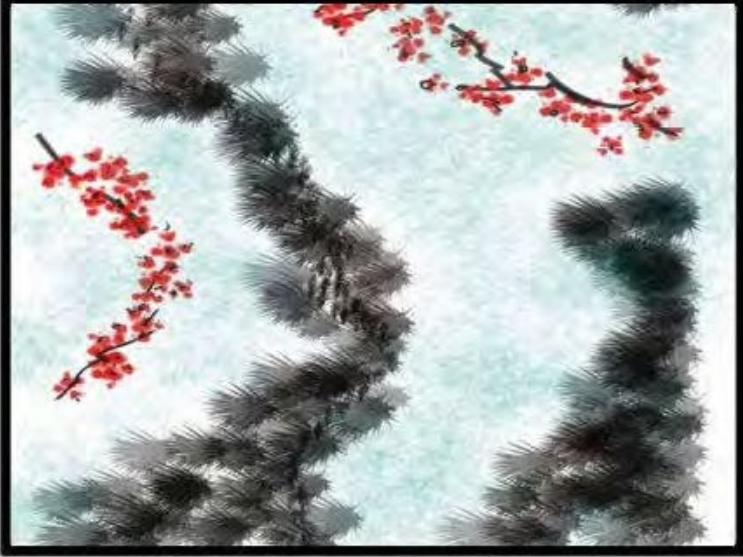
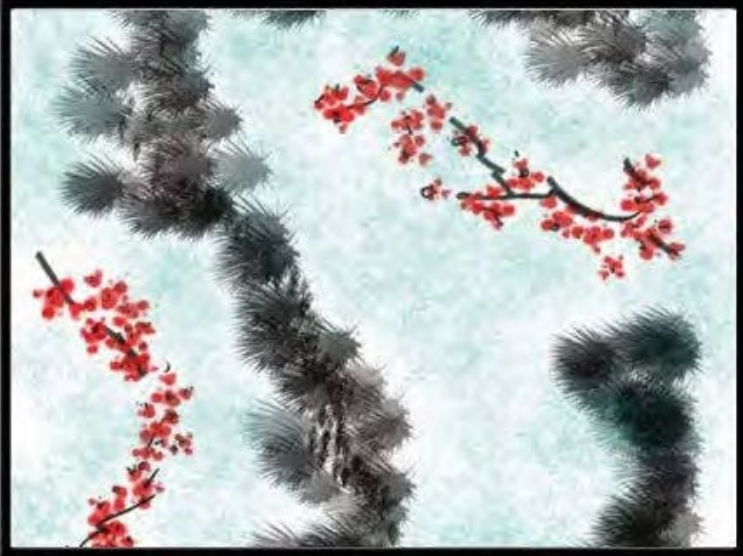
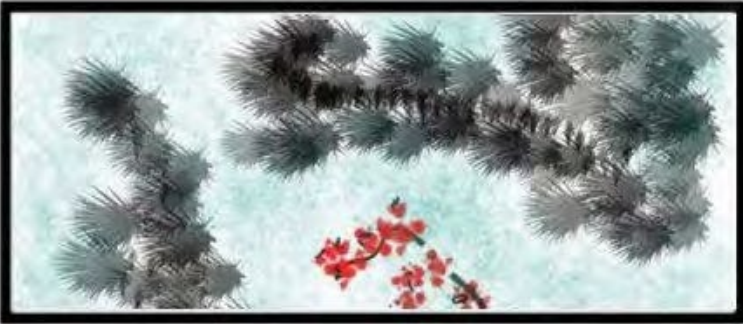
Tuan Nguyen
Snow Temple
04/19/25



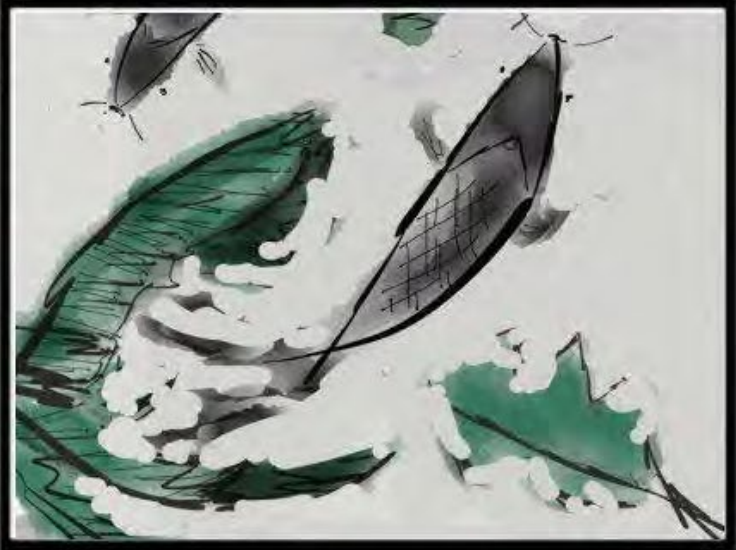
Tuan Nguyen

Pine

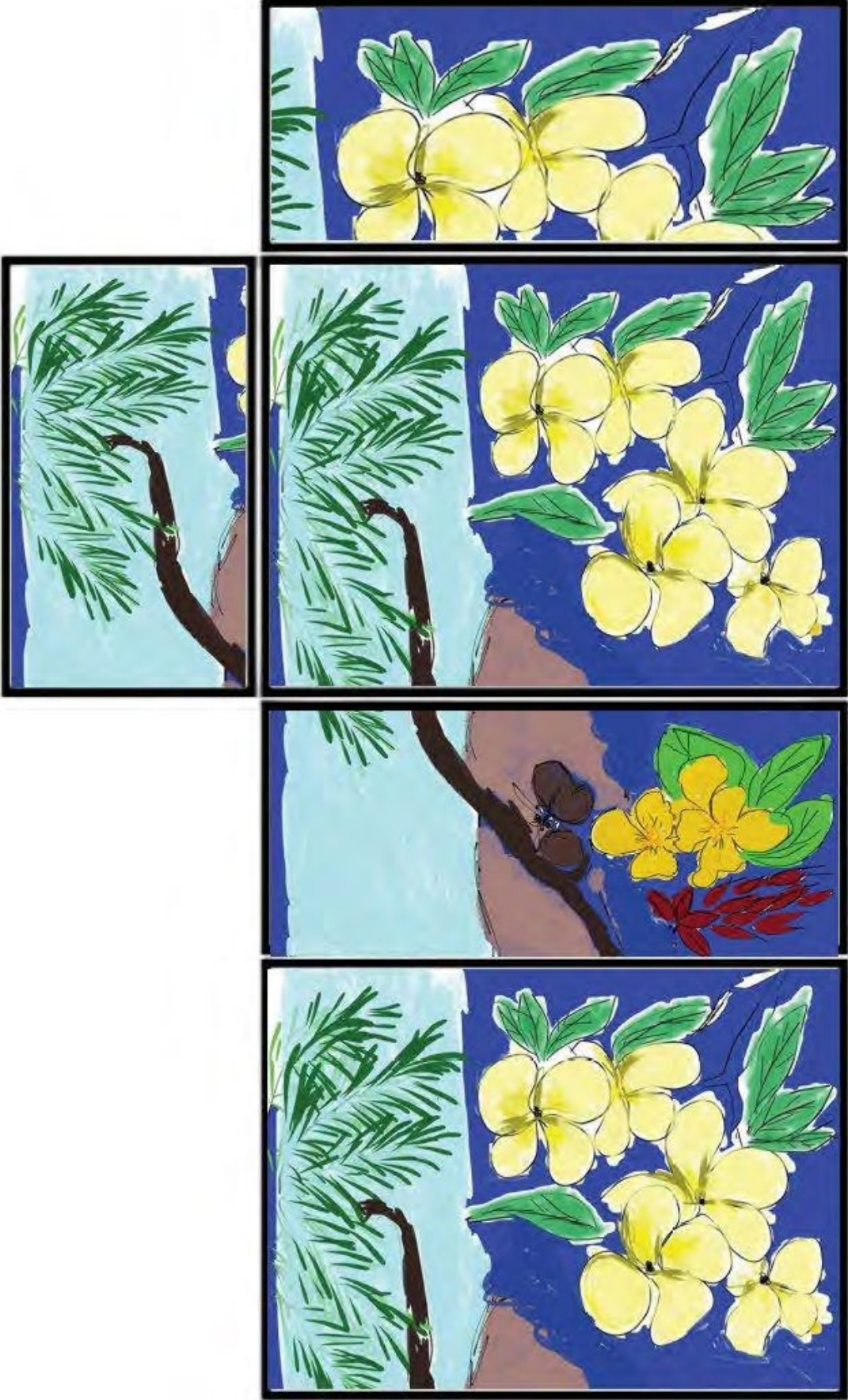
04/19/25



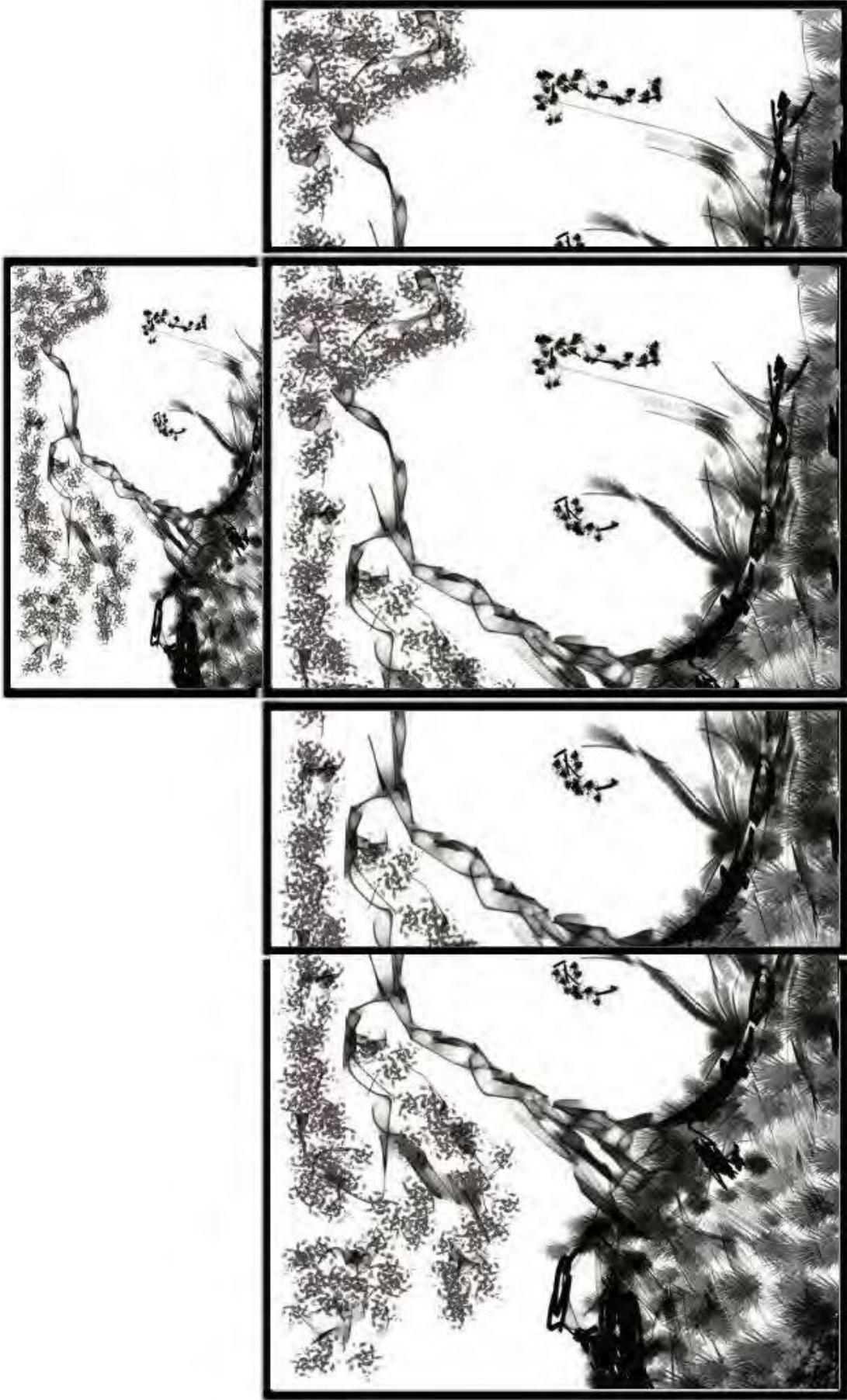
Tuan Nguyen
Koi
04/19/25



Tuan Nguyen
Palm Tree
04/19/25



Tuan Nguyen
Orchid
04/19/25



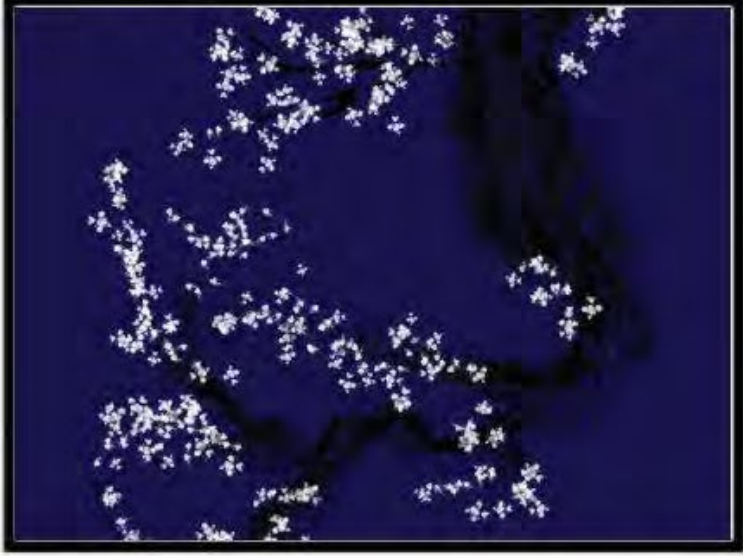
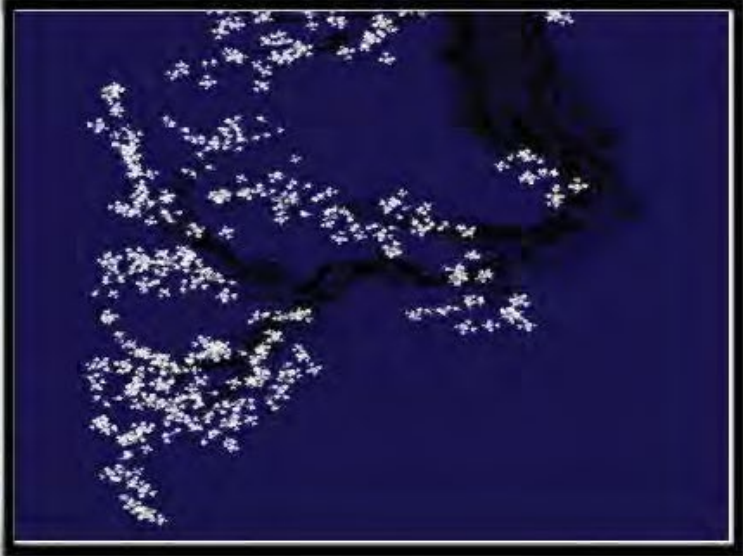
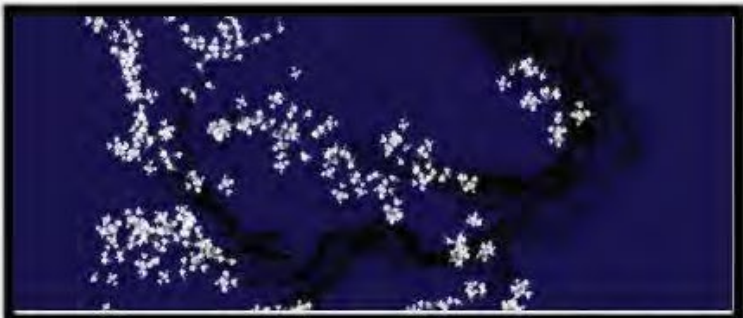
Tuan Nguyen

Tiki

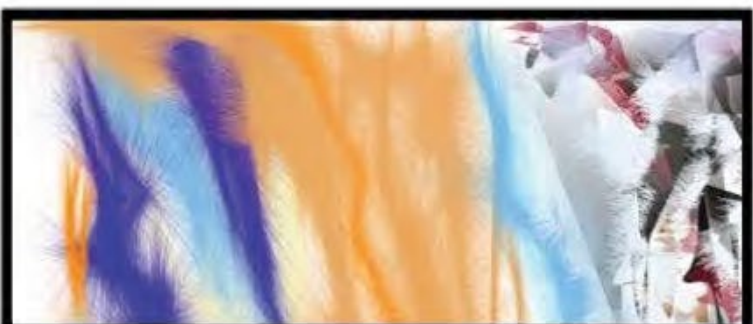
04/19/25



Tuan Nguyen
Blue Palm
04/19/25



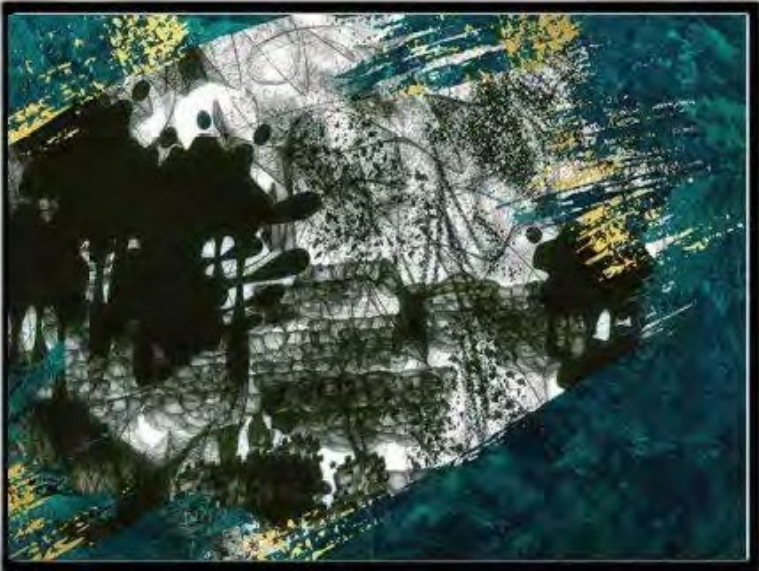
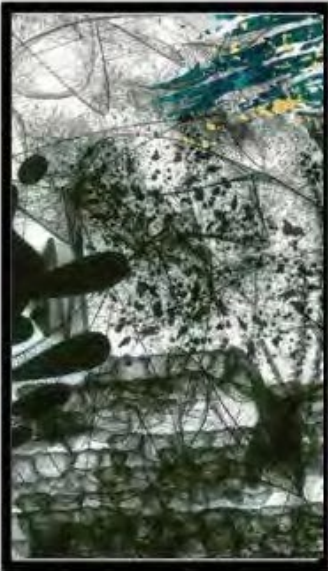
Tuan Nguyen
Santa Fe
04/19/25



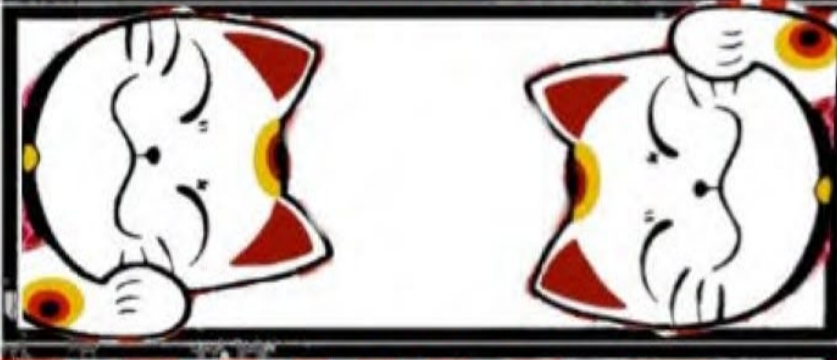
Tuan Nguyen
Abstract
04/19/25



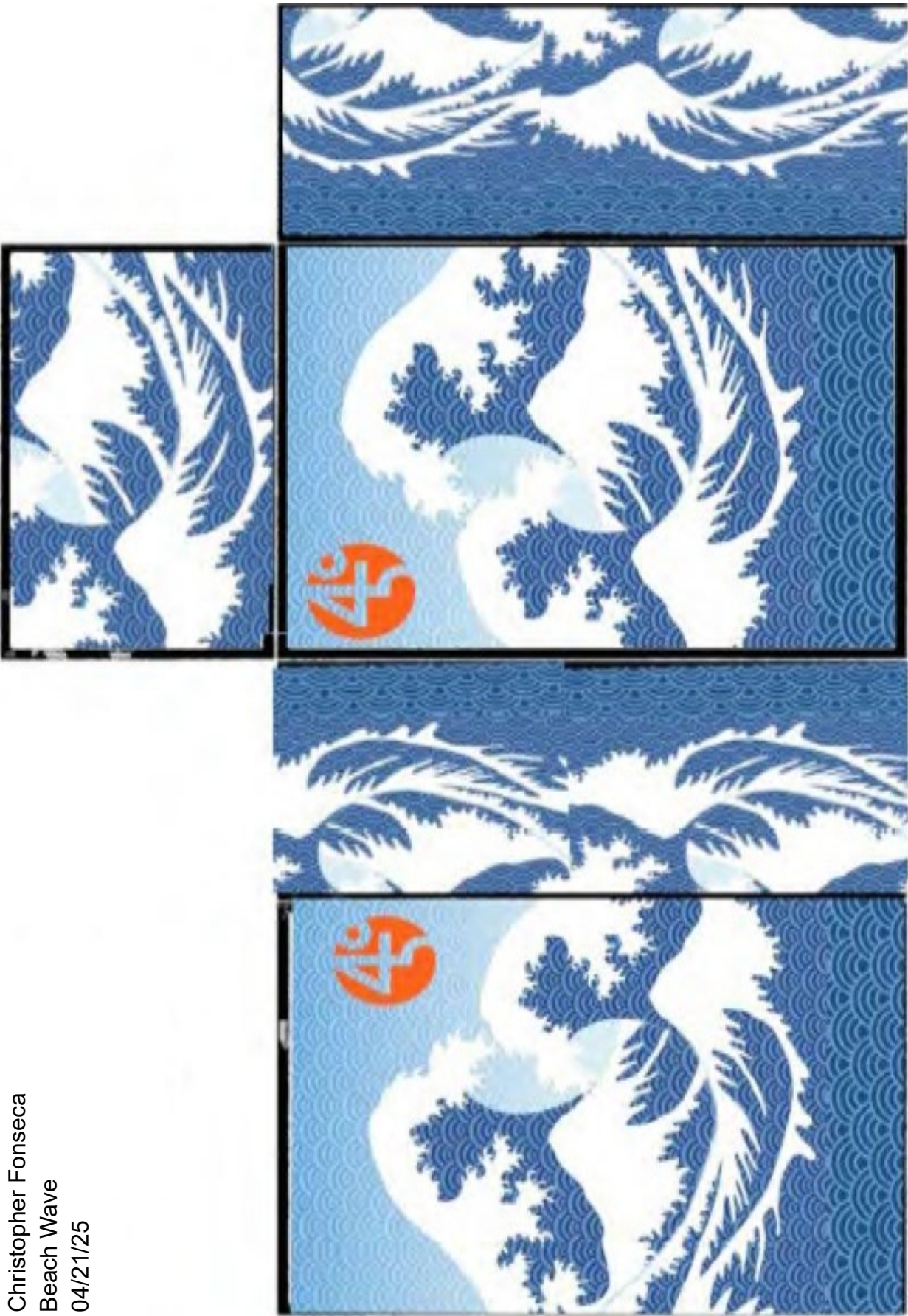
Tuan Nguyen
Modern
04/19/25



Christopher Fonseca
Lucky Cat
04/21/25



Christopher Fonseca
Beach Wave
04/21/25



Christopher Fonseca

Ramen

04/21/25



Christopher Fonseca

Keanu

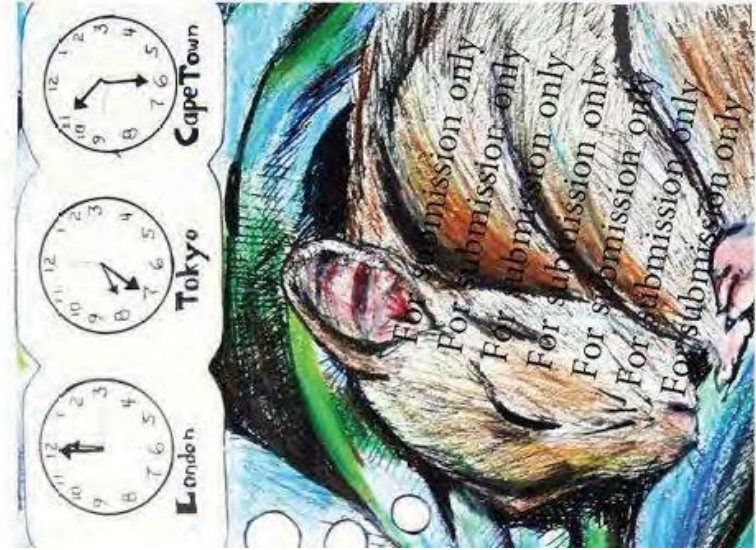
04/21/25



Lisa Hirata
The Skin of a Snake
04/21/25



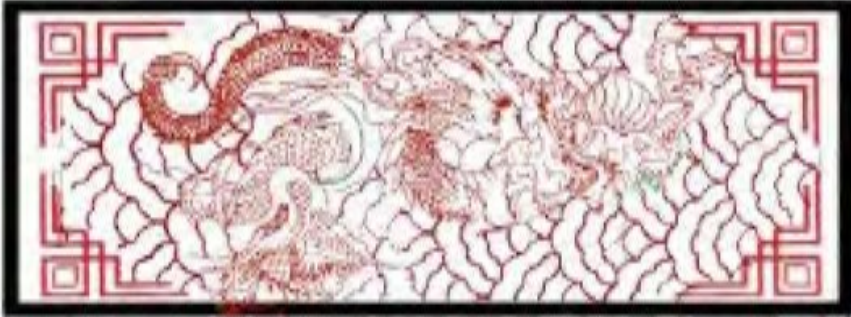
Nicole Lim
Nostalgia in Nature
04/21/25



Christopher Fonseca

Take Out

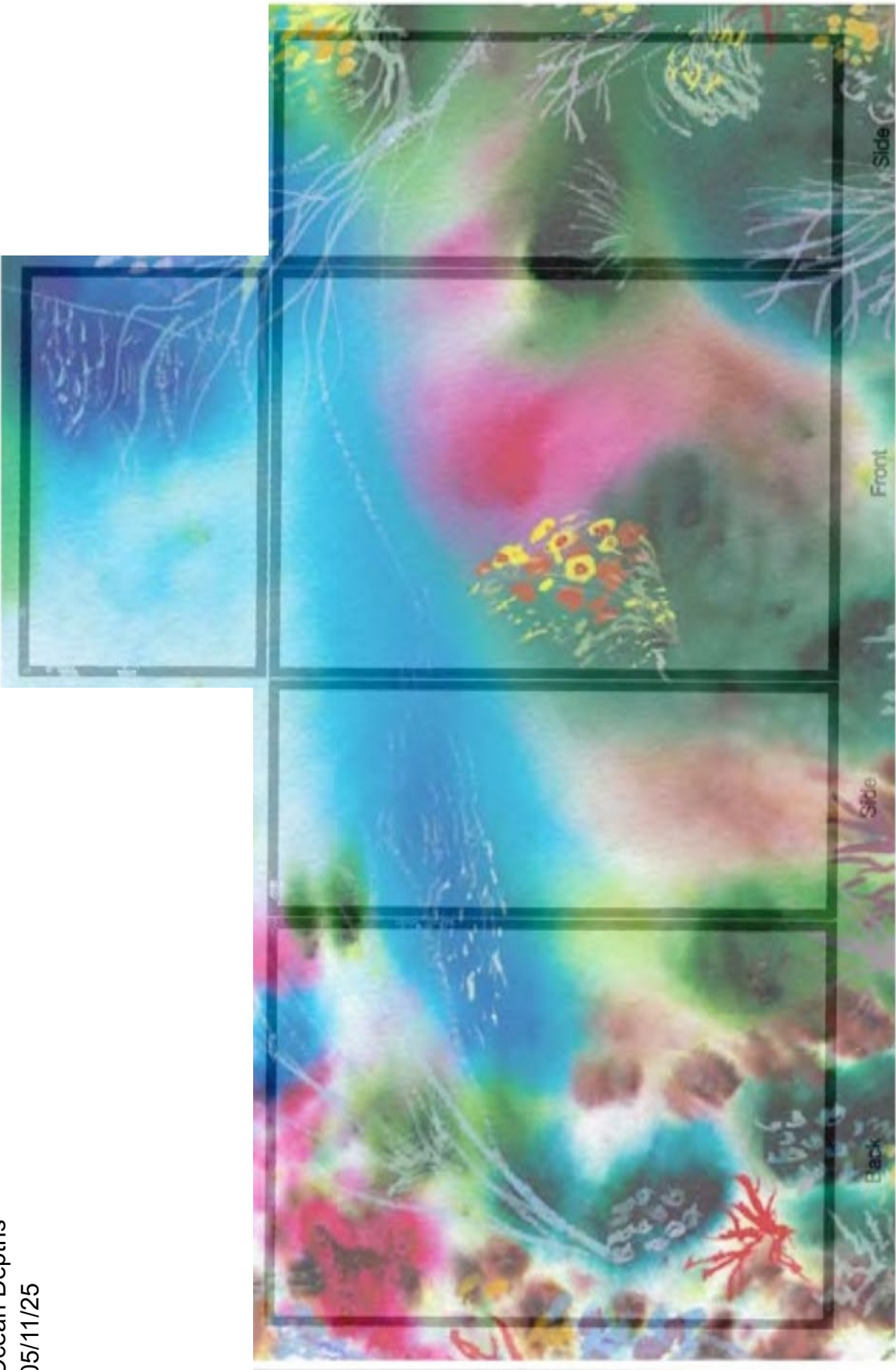
04/24/25



Felicia Ramirez
Blink
05/03/25



Mary Arakawa
Ocean Depths
05/11/25



Mary Arakawa
Floral Joy
05/11/25



Mary Arakawa

Love

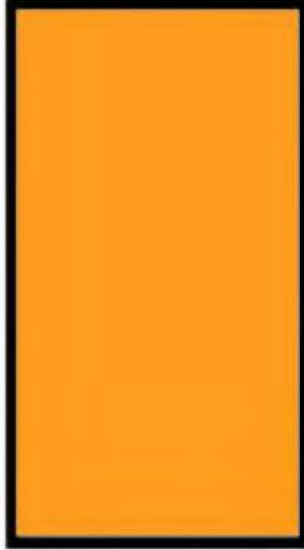
05/11/25



Film Junkies

N/A

5/27/25



Mariah Camille Foston
Wild Haven : Madrona's Ecosystem
7/18/25



Liz Mcarthy
Blossoms in Harmony
8/12/25



Leadership Academy / Team: The Strayz

#1

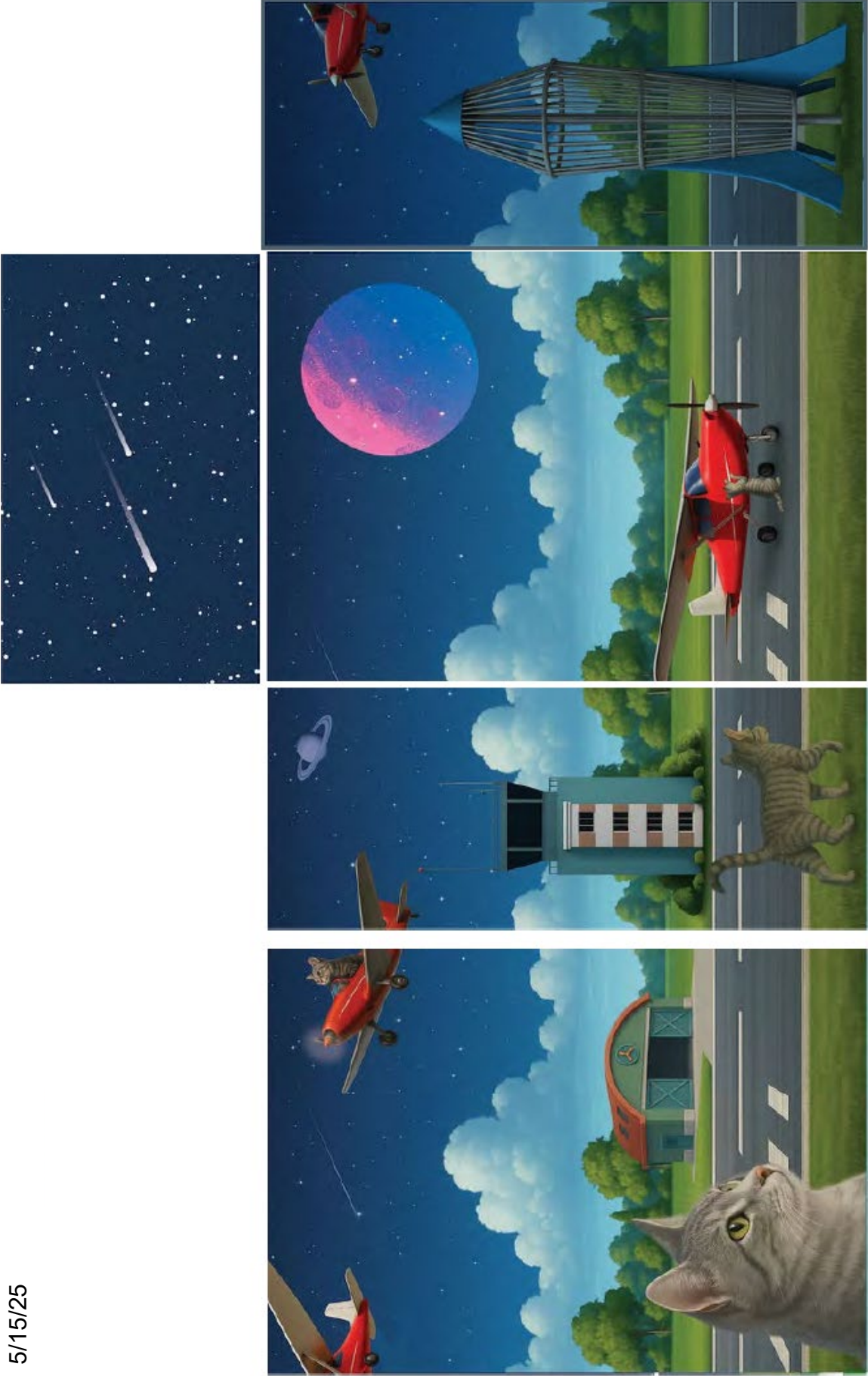
5/15/25



Leadership Academy / Team: The Strayz

#2

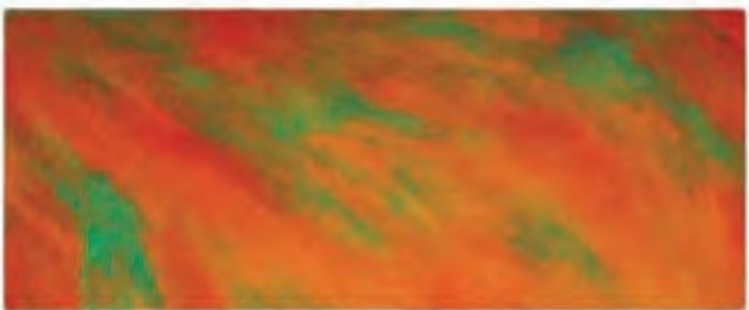
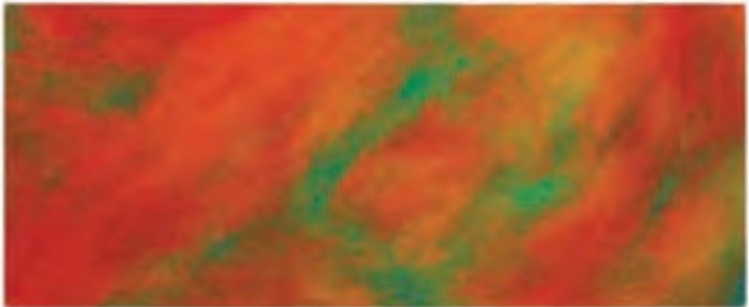
5/15/25



Leadership Academy / Team: MEAT
Torrance In Bloom
5/15/25



Leadership Academy / Team: MEAT
Strength and Honor
5/15/25



Leadership Academy / Team: Happy 2 Help
Japanese Wind Garden
5/15/25



Top



Leadership Academy / Team: Happy 2 Help
Old Torrance
5/15/25



Top



ATTACHMENT 3

For Commission Meeting
August 18, 2025

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURALSERVICES MANAGER
SUBJECT: UTILITY BOX SUBMISSIONS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission review the artist submissions for the 2025-26 Utility Box Program and choose twelve for recommendation to City Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

Attachment: 1) All Entries

For Commission Meeting
September 15, 2025

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER

**SUBJECT: CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – DISCUSS AND APPROVE EXCELLENCE
IN ARTS AWARD RECIPIENTS**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss and approve the Subcommittee's recommendations for the 2025 Excellence in Arts award recipients.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In 1977, the Cultural Arts Commission established the annual Excellence in Arts Awards. The purpose of these awards was to recognize excellence in the advancement of the arts and outstanding contributions to the cultural life of the community, as demonstrated by individual artists, businesses, or organizations whose artistic offerings touch the residents of Torrance. Individuals or organizations that demonstrated the above characteristics could be nominated for the following categories: Arts Education, Dance, Drama & Theatre Arts, Literary Arts, Music, Visual Arts and Design, the Katy Geissert Award, and Emerging Artist.

This will be the 47th year that the Cultural Arts Commission is being asked to discuss and approve the award recipients from the current nomination list.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

Attachment:

- 1) 2025 Excellence in Arts Nominees

EXCELLENCE IN ARTS NOMINATIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE

- **Dance:** Sjaan Trowbridge
- **Drama and Theatre Arts:** Chris Tiernan
- **Literary Arts:** Sasha and Ryan Miller
- **Music:** Bradley Hampton
- **Visual Arts and Design:** Brainstorm Productions
- **Katy Geissert:** Visions of Unity
- **Emerging Artist:** Jorge Macias