



Minnesota has a wide variety of people from multiple different types of locations. I have live in the cities, the suburbs, and a dinky rural town. To show diversity I used famous Minnesotans such as: James Arness, Charles M. Schulz, Prince, Judy Garland, and Louise Erdrich James Arness represents the older generation (i.e. My grandparents). I grew up sitting on my grandpas lap watching reruns of Gunsmoke! His acting contributed to me as a person. Charles M. Schulz, the creator of the peanuts, represents the youth of Minnesota. There has yet to be a single year in school that we have not watched a "Charlie Brown and the..." in school. I also drew him at a younger age to emphasize my point. Prince represent not only the "African"-Minnesotans, but my mother's generation as well! Judy Garland represents the women of Minnesota, and her yellow brick road leads straight to Minnesota! Another woman, Louise Erdrich, represents the Native-American people. Native-American culture is also a big part of Minnesota, which growing up most of my life in the suburbs made me often overlook that detail. It is something I wish was shared with me more. All of these people came from the different areas of mine. The different areas of Minnesota seem like different worlds. That's not how I picture Minnesota! We should be one, and it's something us Vikings need to understand about each other. The capital of all places should be a combination of those worlds, but instead it shows a bias, and offensive, viewpoint of Minnesota. This piece was created to show my view of Minnesota, and I am fortunate to have lived in each area and got to know the new things about their inhabitants. I want the rest of Minnesota to know those things too.

Aura Gustafson



### Unity in the Mines

For this assignment, I decided to paint one of my personal heroes, Lois Jenson. Lois worked in the Eveleth mines in the iron range, a huge part of culture and the economy not only for the St. Louis country, but to all of Minnesota. What Lois Jenson did, however, affected the entire nation. Minnesota is a state that supports equality to all people, but not very long ago, the mines were not a safe place for women and other minorities. Lois bravely fought against constant sexual harassment, abuse, threats, and intimidation. In 1988, she filed the *Louis E. Jenson v. Eveleth Taconite Co.* the first class-action sexual harassment lawsuit in the United States. I wanted to paint Lois, because I believe that the accomplishments she achieved often go unnoticed and are extremely underrated. In my painting, I inserted three people in the background with joined hands, to represent the unity she created. She fought for what she believed in, and continued to pursue her cause, even under the humiliation and disbelief of the court.

I believe that Lois Jenson is exactly that kind of person who should be honored in the capital. I would want any government official to be inspired by her story just as I have been.

Emily Koch

## M-I-N-N-E-S-O-T-A

By Bailey Johnson

My drawing shows a girl placing her hand over her heart. The sign made by the hand means "I love you" in sign language. The signs made by the hands in the background spell out "Minnesota" and the Trojan symbol represents the mascot for the deaf school MSAD (Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf), located in Faribault, MN. I used a pencil and colored pencils for this drawing. The story I'm trying to tell through this drawing is that we should respect those who are deaf, because they are no different than those who can hear. This piece is relevant to me because my brother, Jake, is deaf. He went to MSAD, and he is one of the most accomplished people I know. People should look at my drawing because sign language is very unique and a big part of my life. I want people to realize that deaf people are not limited in their abilities and can accomplish the same things we can. I discovered throughout this process how much I miss my brother. I don't get to see him very often, so it's special when we do get together.



## The North Woods

My drawing is of a dirt road with trees and a sunset in the background with a boy from Cook School and a girl from Orr School standing on the road. It shows them in different stages of how we progressed as one school. I used mainly watercolor when I painted it. It shows how two small town schools, who were rivals came together and made one powerhouse school. Even though Minnesota teens are so different, we found a way to adapt to each other and realized we had a lot in common. I would like people to think about how hard it must have been for two rival schools to combine together to become one and to have to work together. I discovered that I should practice drawing people so that I can get better at it.

Patricia McCarthy



I created *Connections Through A Kingfisher* as a piece representing what Minnesota means to me. My thoughts of Minnesota are deeply connected to my grandpa. He was a passionate outdoorsman and had always loved kingfishers. His favorite bird is the center of my piece, however, the most difficult decision proved to be what to utilize as a setting. As you can see I chose a weathered fencepost as a sort of pedestal to showcase the kingfisher. I also added some sporadic foliage to mirror the ruffled feathers that give the kingfisher its distinct appearance. The techniques used in this piece were inspired by the style of Rock Bakken, a Minnesota artist, whom I was introduced to by my grandpa. This technique involves using a very sharp pencil to create layers of small lines, rather than using a blending stick, to create value and texture. Through constantly sharpening my pencil I was able to achieve great detail and depth. This piece has helped me to discover a new way of creating a graphite drawing. I have also, through working on my piece, remembered my grandpa and realized how great of an impact he has had on my view of Minnesota. –Noah Squires



### Two World's Collide

My drawing tells the story of a young girl whose mother, Oshaguscodaywayquay, was the daughter of an Ojibwa chieftain, and whose father, John Johnson, was an Irish trader. The girl's name was Bamewawagezhikiquay or Jane Johnson and she became the peace link between the traders and the Ojibwa people in the early 1800s. She lived her daily life speaking fluent Ojibwa and English and grew up learning about the costumes and traditions of both. She went on to become the first published American Indian Literary writer, writing down the stories and costumes of her people in both English and Ojibwa translations. Her works attracted the attention of many scholars as well as students, and continue to, to this day. Much of her story took place in and around Minnesota, which is what makes her such an important piece of Minnesota's history. She also has helped to keep alive much of the Ojibwa stories, contributing to today's society and culture. Through the creation of this piece I learned a large amount about the early history of the Ojibwa people as well as the life of a trader in the time period.

Rachel Land



### Focus

My Drawing depicts a winter setting with a bright sunset. I used shading for the ground and oil pastel for the sky. It shows how Minnesota can seem gray sometimes, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Happiness will come to those who seek it. People should focus on their own happiness instead of trying to please others. They should think about how they can achieve their bright future. I discovered that even though the trees are dead and there is snow everywhere, it is still beautiful. I wanted to show with this drawing that society is too caught up in everything that happens to them. Not a lot of people really stop and see beauty in simple everyday things. I want them to remember that beauty can be found everywhere.

By: Alexis Ingebretsen



## North Woods

By Sydney Barnett

In the fall of 2011, two schools were forced to combine. The students of Cook and Orr/Nett Lake were all mashed together in one big, new school called North Woods. About 90% of the kids in the Cook school were white, while the majority of the kids from the Orr/Nett Lake school were Native American. At first, there was a lot of racism and hostility in the high school. It's mostly better now, but people still make rude comments every once and a while.

I never understood why people made such a big deal about another's race. It wasn't until the end of 2013 when I met a handsome Native American boy named Leon. The fact that I'm white and he's native has never been a problem, but I have had so many people give us weird looks and ask if our different races have ever been an issue. Why would the color of someone's skin keep them from being with a person who is a different color? It never occurred to me that some people would even consider it a possible problem in a relationship, but apparently it is. We've been together for about a year now.

Minnesota has become a very diverse state over the years. There are several reservations located around the area, and people of every race are accepted into any school they want to be in. With this painting, I wanted to show that it is okay for people of two different races to be together and accept each other for their beliefs and differences.



## *Lake Life*

By: Brystin Vilense

*My painting is colored pencil layered with water colors. This painting is an illustration of the way that many people make a living and vacation in the Land of 10,000 lakes. There are two kinds of people in Minnesota, the blue collars and the white collars. The blue collar's make a living on making the white collars vacation memorable. My whole life has revolved around lakes. I have worked on them and also spent countless hours of free time on them. They are both my job and my playground. I want people to enjoy the look and feel of life on the lake. The beauty of such a place forgets to be cherished when it is seen everyday.*



## The Lone Wolf

By: Molly Blake

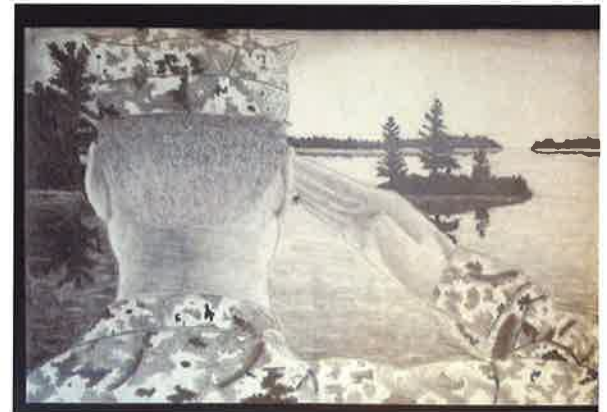
I used a wolf, forest, and lake in my drawing because Minnesota has so much nature that no one notices anymore. I love being outside and the walking around with my dogs. I used colored pencils and oil pastels. I think the oil pastels go well together in the background. It blends more than other materials would. The colored pencil for the wolf makes it pop out more than the background. Nature is such an important thing that shouldn't be taken away or forgotten. We need to take care of our woods and animals.



## Voyageurs Soldier

My drawing is of a soldier that has to return to duty after his discharge. He is saluting his hometown located on the Voyageurs National Park. The setting is a quiet and peaceful lake sunset. The soldier is capturing the true beauty and relaxing lifestyle that he has to leave. Even though he is sad that he has to leave, deep down he knows that he is protecting his hometown, Minnesota, and his nation, by returning to the chaotic military lifestyle. I used pencil and value to create my drawing. This picture truly illustrates Minnesota's peacefulness, the quiet lake shores are sure to make anyone relaxed, and I am lucky enough to call my home. Our small town recently witnessed one of the community members leave to serve our country by becoming a Marine. So I have devoted this picture to him and his family. It is important to realize that thousands of families are going through the same experience of their family members leaving to serve our Nation. I want people to appreciate, the sacrifice that those brave men and woman give up to provide the safety and comfort of home that Minnesotans experience everyday. The Voyageurs Soldier helps us to realize what soldiers sacrifice for us, and the true peacefulness of the Minnesota Lifestyle.

By: Jeffrey Janssen



## The Lake

My drawing takes place on lake in Minnesota viewing the sunset. For my project I used oil pastels for the water and the sky, I used color pencils for the dock and the trees. This piece of artwork is meaningful to me because Minnesota is the place where I grew up, and also the place I have known to love all of my life for many reasons; one being the beautiful lakes all over Minnesota. My artwork is relevant to today's society in many ways, one being that many Minnesotans could look at this picture and feel like they are at the lake that they grew up around. When people look at my piece of artwork I wasn't them to think about home and happiness. Throughout this project I discovered that everyone had a very different perspective on Minnesota and how they feel about it.

By: Rylee Bandelin



### Minnesota Settlers

By: Taylor Midthun

My drawing contains an Indian and a fur trader in Minnesota exchanging fur. Around them are woods and a lake, and on the lake is a mother loon and her two babies. The materials I used were colored pencils, pencils, and shading sticks. My drawing tells a story about Lake Vermilion and how the fur traders that first landed there traded with the Native Americans in those parts. The deeper message is that Minnesota was built off of peace and serenity and that is what I wanted to convey in my drawing. My artwork is relevant to me and to today's society simply because I think people should know more about Minnesota's past and its nature. You should look at it because it contains some of the best parts about Minnesota, the nature and the peace. When people view this drawing I want them to think about what it was really like back then and what differences there are from then to now, and also think about what would be happening around them if they lived in that time frame. I discovered during this unit that the Native Americans back then wore long sleeve shirts and long pants all year long, *not* just a loincloth. During the process of making this art I discovered that the fur traders and the Native Americans got along and traded. The loons represent the fertility of Minnesota and the nature is what I view as the best part about Minnesota today.



### **My courthouse drawing by Eric Prochnow**

**My drawing is of the Koochiching County court house in International Falls, Minnesota. I used a pencil and blending stick to draw my picture. My picture represents Minnesota through politics because it is a political building. The drawing is relevant to me because it is in my hometown of International Falls. I would want people to think about the future of Minnesota's government when they look at my drawing. I found that it takes a lot of time to work on something to make it right, you need to have patience because things don't always fall together immediately**

