Students of The Fine Arts Association Make Pandemic Times “Bear-able” with Intergenerational Public Art displays

WILLOUGHBY, OH--- The Fine Arts Association (FAA) students in the Creative Painting and Drawing 1 and Creative Painting and Drawing 2 online classes, with instructor Melissa Sexstella, created drawings of teddy bears in a black and white coloring book outlines. Students emailed digital copies of their work to be photocopied for Danbury Senior Living, located in Mentor. The residents at Danbury chose a student created coloring page to color and design. These creations were displayed in the window of the senior living center to spread cheer to everyone.

After the students at FAA created their black and white coloring book outline of the bear, they colored in their own drawings and designed them to fit the theme, “What Happiness Looks Like”. Students sent digital copies of their bear drawings to their instructor, Melissa, who printed multiple copies. The first copies of the student artwork were framed and put on display at The Lake County Courthouse along with a description of the project and how it was themed to “The Worldwide Bear Hunt”, a popular trend regarding the public display of colorful teddy bears.

The second set of copies of the colorful teddy bears were sent to Danbury Senior Living. Patty Brunskole, Life Enrichment Director at Danbury, helped each resident choose their favorite bear artwork created by the FAA students to hang on their personal mailbox. When the residents are taken on walks down the hallway at Danbury, they can view all the different creative bears, lovingly created by the FAA students and see if they spot any new ones, just like the original “Worldwide Bear Hunt”.

FAA Visual Art Instructor Melissa Sexstella said, “It gives the children a chance to have their work on display in many public venues”.

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Pictured: Danbury Residents’/FAA Students’ intergenerational artwork
Pictured: The Fine Arts Association Students’ work displayed on Danbury Residents’ mailboxes
Pictured: FAA Students’ artwork at the Lake County Courthouse