

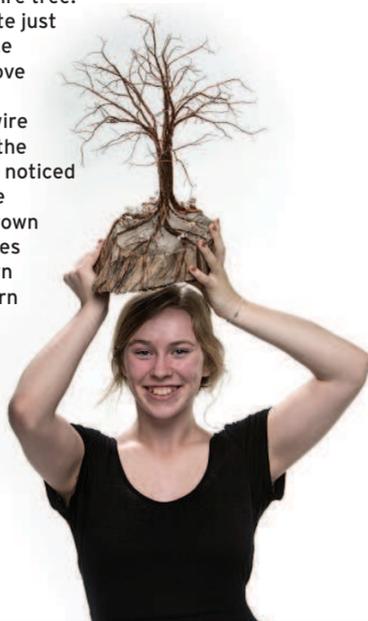
# visual arts TOP 10

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ED CRISOSTOMO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**ANYA GOURLEY**  
LAGUNA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL  
drawing, painting  
"Earlier this year, after the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., I was bombarded with pictures of the ensuing riots via social media. These images, sickeningly and tragically beautiful, moved me to paint. I am working on a series called 'Hands Up, Don't Shoot!' that exposes police brutality, media perversion and social injustice, particularly in Ferguson."



**KENZI BRUSH**  
ORANGE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL  
ceramics, sculpture, mixed media  
"When deciding what pieces to submit, I wanted not only to show my artistic ability, but also show part of who I am. ... I chose (to show) my wire tree. A simple idea to create just a tree, but through the process, I found my love for wire, specifically copper. As I saw my wire begin to change into the shape of a tree, I also noticed my bright copper wire change into a dirty brown hue. As copper oxidizes it begins to turn brown and eventually will turn green. As I continued to work with copper, the more and more I became intrigued, so much so that I have chosen copper and the changes it and life go through for my AP studio concentration portfolio."



**AMANAT SINGH**  
SUNNY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL  
drawing, painting  
"My artwork is inspired by my amusement and passion for medicine. My journey connects my worlds of art and science and my struggle to defy the boundaries between the two. My paintings range from the paradoxical beauty of cancer cells to the allure of the raw structure of the human body."



**JESSIE LEE**  
ORANGE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL  
drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media, graphic design  
"The illustration of the 'Old Mouse' was painted on an acrylic board. It is a story about an old mouse at the train station trying to leave his hometown. Through this painting I am trying to illustrate how elderly people are not receiving enough care, and as a result they are having problems. I was inspired by a news story about an elderly person who had passed away but no one knew for one month."



**NATHAN MEIER**  
LAGUNA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL  
ceramics  
"I make thrown vases and other various functional forms on the potter's wheel. In the greenware stage I alter the forms as I am interested in the aesthetic concerns of the nonsymmetrical and the variety of different surface finishes clay can replicate. ... I want the viewers and owners of my ceramics to be able to utilize a functional form if they desire as well as have an attractive sensory tactile product. Much like traditional Japanese ceramics aesthetics (that are) made to contemplate the uniqueness of each form, so are each of my pots."



**DAHYE CHUNG**  
CREAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL  
drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, graphic design  
"I am interested in exploring how the 'natural' world works in relationship to the 'artificial' world. ... Sometimes these interruptions can cause breaks or hindrances of the flow of artistic creativity in the natural world. Visually, I think it becomes more interesting when these two worlds collide in some way, even when subject matters such as plants and animals are overlaid with items that are more artificial."

**KEVIN DANG**  
ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
drawing, painting, concept design  
"In the end, everything I learn from painting and graphic design feeds into my passion, entertainment design. ... For these pieces, I'm more focused on design rather than the art because in the end these concepts provide a road map for a larger scheme. Whether it's for an animation, a video game or a feature film, we connect ourselves to the characters because we connect with them on an emotional level."



**MELODY LEE**  
ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
drawing, painting, mixed media  
"Art is how one shares their gifts and passions with the world. For me, I use art to share my ability to depict the various facets of life. I often use goldfish to represent such dimensions of life. Although goldfish are extremely common house pets, to me, they mean something more profound. Their gold color is understood to symbolize good fortune or even wealth, and yet their small size and fragile fins represent delicacy and their need for constant, attentive care. By incorporating these characteristics into my artworks, I get the chance to explore similar qualities embedded in the human character: materialistic and worldly desires, delicacy and fragility, or innocence and responsibility."



**COURTNEY STRAFELDAS**  
JSERRA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
digital photography, film-based photography, graphic design  
"With my art I hope to tell a story. I would like to evoke a sense of mystery so that the viewer can fill in the blanks themselves and hopefully everyone can have their own idea about what is happening in the image."

**KATHRYN FULLER**  
NEWPORT HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL  
drawing, painting, mixed media  
"I want people to feel some of the emotions I am trying to convey with these pieces when they see them. All of these pieces have much significance in my life and I want the viewer to be able to see that when they have the experience of looking at my artwork."

