



# THE ART EFFECT

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Art Effect's Graduating Seniors Are College-Bound with Scholarships**

**POUGHKEEPSIE, NY** - The Art Effect is proud to celebrate the achievements of graduating seniors from its MADLab, Spark Studios, and Art Institute programs. Students who completed the Art Institute's rigorous Senior Project last fall received over \$1.5 million in scholarship offers from colleges across the country. They will be attending such noted institutions as Tufts University School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC).

For many graduating seniors, the transition to college represents the culmination of years of study at The Art Effect, and none more so than those students who participated in Senior Project. As the most intensive program offered at the Art Institute, Senior Project is modeled after a senior thesis college course. It challenges high school seniors to be career-minded and think seriously about their art as they develop a portfolio of artwork around a personal theme. After the twelve week course, students finish Senior Project with twelve finished works in their portfolio. Mel Audette-Diaz is one of those ambitious students.

"What's clear is that Mel is a creative, insightful and perceptive young person with great skill and tremendous potential," states Jordan Sanford, Director of Artistic Advancement at The Art Effect. "Mel used the Senior Project class to dive head first into defining their own unique style and approach to painting. With their determination, curiosity, and willingness to experiment, I am confident that this style will only continue to grow while they attend MICA next year."

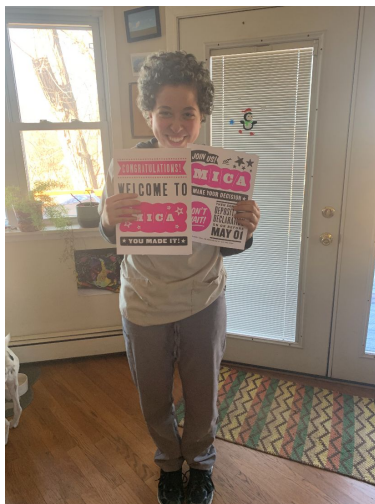
As Mel's artistic and college advisor, Jordan supported them throughout the application process, from how to develop a strong application and art portfolio to what to do when their scholarship award was not enough. From the beginning of the admission process, MICA was at the top of Mel's list of colleges. Disappointed with their initial MICA scholarship award, Mel and their mother reached out to Jordan. With Jordan's guidance on how best to negotiate for scholarships and financial aid, Mel was able to secure additional MICA scholarship funds to make their dream of attending MICA a reality for them and their family.

For decades, The Art Effect's summer programs, Dutchess Arts Camp, Junior Art Institute (now called Summer Intermediate Arts Program) and Summer Art Institute, have enriched and empowered local youth through art and exploration. The path to achieving scholarship-worthy portfolios starts this summer by honing the skills and interest of students of all ages. It's never too early to nurture a child's passion for the arts. Motivated students can learn more about The Art Effect's video, virtual, and in-person options for youth ages 4-10, 11-13 and 14-19 at <https://feelthearteffect.org/courses/summer-programs/>

\*All in-person programs will adhere to State and County protocols to ensure a safe and fun experience for all. They are also subject to change in response to state and local guidelines.

**About The Art Effect:** The Art Effect empowers youth to develop their creative voice to shape their futures and bring about positive social change. The organization facilitates educational programming for youth in the Hudson Valley to explore, experience and excel in the arts. The programs provide introductions to visual arts and media, giving participants the opportunity to develop real skills in these fields and guiding them towards achieving their academic and career goals. The Art Effect is anchored by the belief that the arts have the power to create a more vibrant, caring and sustainable world led by a generation of youth who value creative thinking, diverse voices and stronger connections between all people.

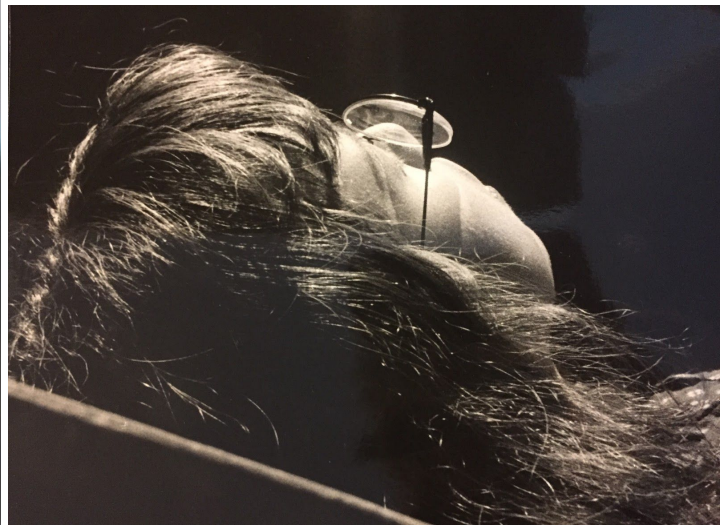
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Portrait of Mia