

Sarah Rose creates cyanotype “Church Window”

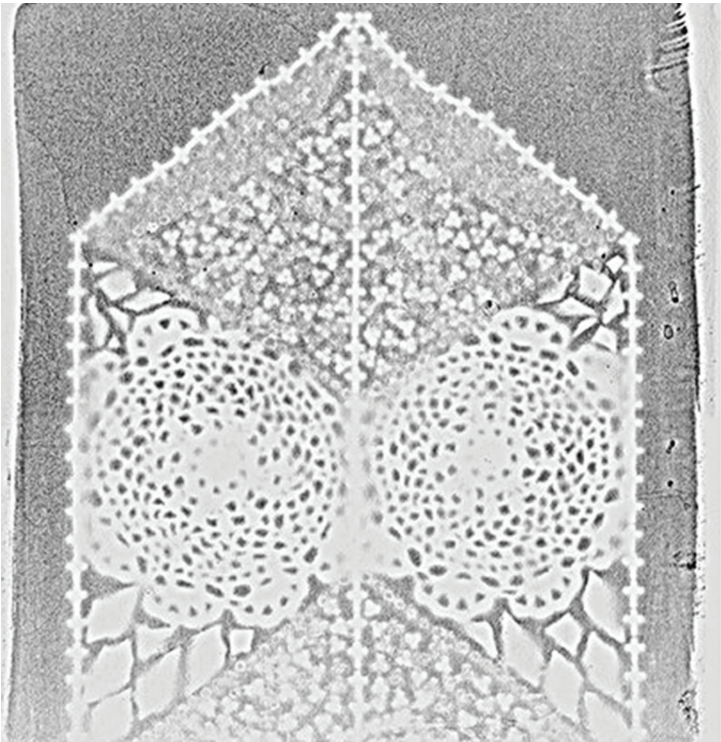
by Willem Kupets

With cameras on almost every phone, anyone can feel like a professional photographer. We’ve seen selfies, nature shots, cat pics, and endless plates of food, but what about camera-less photography.

That’s what New Trier Senior Sarah Rose worked on for the Wilmette Arts Guild, in which artists came together to display their best work during Feb. 2-27.

The show featured a wide variety of artwork and honored creativity as well as proficiency. Sarah Rose, who experimented with a unique photographic process, won the Wilmette Arts Guild Senior Scholarship. At this point, she hopes to use the scholarship to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Rose won the Scholarship with her artwork “Church Window.” She used a photographic process known as cyanotype and imprinted a pattern of a stained-glass window



Rose’s “Church Window” earned her the Wilmette Arts Guild Senior Scholarship | Rose

onto photography paper, hence the name “Church Window.” By placing beads at different spots on the paper during exposure, Rose explained, the exposed areas of the paper left the design. The final product resulted in a two-dimensional cyanotype of the beaded design.

“‘Church Window’ was made in memory of a Hawaiian Church destroyed in 2006,” said Rose. The senior has been taking photography classes since seventh grade, and so she took more creative liberties in this project.

After researching the church, she also researched alternative photographic processes in order to best portray “Church Window.” Rose then used New Trier’s darkroom to experiment with unique techniques.

She decided to create a cyanotype, which is a photograph that is developed with a distinct blue tint. “Church Window” is similar to a photogram, except she coated watercolor paper in light sensitive chemicals rather than using photo

print paper.

Rose commented, “I like to be as hands on as possible, because that adds more of my personal touch and allows me to be even more immersed in my work.”

Making a Cyanotype requires most of the work to be completed in a darkroom. Even though Rose never used a camera, the cyanotype was still developed similarly to camera film. In both cases, unwanted light ruins the art, and they are developed through chemical processes.

However, cyanotype has a complicated development process that can produce more abstract photography, and Rose took advantage of it to best capture her vision for “Church Window.”

“I mixed two chemicals and coated different kinds of paper to test the results,” said Rose, who used water color paper for her cyanotype.

“My process can take a long time, but at the end of making a successful print, I have taken a worthwhile journey.”

Senior Project sees broad range of topics in 2015

by Charlie Clarke

As most seniors head into the home stretch of high school, a select few will be taking off for Senior Project.

Most seniors will be staying at school for the rest of the year, but others will leave and do Senior Project.

This year, 142 students, roughly 7% of the senior class, will be pursuing a project of interest during New Trier’s fourth quarter.

Although the number of students participating in Senior Project is down from last year’s 150, there remains a relatively consistent amount of students going each year; the average is around 140 students a year. Only once in the last nine years has the number been below 100, which was 97 people in 2011.

With continuous student interest in this opportunity, the Senior Project staff has not made many profound changes in these last couple of years.

“We start early in September and encourage students to take the time they have to search for a community sponsor,” said Senior Project Coordinator, Susan Thorngren. “We want students to find something they’re passionate about as their topic before they select their community sponsor.”

To help students find their sponsors, the Senior Project staff organizes workshops to guide them through the process of committing to their project. Often, the most daunting part of the process is finding a sponsor.

At the beginning of this year, roughly 300 students expressed interest in Senior Project. “We usually start with a number, and about half of those students end up turning in proposals and eventually going on Senior Project,” added Thorngren.

With the option to drop out

of the project at almost any point, a large handful of students decide not to go after previously showing interest. One of those students is Michael Williams, who wasn’t able to find a community sponsor for his project. “I feel like for such an individual project, it can be kind of hard to find a person or business that fully understands and helps your project,” said Williams.

However, for the students who do decide to participate, Senior Project has proven to be memorable and helpful for their future.

In a survey of former Senior Project students, 93% of alumni agree that it was an important transitional experience from high school to the world beyond.

Along with that, 94% agree that Senior Project enabled them to learn new skills that will be helpful to them in the future.

Last year, certain projects included working with the U.S. Coast Guard and interning with ABC News.

This year, projects include filming the NBA Combine, marketing at Discover, building a drone, and creating culturally influenced cookbooks.

Some of the most common projects usually fall in the departments of elementary education, nursing, music, and photography.

Although those are common topics, Senior Project delivers endless options.

“We have people working in all levels of education, and a lot of people who want to go into nursing,” mentioned Thorngren. “But there is always a wide range of projects each year.”

Personality tests can yield creepy results

by Emma Willcocks

Sometimes personality tests are pretty accurate, while other times, they’re not. 16personalities.com claims their tests are so accurate that “it’s a little bit creepy.”

16personalities.com is a website where you can take a free personality test that takes less than twelve minutes. In return, they’ll give you your personality profile, complete with information about friends, family, relationships, work, strengths, and weaknesses. But how does it work?

This type of personality test is done by the Myers-Briggs assessment. It was created during World War II to help women find what kind of job they would be most comfortable in.

It works on the assumption that there are two opposite cognitive functions: judging functions, like thinking and feeling, as well as perceiving functions, such as intuition and sensation.

Like the way a person is left or right handed, each person finds they prefer a certain combination of these traits. The total amount of possible combinations, and therefore potential personalities, is sixteen.

The first category by which people are divided is attitude. One is either extroverted (E) or introverted (I). When extroverted, one tends to act first and reflect later, look for a wide collection of knowledge, prefer more frequent interactions, and get their energy from spending time with other people.

On the other hand, introverts tend to reflect first and then react, seek a greater depth of knowledge, prefer fewer but more substantial interactions, and get their energy from spending time alone. Extroverts direct their energy towards people and objects, while introverts turn towards thoughts and ideas.

Next are information-gathering, or perceiving functions. They explain how one processes and seeks new information. Sensing (S) means one is data driven and prefers making decisions off of facts that are clearly laid out and tangible to them. They don’t trust hunches and prefer data and facts.

Intuition (N) means one trusts hunches and is more likely to rely on past knowledge or experiences to

make a decision in the present. They also tend to think more about future possibilities and the underlying theories behind an idea.

The third category of the personality profile are the decision making functions, either thinking (T) or feeling (F). If one is a thinking personality, they tend to make decisions from a detached point of view, relying on logic and what is reasonable, not emotions. Feeling personalities tend to empathize with situations and try to see things from others’ points of view, making decisions based on these feelings.

The final personality grouping is based on one’s lifestyle, whether judging (J) or perceptive (P). Those with judging personalities tend to use to-do lists, meet deadlines, and have things planned out ahead of time.

Perceptive ones like to keep options open, leave things to the last minute, and work in short bursts of energy.

Unlike the Myers-Briggs assessment, 16personalities.com adds on a sub-category, either assertive (A) or turbulent (T). A-types are calm, relaxed, don’t worry too much, and tend to stay pretty emotionally stable. T-types are perfectionists, self-conscious, self-driven, and care about their image. This sub-category letter is added on after the initial four letters.

For each of these categories, we tend to have one trait that we exhibit more than the other. Taking the letter in each category that suits you best creates your personality type.

The online personality test works by making each question target a specific category of the personalities. One answer will correlate with one trait and the second with the other. It then takes all answers in each category and sees which trait your answers tended to lean towards.

16personalities.com then takes this answer and gives you a complete description of your personality.

This is the part where things get weird, because if the test was done well, the descriptions will be strangely accurate.

It provides reasons for why you behave the way you do, what the strong points of your personality are, and where you have room for improvement.

With personality tests, there are no “better” personality types than

others. Some may be better suited for different situations than others.

For example, a surgeon may not want to be a person with a feeling personality type, because in the middle of an operation, they shouldn’t start to empathize with the patient. They need to maintain a clear and detached point of view during the operation.

However, a feeling personality would be great for anyone who relies on communication, whether acting, writing, or reporting.

New Trier Psychology teacher, Sarah Jerutis, was more skeptical about the accuracy of the test, saying, “The Myers-Briggs test used to be a very popular personality inventory, especially in the corporate arena, but in recent years it has come under some criticism as people are looking more closely at it and realizing that there’s a lack of research to back it up.”

She used to give it to her students “to see where they fell between the two sides” but now she uses it “to raise the topic of research and the Barnum effect.”

The Barnum effect is when someone finds personal validation in vague statements that apply to everyone, and then rates the prediction, horoscope, advice, or personality test as highly accurate.

The statements tend to be applicable to most people, with descriptions such as, “You tend to be highly critical of yourself,” or, “You exercise a great deal of control and self-discipline, but on the inside tend to be worrisome and insecure.”

This phenomena might explain why everyone is pleasantly surprised with how accurate they feel their personality test turns out.

Jerutis added about the Myers-Briggs, “Also, it is just difficult to take a twenty minute test that accurately captures all the aspects of one’s personality.”

So while the personality tests aren’t guaranteed to be correct, they tend to surprise people with how relevant they are.

Junior Liz Sollitt said, “It was weird. I felt like the personality described me pretty well. There was a little bit that didn’t totally fit me, but I was on the border for a lot of the traits, so that’s probably why. Overall, though, it seemed pretty good.”