

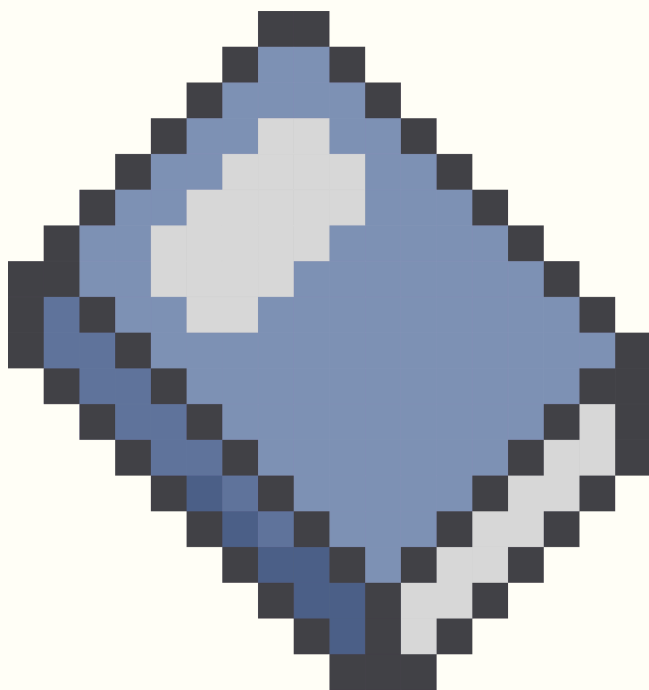
The City College of New York

STEM INSTITUTE

SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATHEMATICS



SPRING 2026 ART CONTEST



Forward:

Every student at the CCNY STEM Institute has a story, and although we get to see a glimpse of it through their final projects, I hope that the start of these art contests allows us to get a better look at the moments that are important to them in these formative years. Art is a unifying force. Whether it be hand-painted, digital, paper crafts, music, a play, or any other form, it's an insight into the mind of the creator. I am overjoyed to see the little moments, from learning to enjoy mathematics, to reminiscing about victories in contests, to daily insights of class time, and capturing the elements that surround us at the campus. I hope to see many more artworks from our students, and I hope this is just a small step in their journey as creators.

- Sebastian Grygorczuk



“Accomplished” Sofia Tolipan



The top left corner shows everything I've accomplished in order, I've learned, I've designed using what I now knew, and finally I'm creating something with a tool unfamiliar to me. This experience was lucid and unexpected which represented by the abstract background surrounding the whole canvas. It was an experience filled with fun and new accomplishments to look back upon.



“The Statue” Efren Romero Escobar



This work depicts a figure on a pedestal, suggesting someone important or someone being observed. However, the red background creates a sense of intensity or pressure, and the figure's back-turned position conveys distance or disconnection. The smudge on the face obscures the figure's identity, allowing it to represent not just one person, but anyone in that position.

For me, although the work began spontaneously and without a clear idea, its meaning emerged during the process. I ended up seeing it as a representation of how some people with power or admiration can isolate themselves in their own world. Despite being in a high or visible position, they can feel alone or disconnected.

In that sense, the work speaks not only to a specific figure, but to a more general idea: that being in an important position doesn't always mean being well inside.

“Launch Phase of life” by Ayesha Siddika



Description:

The drawing features a silver, riveted rocket—evoking a sense of classic, sturdy engineering—ascending diagonally from a vibrant blue Earth. The background is a dense, textured black space, punctuated by bright yellow stars and distant planets. The rocket's trail is a thick, fiery plume of orange and red, showing the immense energy required to break free from gravity. At the top right, a glowing sun waits as the ultimate destination.

What it means to me:

The Weight of Ambition:

The fiery exhaust represents the “burn” of my junior year. For me handling Regents exams and SATs it symbolizes the massive amount of effort and “fuel” currently being spent to get my future plans off the ground.

The Transition Point:

The rocket is physically between the Earth and the Sun. This reflects my experience of being “in-between”—no longer just a kid in the safety of home (Earth), but not yet at the final goal (the Sun/College/Career). It captures that feeling of being mid-flight toward a major life change.

Targeting a “Bright” Future:

The Sun isn't just a star here; it's a symbol of clarity and success. For me focusing on competitive goals—like medical research club—the Sun represents the high standards that I am aiming for.

Navigating the Unknown:

The other planets and stars represent the options and distractions along the way. It's a reminder for me that while the path is set toward one goal, the universe of possibilities is huge, and staying on course requires both precision and “thrust.”

"Conservation Breakage"

Nadine Frkala



Piece is based from personal comic on break time in school with students lining up and choosing from menu.



“Romanticization of Mathematics”

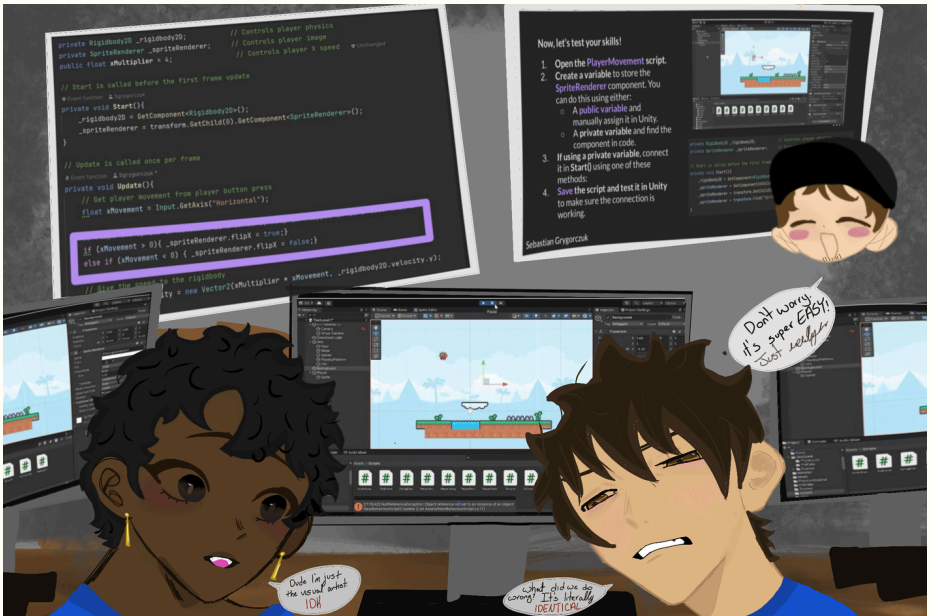
Ashley Yambo



I really had found myself enjoying mathematics this year for no particular reason. At CCNY, studying pre-calculus has really helped that newfound enjoyment of mathematics flourish and bloom. I wanted to capture that joy and quietness of sitting down just studying new concepts.



“Sebastian Quotes” Tichielle Hope



This piece is me and my buddies working on our group project and doing classwork together by messing around, programming and having fun.

"Self Portrait"

Brayden-H. Previllon



It represents who I am at least an old version of who I was.

"Game Programming Group"

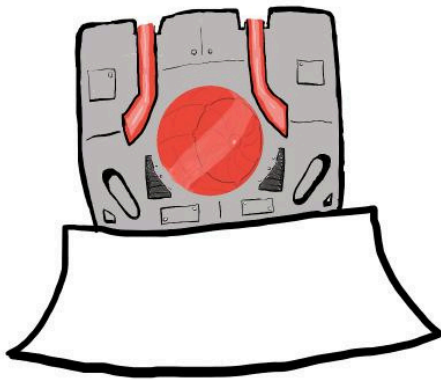
Aadrian Hernandez



This piece is me and my buddies working on our group project and doing classwork together by messing around, programming and having fun.

“When I won a game jam”

Aiden Smith Reid



This is based off of my game desire which is the game that helped me win the recycling game jam and I feel like that was my best moments in STEM.