

expressive Voices

One of the highlights of the year was our second annual **STEAM Showcase**, bringing together students from all of our STEAM courses: Visual Art, Studio Art, AP Studio Art, Graphic Design, CAD, STEAM II, and Mechatronics. Scholars designed and collaborated around the theme of Identity, critically and creatively reflecting on what it means to be a human person.

This integration of courses and projects reflects our own desire for integration—for wholeness. We seek an understanding of our own person that somehow incorporates all of the various, unique, diverse, and even conflicting components that make us who we are. And we know that this journey, when traveled with authenticity, is elusive, painful, joyful, rewarding, and continually compelling.

Together and apart, our scholars made this journey. Through a variety of mediums and with a diversity of voices, SJP students asked themselves perhaps the most important question of high school—and maybe of life: Who am I? And they didn't stop there. They asked the broader question: Who are we?

The results were more than aesthetically pleasing. They were awe-inspiring. From the “simple tools” prompt to the “make-a-machine” project, students used fundamental elements and basic materials to create meaningful, stimulating pieces. Whether it was “personal logos” or “clever cartoons,” whether it was “self-portraits” or “stylized photographs,” students expressed how they see themselves... and how they see humanity.

Nothing was more breath-taking and thought-provoking than the life-sized art presented on the stage in Phoenix Hall, an imaginary “forest” of light and color, of natural beauty and human frailty and technological power, sprinkled with the “masks” that we inhabitants so often wear. Here, our students found their voices...and in the silence of the expansive display, we heard their voices.

It was a powerful representation—and reminder—that we are both/and creatures.

We are both the masks and what lies behind the masks. We are both shadow and substance, light and dark, reality and illusion. Each of us knows weakness and strength, belief and doubt, isolation and connection, confusion and clarity, anxious-ness and awesome-ness, desolation and consolation. We are both material and spiritual, animal and machine; we are body, mind, and soul...human...fully, beautifully, mysteriously human.

This is what our students discovered, created, and voiced. And in doing so, they call us to cherish this remarkable journey of discovering who we are.



Above: Lithographic prints produced in the Studio Art course displayed on the walls of the stairway. **Left:** Digitally produced illustrations of the words themselves created in the STEAM I: Intro to Graphic Design class. **Background:** Large-scale sculptures conceived of and constructed by the students in the Advanced Studio Art class. This display adorned the entire stage in Phoenix Hall and inspired the theme of the STEAM Showcase. When the lights were dimmed in the Hall, the array glowed with light and reflection.