

Inspired by Stella

Exhibition of Student Art
September 21 - November 12, 2017

Inspired by Stella runs concurrently with the exhibition *Frank Stella Prints: A Retrospective*, as students drew inspiration from the artwork of Frank Stella, one of the most groundbreaking and influential American artists. Known for his abstract prints and paintings, Stella's work inspired the minimalist movement of the 1960s and employs almost exclusively line, volume, color, and shape--removing the illusion of three-dimensions and highlighting nonrepresentational shapes on flat canvas. Observers of both *Frank Stella Prints: A Retrospective* and *Inspired by Stella* find a conglomeration of mind-bending abstract creations through the mirroring of bold colors, strong shapes, and linear-focused designs.

The vivid selection of student artwork in *Inspired by Stella* was juried by Museum curators and art educators, then arranged to show the varied use of elements as interpreted by the blossoming artists. More than 175 works of art were submitted from across the River Region and beyond, from elementary to high schools, as well as from homeschool students and those in private instruction, making it a difficult task to narrow down the survey to what is seen on these walls. Some pieces are cleanly geometrical--much like Stella's stripes phase--while others utilize color, shape, and volume in ways that mimic Stella's pure abstraction and purposeful chaos.

Considered piece by piece or taken in as a whole, *Inspired by Stella* strikingly complements the art of Frank Stella. Many thanks to all of the young artists who took the time to develop and submit work for this exhibition, and to their instructors for culturing such open creative expression.