



**Scholastic
Art & Writing
Awards**

Alliance for
Young Artists
& Writers

Reentering the Classroom: Grief, Trauma, and Covid-19 Educator's Guide

This activity highlights a piece of student artwork about grief from the 2021 National Exhibition. Students can respond to the work based on their experiences during the pandemic. View more educator resources at artandwriting.org/classroom-guides.

Figures and Fragments

National Core Visual Art Standards: VA2, VA8

Objective: Students will study how to use line and symbols to compose a scene.



Ilhana Kisija, *Past Ways Say Stay*, Drawing & Illustration.
Grade 12, Niles North High School, Skokie, IL. **Melissa Connell**,
Educator; Gold Medal, New York Life Award

About This Work: Ilhana fills a dark space with tangled, mouthless figures. She sketches swirling lines and concentric circles within the outlines of the figures. This adds a sense of unsettling movement and energy to the scene. Objects and symbols, including rolls of film, numbers, and a birthday cake, float within the figures. The scattered objects and symbols suggest fragments of memories. The haunting figures surround a girl with a suitcase in the lower right corner. She wears an exhausted facial expression and looks up wearily at the figures around her.

Discussion

How does Ilhana use line and shape to compose the scene? (Ilhana sketches swirling lines and concentric circles within the outlines of the swarming figures, adding a sense of unsettling movement and energy to the scene.)

How does Ilhana incorporate symbols? (Ilhana draws objects and symbols within the tangled figures. They suggest fragments of memories.)

Sketchbook Starter: Sketch a scene that captures a time you felt overwhelmed during the past year. Use symbols to represent your thoughts and emotions.

Write About Art: Imagine the scene that comes after the one depicted in this work. Write a short story about what happens next.



Scholastic Art is a classroom magazine that brings art history to life in your middle school and high school visual arts education program. For more information, please visit scholastic.com/art