

Q. Tell us a little about yourself:

A. My name is Emily. I currently live on Long Island, New York, and I am a student at Ross School. I have been studying art since I was young and have always had a strong interest in it. I hope to continue developing my skills and pursuing art more deeply in the future. Outside of school, I regularly create artwork and enjoy exploring different themes and styles.

Q. What first came to mind when you saw the theme “Roots and Resonance”?

A. When I first saw the theme “Roots and Resonance,” I immediately thought about my hometown and my family history. I grew up hearing stories about my grandfather, who was a fisherman, and the traditional beliefs people had about nature and protection. These memories felt like my “roots,” and I wanted to show how they still echo in my mind today.

Q. What does the theme mean to you personally?

A. To me, “Roots and Resonance” means that even when I am far away from home, my cultural background and personal memories continue to influence who I am. Living and studying abroad makes me feel the distance more strongly, but it also makes me realize that these roots are always inside me. They are not something in the past, they are still alive.

Q. How did your work connect to your own experiences, identity, or community?

A. My work is directly connected to my identity as someone from a coastal village in Fujian. I used symbols inspired by local traditions, such as sea-related imagery and protective spirits, to reflect how people in my community relate to nature. The piece also reflects my personal experience of leaving that environment and trying to understand it from a distance.

Q. Can you tell us about the idea behind your work?

A. The idea behind my work is to create a visual “map” of memory and belief. I combined elements from mythology, family stories, and real landscapes to build a world that feels both personal and symbolic. The flowing lines connect different scenes, like how memories and traditions are connected across time.

Q. Was the piece you submitted a good example of your usual art, or did you try something new?

A. This piece is different from my usual work. Before, I always used shading and tones, but in this work I focused only on lines, which was new for me. I also never made something this large and complex before. At first, I wanted to design each creature as a separate card, like a game. But later I felt they needed to be connected, so I turned the idea into a map and put everything together in one piece.