



**Jinsol Ashley Inno**

Grade 11

Catholic Central High School

Troy

Art Teacher: Timothy Heilman

Principal: Christopher

Bott

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### **Self-Portrait**

Oil Pastel

Mr. Heilman instructed the *Painting and Drawing* class to produce an oil pastel self portrait done in a way similar to the way the Impressionists approached painting. We were given the freedom of using mirrors and student-produced photographs using the digital camera in the classroom. He stressed dramatic or “Rembrandt” lighting. I directed my classmate, Su Jung Stephanie Kim, as to how to take my picture, and adjusted lights to achieve a serious but not harsh image. Once I had a satisfactory image, the photo was printed out to a usable size, and I worked from that. My objective was to produce an image that projected a light-hearted but pensive side of me. Some of what happened was not consciously planned, it occurred as I worked. I deliberately used “artistic license” to change or correct the colors. For example, some parts of the photograph were a bit too yellow. Also, while the photograph displayed sharply defined edges, I softened those edges in order to create the mood I was after. The hardest part of the art work was mixing the colors – I had not used oil pastels since elementary school. At first I was simply drawing with them, but then I developed some mastery over applying them heavily and mixing them together in a painterly way. I have always admired Claude Monet’s paintings, so I was pleased to be getting a result similar to what I see in his paintings. Being chosen for the Legislature exhibit was very gratifying and an affirmation that I my hard work was rewarded.