



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

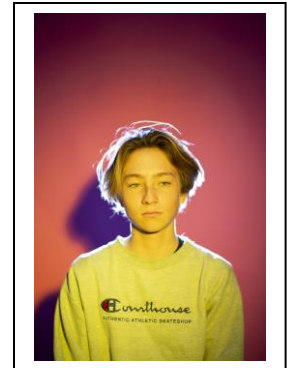
January 28, 2019

### **Samohi Student Art Exhibit “3” Open to the Public**

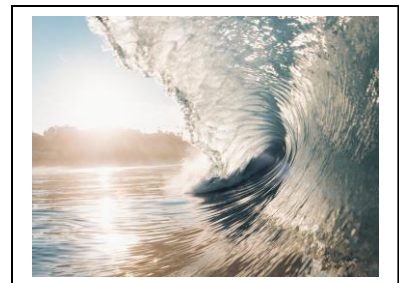
Santa Monica High School student art exhibit “3” opens on January 31, 2019 at 5 p.m. in Roberts Art Gallery on campus and the public is invited to attend. The installation is by three emerging student artists promoting their newest work: Deen Babakhyi, Henry Hume and Jacob Wilkes.

The exhibit features Hume’s ocean photography and his latest Uganda humanitarian work; Babakhyi’s portrait and skate-lifestyle photography and Wilkes’ abstract paintings and photos. These Santa Monica High School students join a select few high school students who have exhibited work at the campus gallery located at 601 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA.

Babakhyi’s newest portraits coupled with his timeless skateboard-lifestyle images create an inside look into the adolescent lives of Santa Monica teenagers. Photos recognized by the New York Times and Getty Museum will be shown at this show exclusively. Babakhyi will also be presenting never-before-seen books and zines.



Hume will be displaying his passion for his local environment as well as his recent humanitarian visit to Uganda. Hume has been orchestrating and photographing his closest friends’ adventures and beloved Southern California coastline for the past six years. He is a seeker and is committed to experiencing as much of the world as possible -- especially where there is surf. In addition to his still photography, Hume is an experienced videographer. He will be showcasing some of his video work as well.



Wilkes’ paintings, portraiture, zines and mural work will be showcased. Aside from personal work, he has both assisted and directed public works in Santa Monica, including a large-scale sculptural installation and two murals. Next year, Wilkes will be studying multidisciplinary photography and design at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications within Syracuse University.

“I am very proud of our student artists who take their craft seriously and are pursue professional-level opportunities,” Samohi Photo Teacher Martin Ledford said. “Our art programs

at Samohi and within SMMUSD are producing top artists in every discipline, which is benefiting our students.”

Student artwork will be for sale in a silent auction format, to cover the costs of the installation. Street parking is available as well as parking at the Santa Monica Civic Center. Parking fees will apply. Refreshments will be available. Everyone is welcome to attend. Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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