

# 2023 Art Contest Winners

AWARENESS  
+ Action  
= **Social  
Change**



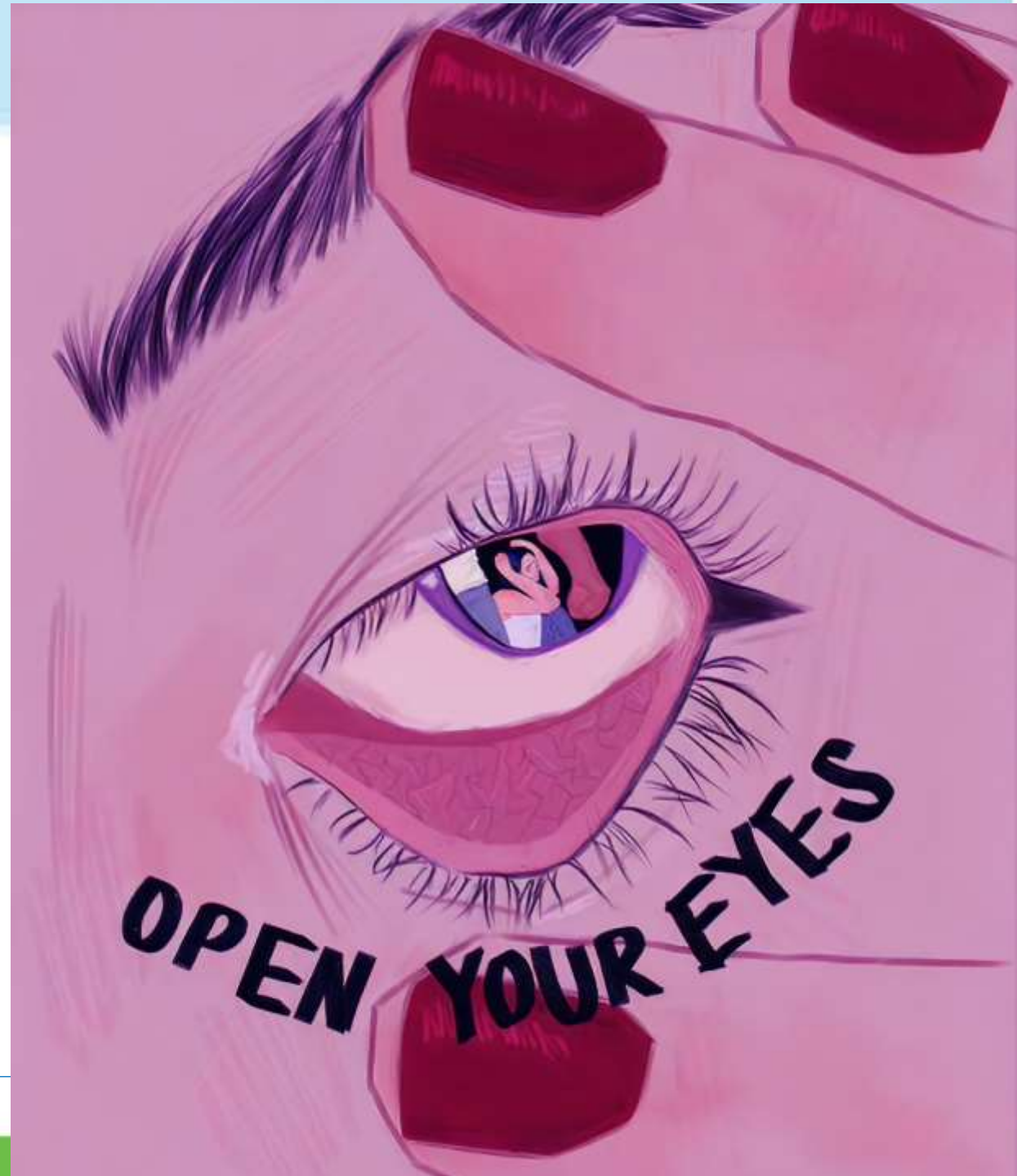
FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
**FAMILY SERVICES**



# “Open Your Eyes ” -Kenayah Mutombo

“My artwork 'Open Your Eyes' is in reference to teenagers in and witnessing dating violence for the purpose of encourage seeing the wrongness and reality of it. it's easy to get caught up in the idea that this is was love looks like or is supposed to be this is precisely why it's important to learn and recognize the signs then proceed accordingly to keep you and others safe.”

**Winner: Most On-Theme**



# “Ground” -Cease Lucero

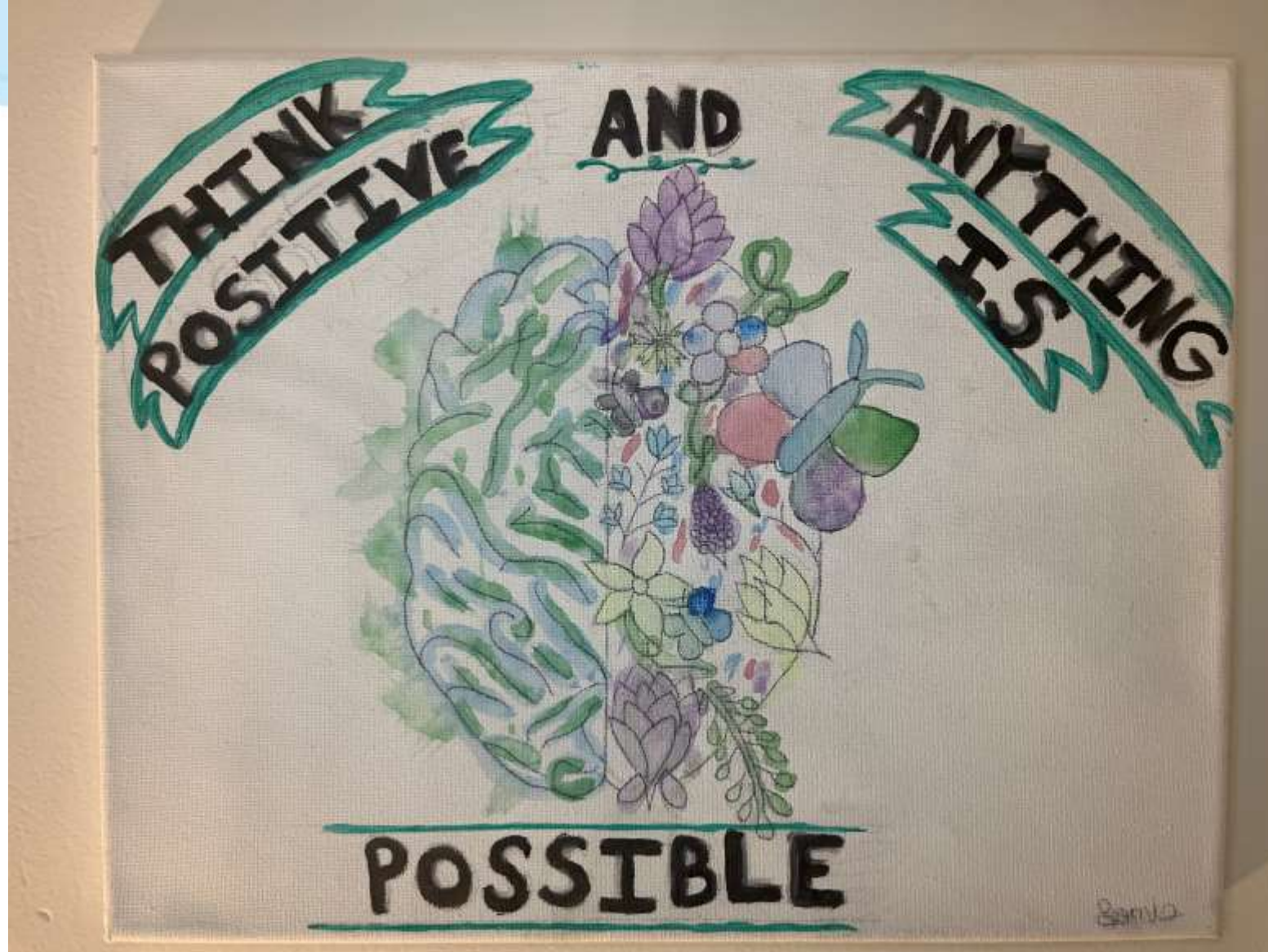
“This is about a person that thinks they've found the perfect person and find themselves trapped in the life they thought they wanted.”



**Winner: Most Original**

**“There’s always a  
bright side to  
anything”  
-Somia Gorashi**

**“My work connects to the  
theme as the transformation of  
attitude and positive thinking  
leads to a brighter social future”**



**Winner: People’s Choice**

# “The Blind Against the Power ”

## -Christina Oh

“I wanted to portray someone secretive and deceitful. I pictured the girl as blind and mute representing how she can't see the harm that she is about to endure and she has no say in what happens next. She can't see that the hot and dangerous magma is invading her bright spirit and is about to harm her because all she feels is a hand pretending to help her. The brick is supposed to be like a dark alley to show that not everything is out in the open and usually happens in secret. The magma man is also painted larger to show his power against the woman. I see teen dating violence as something with unbalanced power and possibly harm. It can also be hard to realize someone or yourself is going through it because of the way the other person has everything set up.”

**Winner: Most Powerful Message**



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# “Silenced Stitching” -Lana Alekseeva

“Many victims of domestic violence are silenced by their abusers. This art piece expresses those feelings.”

**Winner: Best Presentation**

