

# A Canvas Called Home

2025 Digital Art Compendium



Saskatoon  
Open Door  
Society





# 2025 Digital Art Compendium

- i. Foreword and Dedication
- ii. Acknowledgements
- iii. About the T-Shirt Design Contest

## **Digital Category**

- 7. A Place You Call Home by Reazul Islam
- 8. Earth by Xiang Li
- 9. A Family's Touch by Temiloluwa David
- 10 A Canvas Called Home by Jolaolu Oluwaferanmi
- 11.A Canvas So Known by Mahak Azeem
- 12.Coming Home by Amie Do

## **Non-Digital Category**

- 13. Home by Ao Li
- 14. The National Sports of Canada and the Philippines by Princess Sara
- 15. We Rise Together by David Htoo
- 16. The Love of the World by Yonatan Andom
- 17. Home by Grace Shungaza
- 18. World as a Safe Place by Nanel Melnychuk
- 19. Home for Everyone by Fides Bigrimana
- 20. Home in Canada by Divyansh Singh
- 21. Welcome Home to Canada by Dyson Alano
- 22. The World is a Home to Us All by Seim Gebresilassie
- 23. New Home, New Canvas by Jiachen Zhou
- 24. Park Lake by Dayverty Valencia Gamboa
- 25. A Home For Everyopne by Aii Joycari
- 26. Credits





# A Canvas Called Home

*The glow of the screen is gentle, welcoming—each pixel a brushstroke in an evolving art. Within “A Canvas Called Home”, digital artists from around Saskatoon unfold their private sanctuaries: ethereal landscapes born from imagination, quiet corners of revolutionary color, and portraits that pulse with emotive life. Every contribution feels like stepping into someone’s living memory, rooms soaked in golden light, abstract patterns that hum with memory, and surreal fabrications that whisper of futures not yet dreamed. It’s a gallery, a shared breathing space, a digital hearth where creativity finds not just expression, but belonging...*





# Foreward and Dedication

Every T-shirt starts as a blank canvas, an empty promise waiting for someone's imagination to fill it. A Canvas Called Home brings together designs that did just that; transforming cotton and thread into wearable declarations of creativity and belonging.

This compendium is a celebration of the artists who turned simple shirts into statements—reflecting our shared stories, dreams, humor, and hope.

To every participant, thank you for inviting us into your creative home.

— Ahmad Majid  
Fund Development & Communications Manager





# Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without the incredible artists who shared their visions, the dedicated volunteers who made the contest run smoothly, our generous sponsors, and the supportive community who cheered the artists on.

Thank you for helping us make this canvas feel like home.



# About the T-Shirt Design Contest

The “A Canvas Called Home” T-Shirt Design Contest invited artists from various backgrounds aged 13-21 to turn everyday apparel into an expression of identity and imagination. The goal was simple: to transform a blank T-shirt into a canvas that speaks to the idea of ‘home’; whether that’s a physical place, a memory, a feeling, or a dream for the future.

Participants explored themes of community, cultural roots, belonging, resilience, and the diverse ways people define “home” in an ever-changing world.

The contest received 22 submissions from Saskatoon/Canada, showcasing the remarkable talent and unique perspectives of our creative community.

Winning designs were selected based on originality, visual impact, relevance to theme, and potential to inspire conversation through wearable art.





# *A Place you Call Home* by *Reazul Islam*



A place you call home can be anywhere. Since you live in Canada, there are many cultures and many people call different places home, and different countries home. Home can also be a place or thing you love, or is dear to your heart, like a sport you play, a culture that you're from, or a kid's favorite toy. So with my art, I tried to bring out all of these beautiful concepts.



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1st Place Digital Category





# Earth by Leo



To every human being, Earth is not just a planet but it is our silent, steadfast home. She nourishes us with life, offers her care without condition, and remains even through times of turmoil. Though families may face conflict, the essence of home never abandons us. That enduring presence inspired this piece.

In the artwork, Earth is shown as a caring, gentle figure who's holding the planet close in her arms—like a mother comforting her child. Her hair flows like leaves, with flowers blooming throughout, symbolizing life, growth, and warmth.





*A family's Touch*  
by  
*Temiloluwa David*



The Stickman in the middle represents a person. The hands are the stickman's home because home is not just four walls and a roof, home is the people who protect you and keep you physically, emotionally and sometimes even keep you financially safe.

The crosshatch shading although to add texture also had it's meaning. The love of a family (home) is rarely simple, it is layered like the lines layered in crosshatching. It is simple, not too colourful but it captures home completely from my perspective.





# *A Canvas Called Home* by *Oluwaferanmi Jolaolu*



**My home country, Nigeria, is beautifully represented in this design.**

**The landscape features a modified version of Aso Rock in Abuja and incorporates significant elements of the Nigerian coat of arms, including the Eagle, the Horse, and the Y-shaped shield, all set against the backdrop.**

**This symbolizes my deep connection to and love for my homeland. Additionally, small doves adorn the top of the design, evoking memories of my local church in Nigeria, The Redeemed Christian Church of God. In the clouds, words that resonate with my experience of Nigeria - Memories, Home, Peace, and Love-are carefully included.**





Canvas So Known  
by  
Mahak Azeem.



**"A Canvas So Known", explores the emotional and physical elements that transform a house into a sanctuary. I used elements like teacups, rocking chairs, pillows, and candles because they convey a sense of comfort and security. Teddy bear, photo frame, and bubbles represent nostalgia. I decided to use these because they reflect the bittersweet act of leaving behind a home full of memories to build a new one in a different country. I also added graphics like a clock, laptop, and books because I use these the most as a student. I added elements of fruits and plants because they represent love and care. My siblings and I don't like fruits but the cycle of not eating them and my parents still getting them for us illustrates silent, enduring love. Plants liven up the place and require us to care for them. "A Canvas So Known" captures my perception of home through ideas of comfort, nostalgia, and love. By adding everyday elements that I see in my home, my artwork reflects its title.**



# Coming Home by Amie Do



"Where we love is home - home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts."



**The meaning of home and family  
Inspiration, the roots of peace and  
Inspiration for life.**

**Where we love is home - home that our  
feet may leave, but not our hearts."**





Home  
by  
Ao Li



In my eyes, the Saskatchewan is  
my “Big Home” with the  
sunshine, the moose, the  
wheats;  
but in my reality “Small Home”,  
my dad likes to drink ice wine,  
my mum likes to drink coffee,  
and I like to drink fruit tea. I  
love my sweet small home and I  
also love Saskatchewan, the big  
home.





# *The National Sports of Canada and the Philippines by Princess Sara*



I drew 2 national sports of Canada and Philippines because it's the national sports of their countries. I wrote the words "Welcome Home" because both Canada and the Philippines are now my home. I used the colours green and blue because they represent the earth and I used other colours to look colourful for the clothes. My knowledge of the national sports inspired me to draw.





# *We Rise Together* by David Htoo



I drew a world with people around it holding hands because we are all human. I wrote Community, Diversity, and Inclusion around it because they explain the pictures I drew.

I was inspired by books I read.





# *The Love of the World* by *Yonatan Andom*



I made a heart because it represents love. I made a world because we all live on the same planet. I wrote diversity, inclusion, community, love because these words explain the world.



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# Home by Grace Shungaza



I drew the earth because we all live on the same planet. I made hands because we are a community and all humans. I put the word "home" because we all live on the same planet earth. I was inspired by pictures I have seen.





# *World as a Safe Place* by *Nanel Melnychuk*



I made a Canada map and humans because that is what we are. I put the words "You are important in here" because everyone in Canada is Important. I was inspired by my own imagination. I chose the colours, blue, red, yellow, orange, purple, gray, black, because these colours have special meaning.



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# *A Home for Everyone*

by  
*Fides Bigirimana*



I made a world to show that we all live in the same world. I made people to show community. I put the word "Home" to show that Canada is home to a lot of people.





# Home in Canada by Divyansh Singh



I drew Canada because this is about Canada. I wrote the word “Home” because Canada is my home now. I used the colours blue and green to show the earth, and I was inspired by the books I read.





# *Welcome Home to Canada*

by  
*Dyson Alano*



I drew Canada because I want to shine my knowledge. I wrote the words “Freedom and Peace” because Canada has freedom and is peaceful. I was inspired by the story, drawing and my idols.





# *The World is a Home to Us All*

by  
*Seim Gebresilassie*



I made the shirt about a world with people to show that the world is for everyone and to treat everyone the same even if we have our differences .



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# *New Home, New Canvas*

by  
*Jiachen Zhou*



The meaning of my design is that moving to a new home is akin to the first step of drawing a new painting on a new canvas, as the person would be able to essentially start everything fresh in a new place. I chose this design to relate to the topic "A Canvas Called Home" because if our journey of our life can be compared to a drawing on a canvas board, then the homes can be compared to the canvas, which is a place where we live out or paint out our drawings of life.

Since the design is for the Saskatoon Open Door Society, which involves in helping new comers getting settled in Saskatoon, I also correlated the idea of setting up a new life to starting fresh a new sheet of paper on the canvas, which can be seen in my design with an old paper crumpled away underneath to further emphasize the idea of "starting fresh".

The painting on the new paper is also not finished, to further emphasize that finding a new home, such as coming to Canada, was only the first step to painting a new art of life, and that there are so much more and so much room left to explore for things that will fulfill your art of life. The colours in the design also held significant meanings. For example, the land of Canada uses the colour green, which represented the idea of support for the newcomers, signifying that Canada is a welcoming place for people to paint out their dreams, ideals, and their new lives on, like a pure, smooth canvas board. The colour pallets on the other hand, symbolizes the help that many new settlers receives during their "painting" of their new life on the new canvas of their new homes in Canada.

I used red and orange for the heart and the fire, to symbolize the passion and warmth of the community and the volunteers, while the yellow conveys hope through the sun that radiates out the warmth, hope and energy that all of us depends on to survive, and lastly, the purple shows unity, as can be seen with the gesture of the two hands, holding each other on.





*Park Lake*  
*by*  
*Dayvert Valencia Gamboa*



I made the earth to show that we all live in a community. I was inspired by Open Door. I chose the colours red, blue and yellow because a rose is red and the water is blue and the sun is yellow.





# *A Home For Everyone* by *Aii Joycari*



I made a world in the middle because I needed a planet for the people to stand on.

I made people down there to show friendship. I made people holding hands to show trust. I put the word "Home" because we all live in the same world. I was inspired by pictures I saw





# **C o n t a c t   &   C r e d i t s**

**Presented by: Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS)**

**Design & Layout: SODS Communications Team**

**Student Coordination: Settlement and Community Services Team (SODS) and all  
School Teachers of Represented Schools**

**Judges: Prof. Olga Shanina (Academic Professor, Social Worker (SODS) and Artist)  
Peace Akintade (Saskatchewan Poet Laureate)**

**Ahmad Majid (Spoken Word Artist & Fund Development & Communications  
Manager, SODS)**

**Contact: [sods.sk.ca](http://sods.sk.ca)**







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Saskatoon Open Door Society  
129 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue N Saskatoon SK S7K 2H4



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