

# BERNIE BUZZ

News from Senator Bernie Sanders

## HANA RISNER

Sophomore, Brattleboro, VT

**“Qualle”**

### ***For those readers who don't know you, could you tell us a bit about yourself?***

My name is Hana Risner, I'm fifteen and a sophomore in high school. I love to travel, bake, swim, downhill ski, and binge watch random shows. I love animals, but especially dogs, which is why I've been walking dogs as a business for about 3 years now. I was born in Japan, but grew up in Brattleboro, VT, and I speak German because of my mother's side of the family. I love hanging out with my friends and doing stupid stuff. I love fall and winter but really don't like the heat of summer. Once I start talking, it can be hard to stop me.

### ***What interested/inspired you to become an artist? What does being an artist mean to you?***

I love the process. When I was younger and something wasn't going my way, I would often just give up, but there is a difference between an unfinished, weird looking work and one that you aren't connected with. Being an artist is all about the process for me. It's the ability to see potential and look at the world from a step back. To be able to take base shapes and slowly add more layers.

### ***Do you have any advice for other students and/or people of all ages who are thinking about getting involved in art?***

My advice to anyone who wants to listen is simple. We all have something we enjoy doing whether it be sports, dance, eating, sleeping, etc. Art is only going to be worth it if YOU love it. Many people are scared to correlate art with work because it might take away their love for it and make it seem tedious. Sometimes I agree because, although competitions can be fun, only you can put worth to something you enjoy. Also, having “artist's block” is terrible, but hitting a wall in your art progress is worse, in my experience. Sometimes it's easier to draw something like an eye or a flower in 30 different styles until you can draw it your own way. Art is a mosaic of everything we feel, learn, experience and love.

### ***Can you tell us a bit about your piece and its meaning? What inspired you to create this work?***

I always loved the way that colored pencils popped on black paper, and even though I like working with watercolor paper more, the contrast made me want to take on this project. My mom is scared of the ocean, and, if you've ever seen an angler fish or any sharks, it makes sense. But, I have a different relationship with the ocean. I wanted to start with black which is the complete absence or absorption of color. I chose pink, gold and white to be my jellyfish colors because they are some of my favorite colors. Such bright colors in a place devoid of light. I just always imagined that if I died, and the world went black, I would look over and see a jellyfish bringing me up.

### ***Why do you think art is important? For our communities, for individuals, for society etc.***

I honestly could write a book about this. Art, whether it be dancing, singing, playing an instrument, painting, drawing, sculpture, or any of the other ways of expressing yourself, is a way of expressing life. I believe that if you use other art or music as a reference, or try to copy it, it's never going to be like the original. Just like every person is different, no art can be the same. Everyone has a way of talking, writing, thinking, even carrying themselves. Art is an extension of our beliefs and values. It can change your mood and inspire you. Even if I couldn't talk or couldn't hear, I would still be able to show myself through my art. Without showing life and experiences, what are we left with?