

The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks

A collection of sketches and poems by
Fifth-grade students from Phillips Elementary School



A detail of Douglas Cooper's mural in the University Center at Carnegie Mellon University.



An educational program offered by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation through the South Side Local Development Company's Neighborhood Assistance Program/Comprehensive Service Program, sponsored by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and PNC Bank.



Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Founded in 1964, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (Landmarks) is a non-profit historic preservation group serving Allegheny County. It is dedicated to identifying and preserving the architectural landmarks, historic neighborhoods, and historic designed landscapes of Allegheny County, and to educating people about this region's architectural heritage and urban and landscape design history.

Landmarks is recognized as one of the nation's leading historic preservation organizations. Its offices and reference library are located on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square.

If you are not yet a member of Landmarks, please join! Call 412-471-5808, ext. 527, for membership information or for details on our tours, preservation services, educational programs, and publications. Or visit our Web site at www.phlf.org. Your support will help us protect the places that make Pittsburgh home.

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*The printing of this booklet was supported, in part,
by a grant from The Grable Foundation.*

What's This Booklet All About?

It's about a two-hour field trip with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to Carnegie Mellon University on a December morning in 2005 where students:

- Saw Douglas Cooper's 200-foot-long, 10-foot-high mural of Pittsburgh. The mural includes illustrations of many historical and present-day South Side landmarks, and covers three walls on the second level of the University Center rotunda.
- Sketched a South Side landmark and then taped their sketches to a huge piece of paper, thus creating a mural of South Side landmarks to hang in their school hallway.
- Used one word they were assigned (such as "steel," "curved," or "walking") to write one sentence about the South Side landmark they sketched. Then, all the sentences were arranged in two "group poems" and published in this booklet on pages 4 and 5.

It's also about a 75-minute classroom session in the afternoon of the same day where each student:

- Selected a photograph of a South Side landmark and then used a charcoal pencil to sketch it.
- Composed a poem of a least four lines about that South Side landmark. Students were asked to use personification, alliteration, metaphors, and similes in their writing.

The student poems and sketches created during the afternoon session are published in this booklet. Each student was given a booklet and a copy was donated to the school library also.

"The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks" helps fulfill academic standards in the Arts and Humanities, History, Geography, and Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. The program also encourages students to look more closely at their neighborhood and to realize that the buildings and places close at hand can be sources for inspiration and creativity. Learning about a community helps build pride and encourages young people to take care of the places that add character and give significance to their hometown.



Rotunda, University Center, CMU

South Side area buildings and details



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The South Side Market House

My walls are red, I'm very big; you can see me
miles and miles away: I am the Market House.
I, the market, lived through the fire, sold fresh
food, and now am a place for kids to play.
When I'm in a fire, I have to find a fireman to hire.
I burned down and got fixed — and I still got a lot of bricks.

I am the cartouche that had enough strength to
live through a fire and tell a story about it.
I am a bull's head that rams into football players.
The horns on the bull are sharp.

Enter my center.
People make many memories when they enter
my stone doors.
They come through my doors to enjoy my insides.
My sign shows that the inside is the beginning of
your life, or the beginning of the rest of your life.

People once used my space like a grocery store
to get food.
They entered in my stomach to get food.
Now, people play in my basketball court.
There are walls in the halls.

My feet of hard stone are at the bottom of my
building body.
My windows are big and curved.
My arched windows curve like the streets
outside, watching the pride of the great South Side.
They are like abstract squares, holding the view
of the outside kingdom that lies beyond my outside walls.

I reach out to the baby-blue sky.
And stand beside a humongous green tree
looking over other people.

Phillips Elementary School, Mrs. Pilarski's Fifth-Grade Class
December 12, 2005

The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks



South Side Market House, Bedford Square

The Tenth Street Bridge

I, the bridge, lead to the South Side and many other places far and wide.
I am a gateway to work, home, and places you cherish.
I am a big, bright yellow bridge so wide that every time you drive on me you feel like you glide.
The way my bridge is so organized and neat, it looks so graceful like a treat.
At day I am golden as a ring and almost look like a king; you walk and talk and sometimes mock.
I see people, people see me; I feel cold, people feel cold; I make things happen.

Walking, driving over me like a big bath with moving cars with a swinging
feel all over me; you think I'm just a big, bright bridge made out of metal
but I'm not — you are driving on me.
My arms sway down to hold the crossing cars.
Walking, walking, talking: you walk all over me
and when you drive over me it feels like you're
giving me a back rub.

I am a bridge that is so high you'll want to fly.
Above, above, as the planes fly above me, and a
big tub's under me with toy boats and much more above:
the sun shines through the cars flowing past.
The tiny cars zoom across my colossal bridge.
Cars and trucks driving on me, over the water and to the sea.

Piers, oh piers, the bricks on your walls are strongest of all;
you know why? Because you hold up a large, bright bridge
that is very tall and strong.
My steel is as strong as bones.
I am strong like a cannon.
Cables hold me up and they shake when cars go across.
The connecting cables hold me tight, like the Grandma's hug I get every night.

Something is flowing beneath me; it is very wet and it's getting all over me.
Oh, I have a big river under me.
I am a bridge. I am stretched across a river to a hillside. The river splashes on my back.
The colors of my spine make me cry; I have it all, you help my back to stop the cracks.
It's hard enough to start the ball but they hold me up.

I have buildings that have patterns next to me.
The sky is blue and shining up above me.
I am as yellow as the sun on a bright sunny day.
Big, bright, yellow as can be; light as a lemon you see me: I am a bridge.



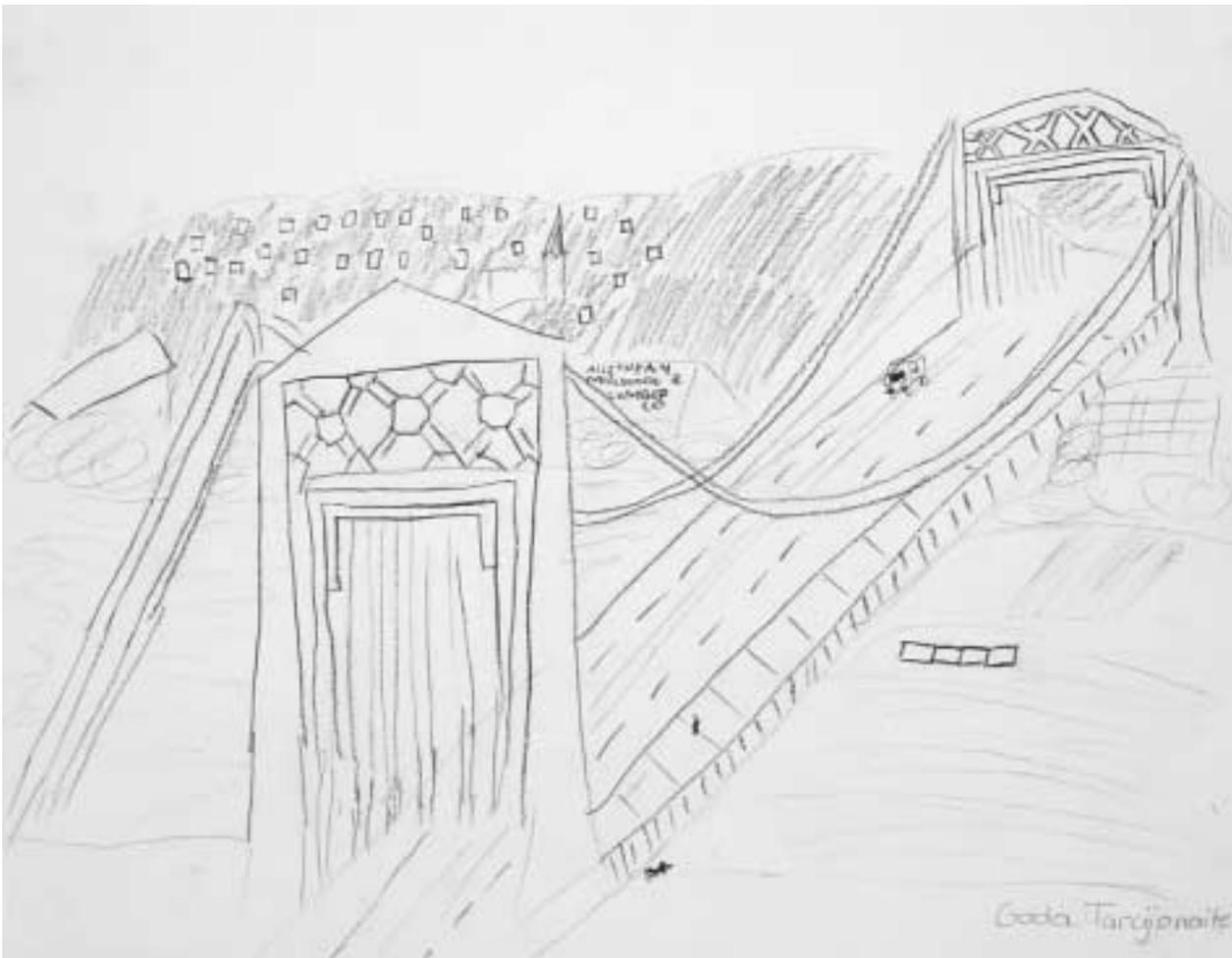
The Tenth Street Bridge and South Side Slopes
Photo by Jim Judkis

Phillips Elementary School, Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class
December 13, 2005
The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks

I Am the Bridge

I am the bridge.
I sit over the river.
I connect the land together.
People come to cross over me
For I am truly a suspension bridge.
I sit here, night and day.
Come look at me: I have lots to say.
History inscribes itself in me.
For 74 long years, and more to come,
I am The Bridge.

Goda Tarcijonaite



I have many windows.
I have many shapes.
But I don't have any drapes.
And also I was made in 1905.
It's really good to be alive.

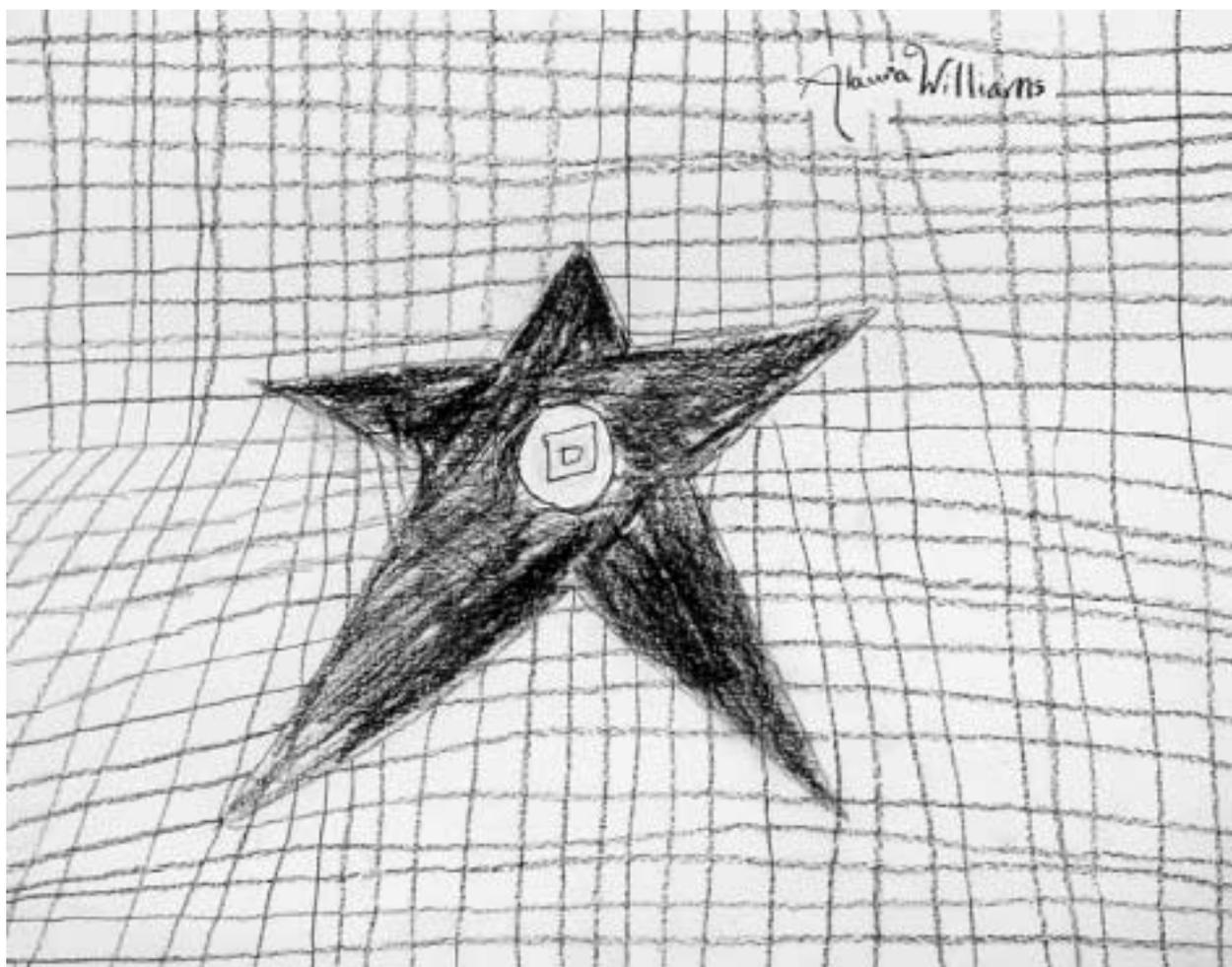
Tyler Manker



Mrs. Pilarski's Fifth-Grade Class

I am the anchor plate hanging high near the sky.
I am the most beautiful thing on earth.
I keep the house walls from never bending.
I stand strong with pride never ending.

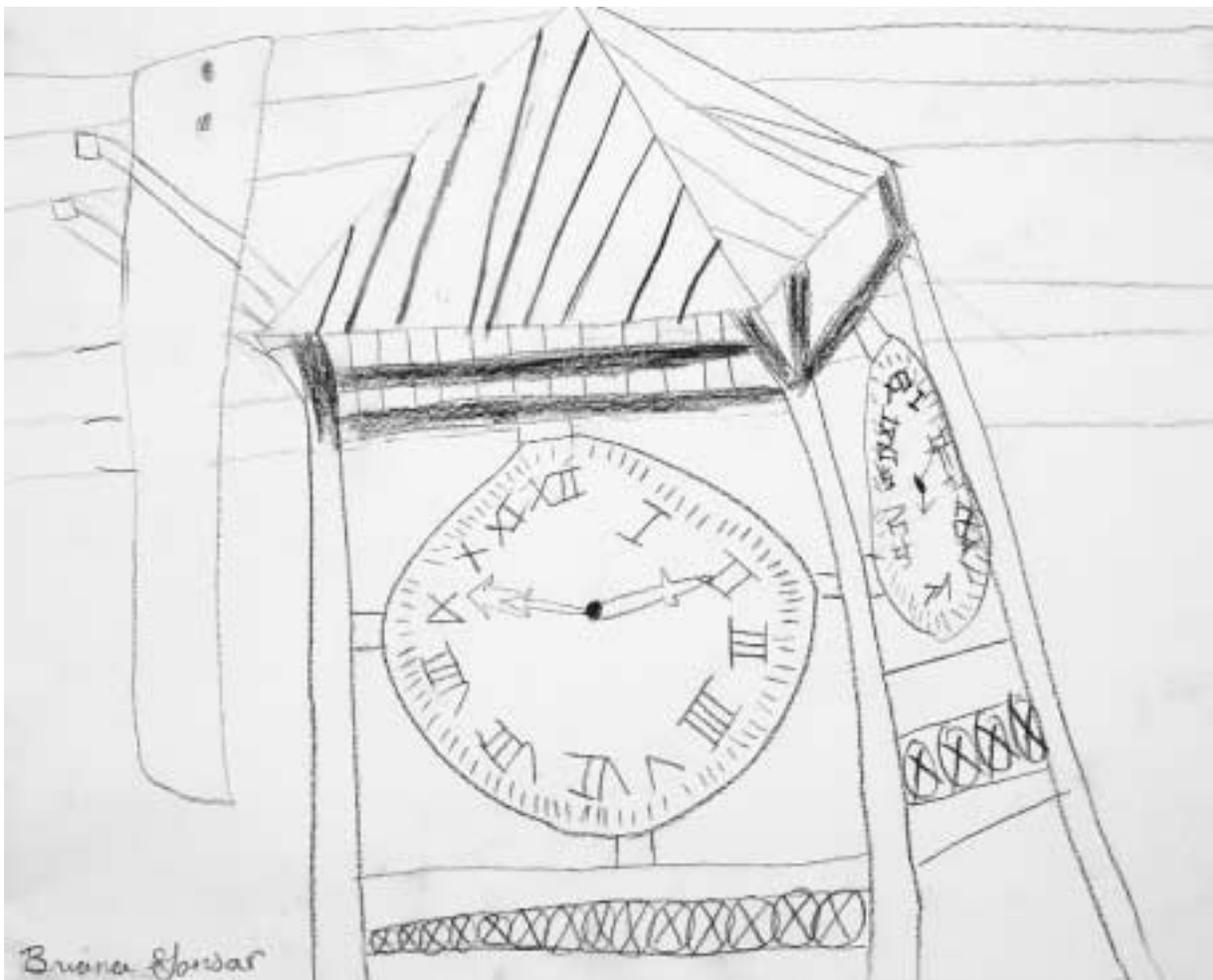
A Laura Williams



Clock Tower

I am a clock tower.
I tell time with power.
My numbers are numerals made out of steel.
"Heal me," I cried, when my clock had been out of sync
for a long, long time.
I am located in Mount Oliver.
I do not purr: I tick and tock.
I am the clock.

Briana Gonsar



Do You Want to Be Me?

I am 116 years old.
People do not fear me.
People stop by to cheer me up
And look at my designs.
I love to see a lot of signs.
Please come by and see me shine.

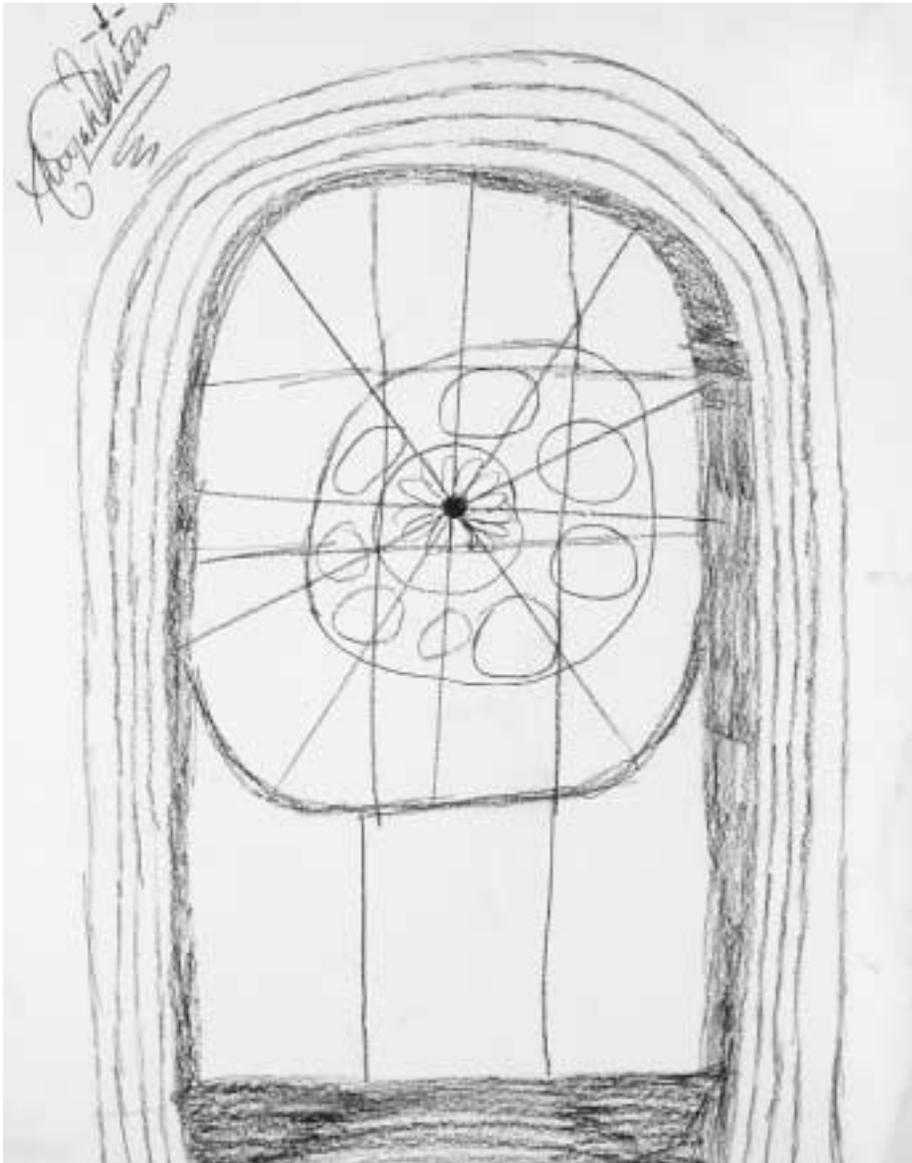
Randon Bopp



Old Church

I am a clock-shaped stained-glass window.
I am 105 years old.
I am held in a brick wall.
I'm see-through.
I live on Arlington Avenue...in the city!
I'm a grand church!

Aliyah Weathers



It's All About Me

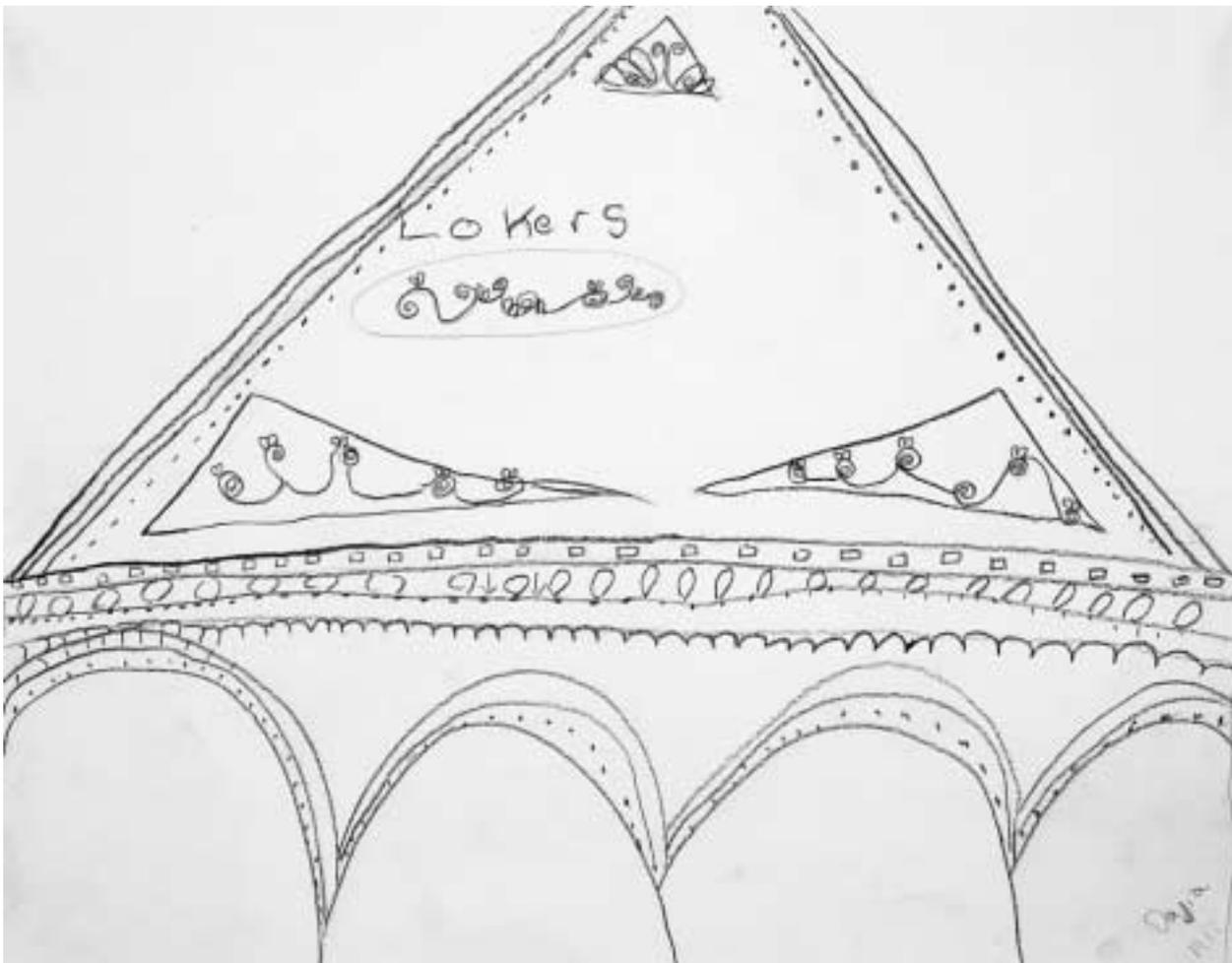
I've got a pointy head with fancy decorations.

I've got a yellow box for a body with lots of arched windows.

I am a store on Carson Street.

I am a Victorian building.

Dajia Ali



Lying on the wall
I drift into a still sleep,
With my eyes open and
My wings ready for flight.

I stand gracefully on rocks.
My tail's lingering behind me.
Over these long, hard years
I've been carved into a wall.

My old features and details
Tell my history.
In the early 1900s
I was born on this building.

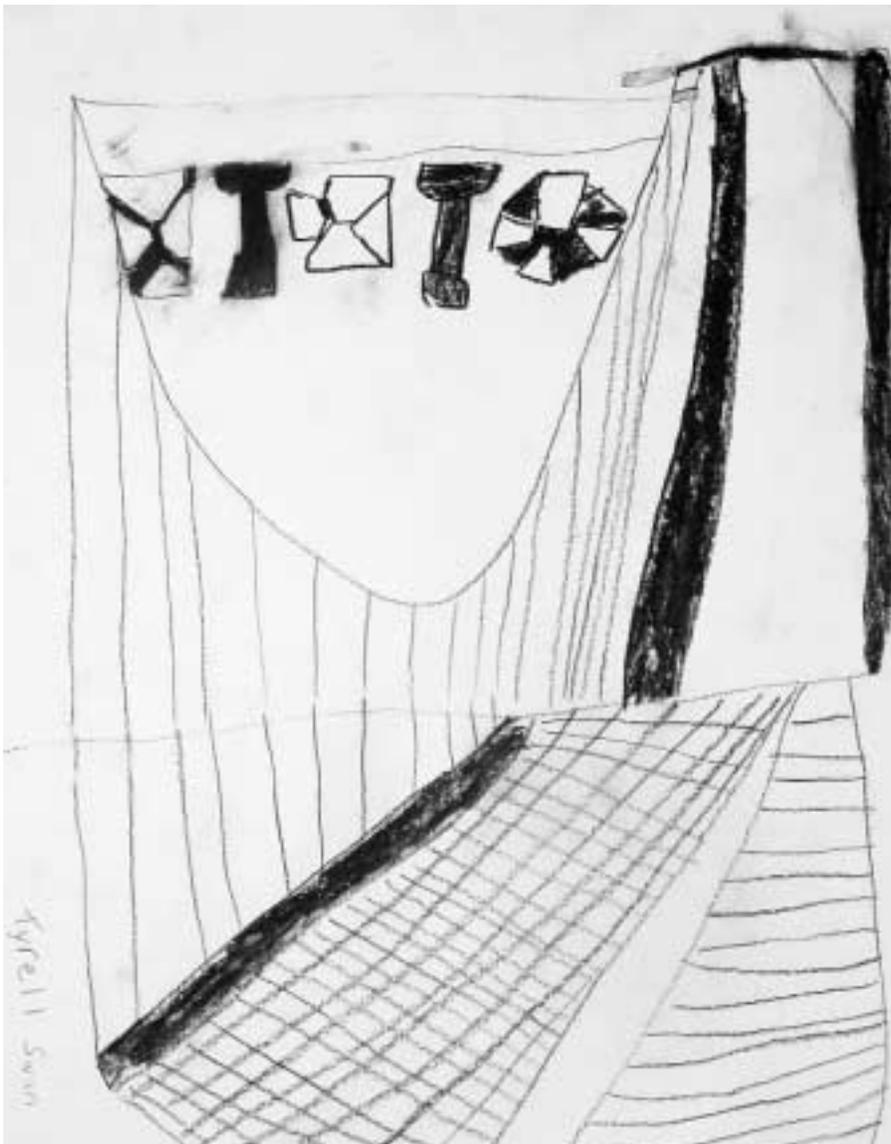
Lindsay Krell



Mrs. Pilarski's Fifth-Grade Class

I am very old
And every winter very cold.
I am the Tenth Street Bridge
Built from ridge to ridge in 1931.
Yes, I know, I'm almost 75 years old.
Like I said, hon' — Don't forget about me:
I am the...
Tenth Street Bridge!

Tyrell Swan



My walls are a bright red brick.
My name is the J. Wagner Tower.
I live on Brownsville Road.
I don't lurk in the shadow.
The sun shines on my elegant sign.
I live in the City.
I look over to the people below.

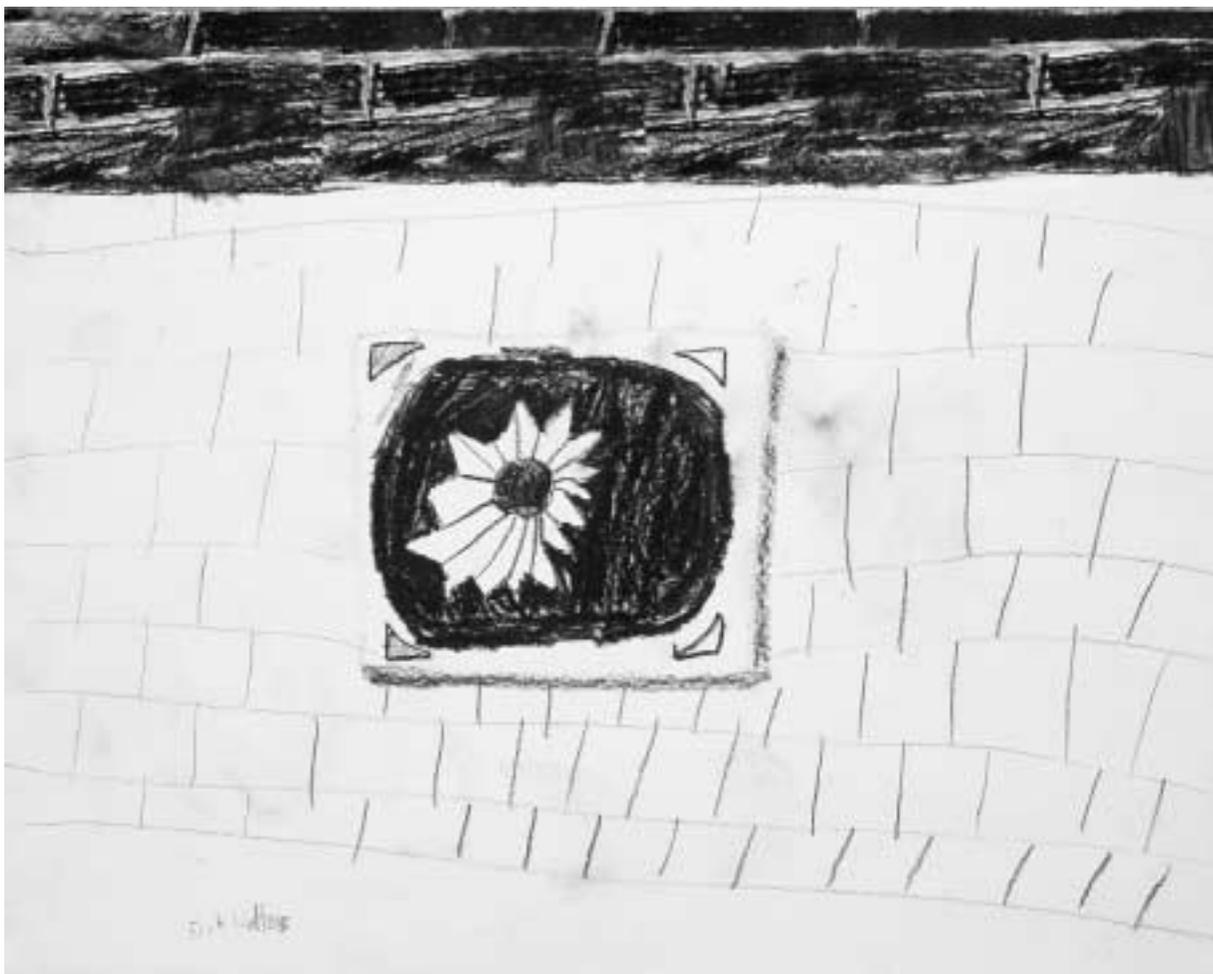
Zoe Nishimura Russ



Supporter

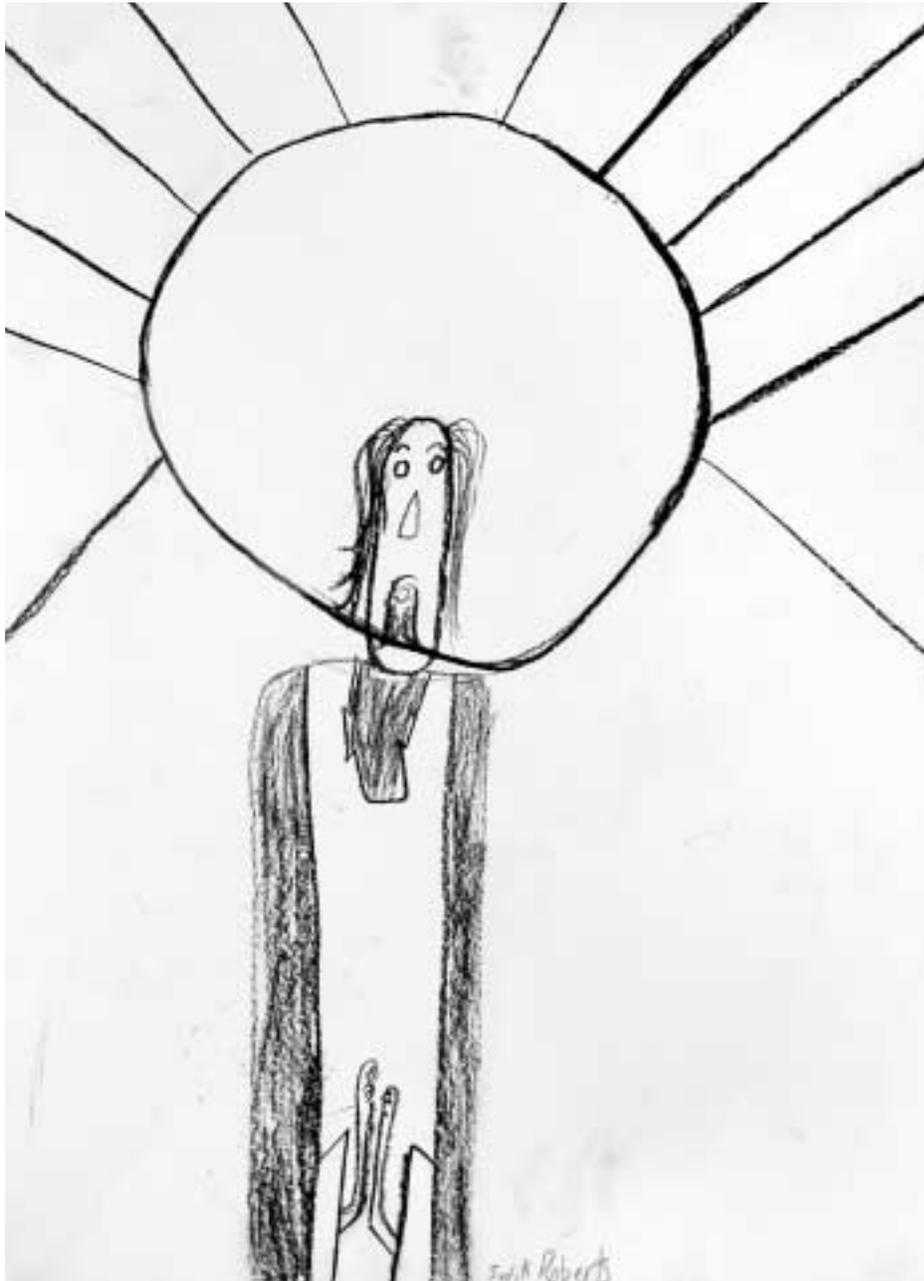
I help support the house.
Without me the house will fall.
With me, the house will be tall.
I'm the wheel on the house.

Erik Walters



Standing out in front of a sun
He's the only one
Out in front of a school
And he was also built with many tools.

Sadik Roberts



Popular Kids' School

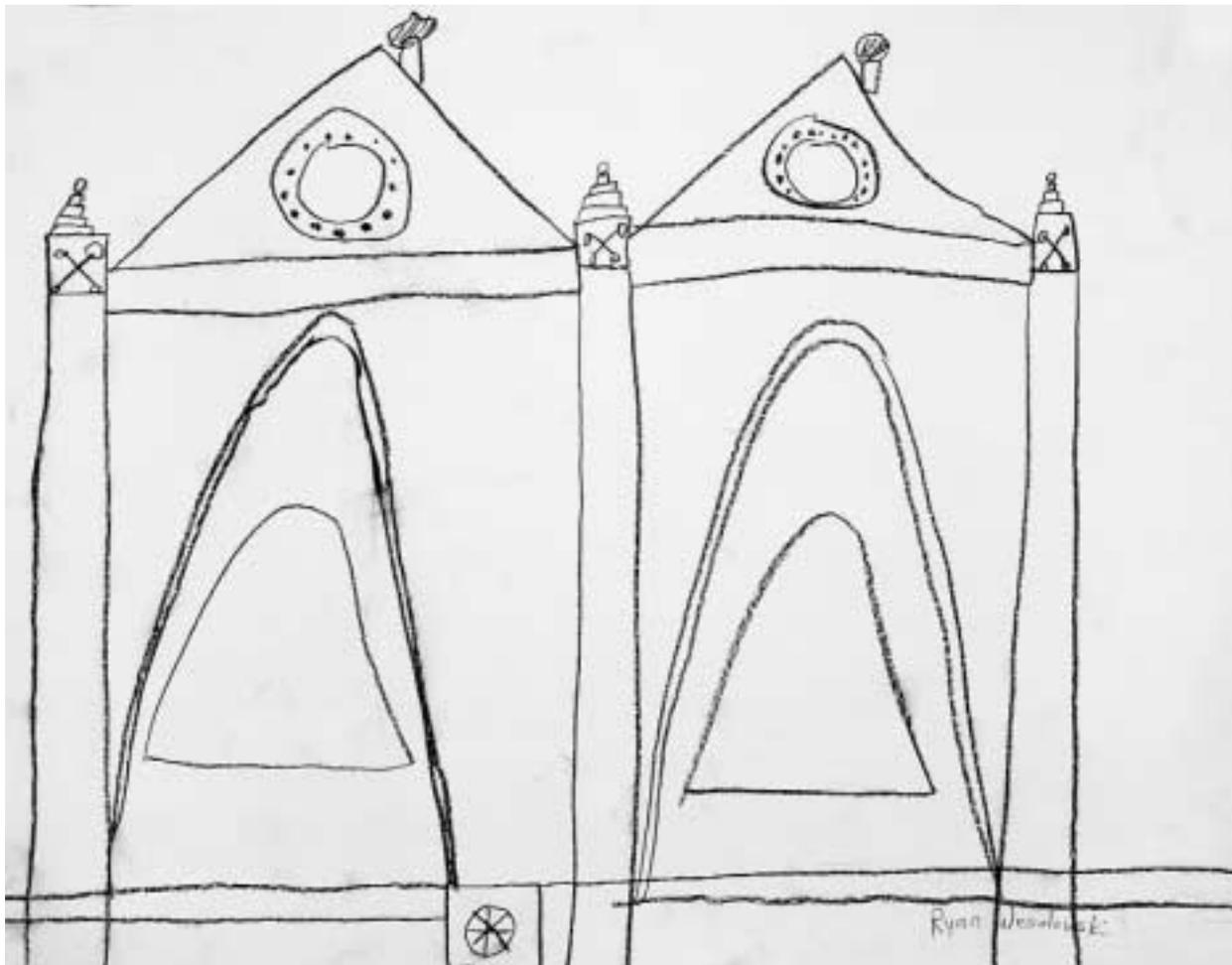
I am tall.
Now, I'm an apartment building
But I used to be a school
Where lots of popular kids came and acted pretty cool.
They learned from books and kept their cool looks.
And, for lunch they ate crispy, hot-tasty tatter tots.

Tyler Marie Jerry



Hello,
I am a Victorian building
On the South Side.
See my red bricks
In tall, thin columns?
I was built in 1885.
I am now 120 years old.

Ryan Wesolowski



Mrs. Pilarski's Fifth-Grade Class

I am very big.
I bet I can make an echo if I hum inside my head.
Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you:
I was born in 1900.

Larry Wilson



I sit and sit seeing all the sights, coming and going,
People day and night.
I connect the river shores and see history change
At 74 years old — from darkness of steel mills to nice South Side Works.
Families and homes, the boats underneath.
I've seen it all
And I know there is more to come.
So, come and see me and become part of history:
I am the bridge of South Side.

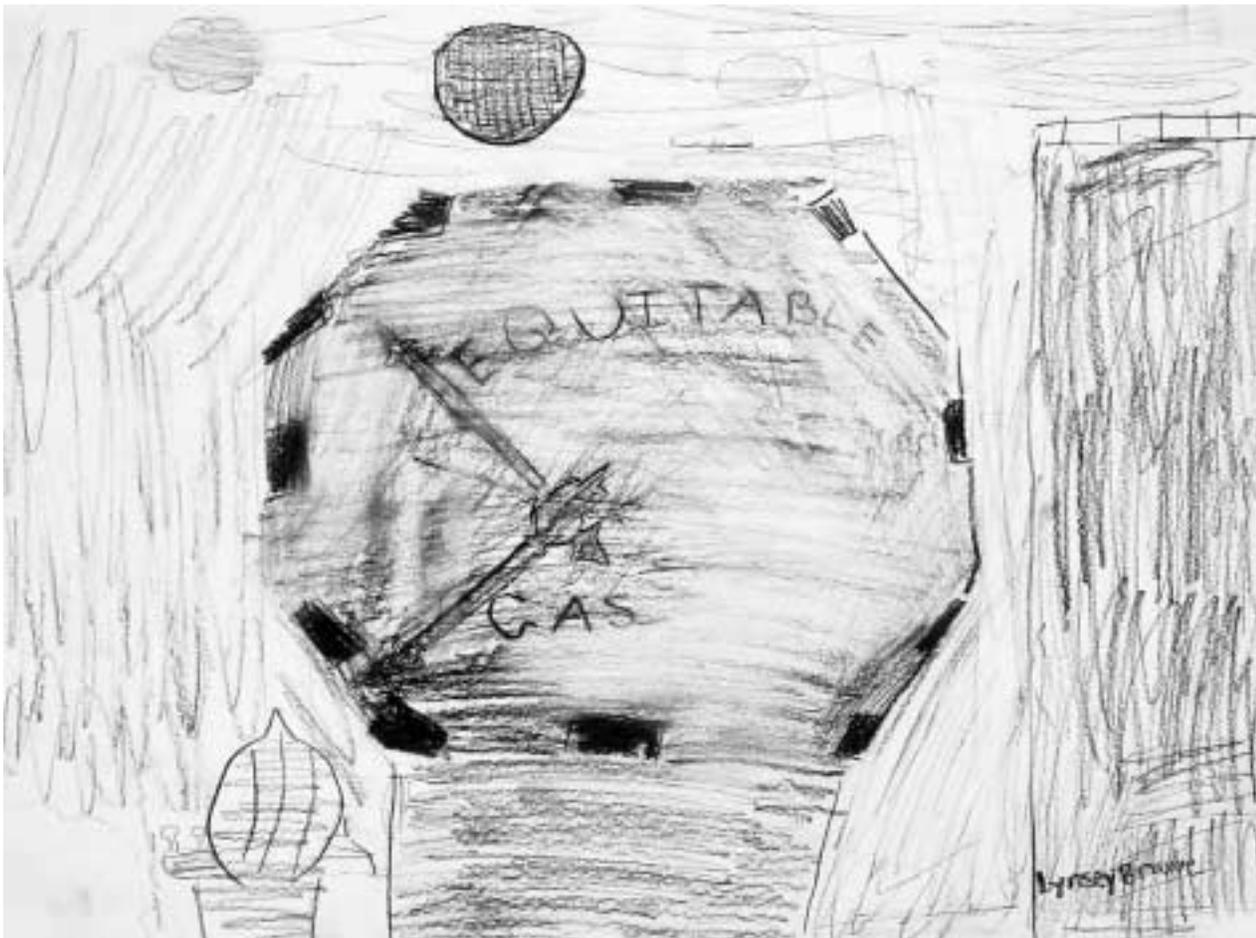
Erik Rauterkus



The Building

I'm hiding behind a tall tree,
But you can still see me
On South 21st Street where I watch through little openings in the tree.
All my brothers and sisters — tall, tall, skyscrapers — all look down on me
But I have so much history.
I used to be a beer factory.
Strong smoke went through town!
Though in 1933, I turned into a clock.
I have a face and hands.
Each of my hands weighs 2,000 pounds.
Sixty by sixty feet tall and wide,
I'm a giant full of pride.

Lynsey Brame



I Welcome You

My doors welcome you
With my smells and prayers waiting to leave when you open the door.
So I welcome you to the pathway to worship.
I welcome you with shelter and warmth.
So come on in,
I welcome you.

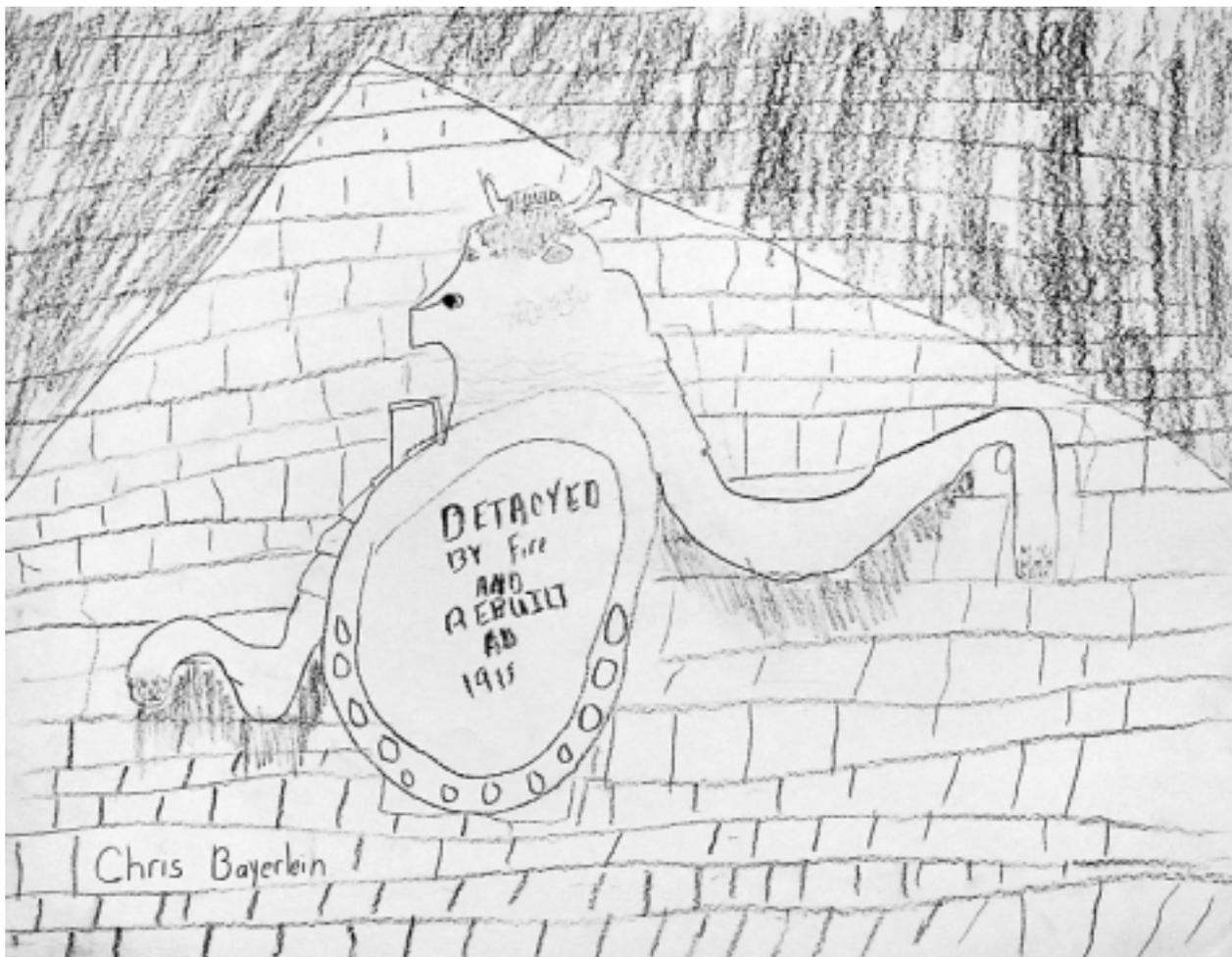
Samantha Geyer



Mrs. Pilarski's Fifth-Grade Class

I have red eyes.
I have no thighs.
I am 90 years old.
I did not fold.
There are fruits on my arm
But I'm not on a farm.

Chris Bayerlein



Indian

I am an Indian of my tribe.
I have been here for 95 years,
Been still for my whole life.
I have never died since the time I was born in 1910.

Chelsey Sirmons



Old, but Powerful

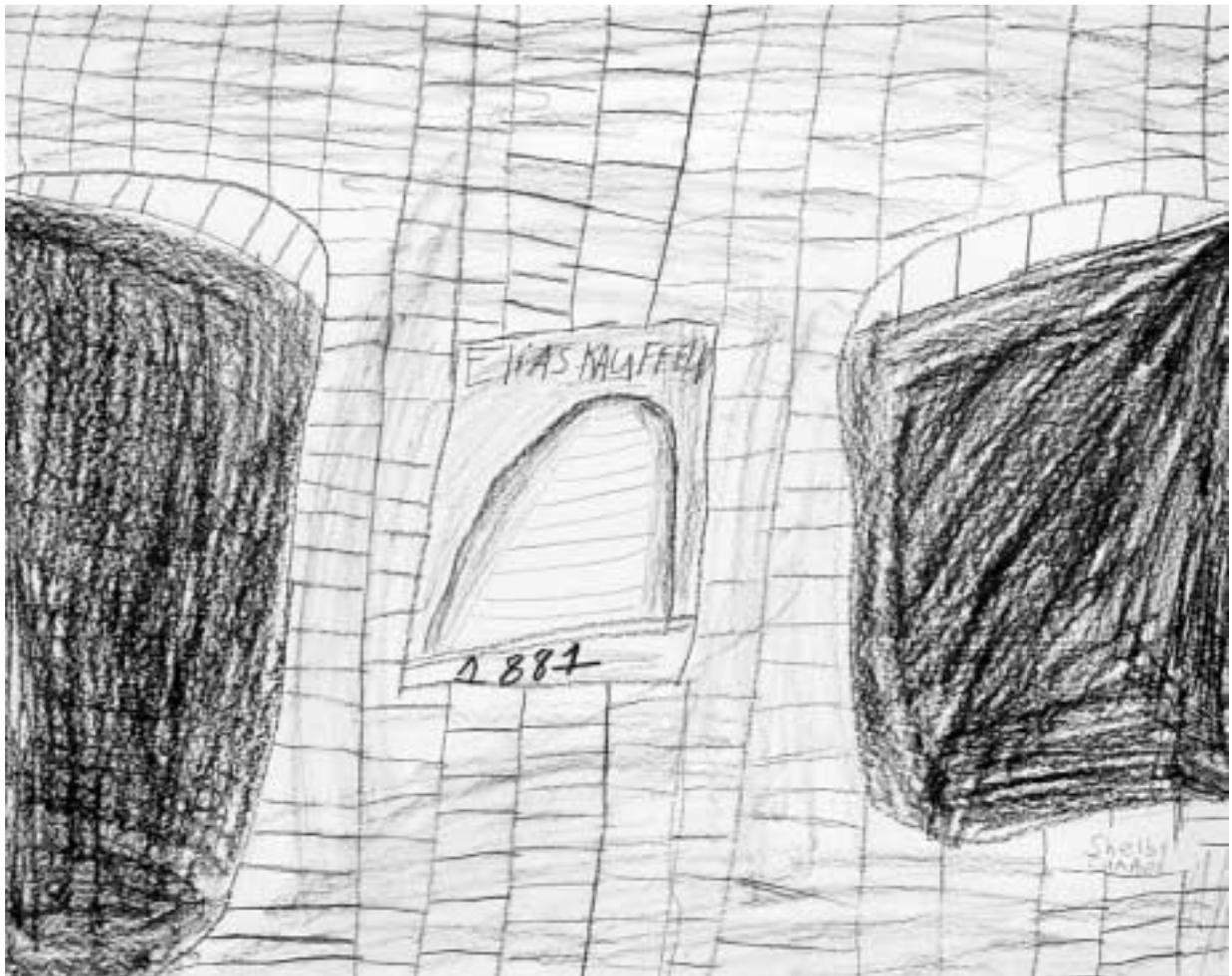
I am old and large.
I hold hundreds of people's savings.
I have acanthus leaves and lion heads on my head.
Tons of people travel inside me.
I am very tall.
I was built as a bank in 1926.

Ronald Brame



Buzz, Buzz, Buzz.
I stand very tall
With bees buzzing all.
I was built in 1881 as the Beneficial Building
On 1505 East Carson Street
I stand tall
With bees buzzing all.

Shelby Campbell



Mrs. Pilarski's Fifth-Grade Class

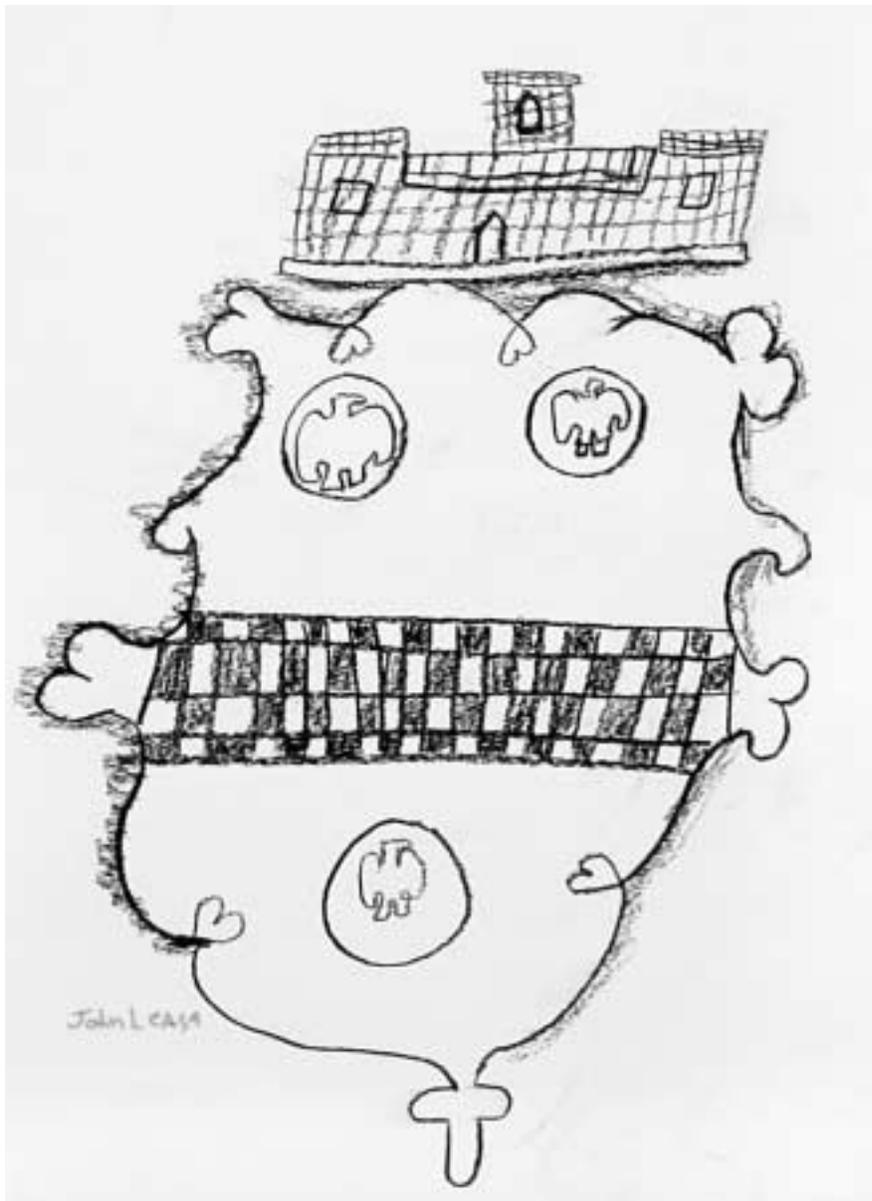
Fire eyes, a warning stare.
I am rebuilt, so flames beware.
Once shoppers meandered on my floor,
My stalls were full of fruit and more.
Bargains made and barterers sealed,
The story in my eyes revealed.
Hustle, bustle, change purses clanged,
Children's squeals in my ears rang.
I've seen and heard the vendors' cries,
Their stories live in my fiery eyes.

Mrs. Pilarski



All the kids see me.
I'm the seal of the city.
I overlook Ormsby Park where kids like to be.
I'm your city seal.
I'm priceless and of great value to you.

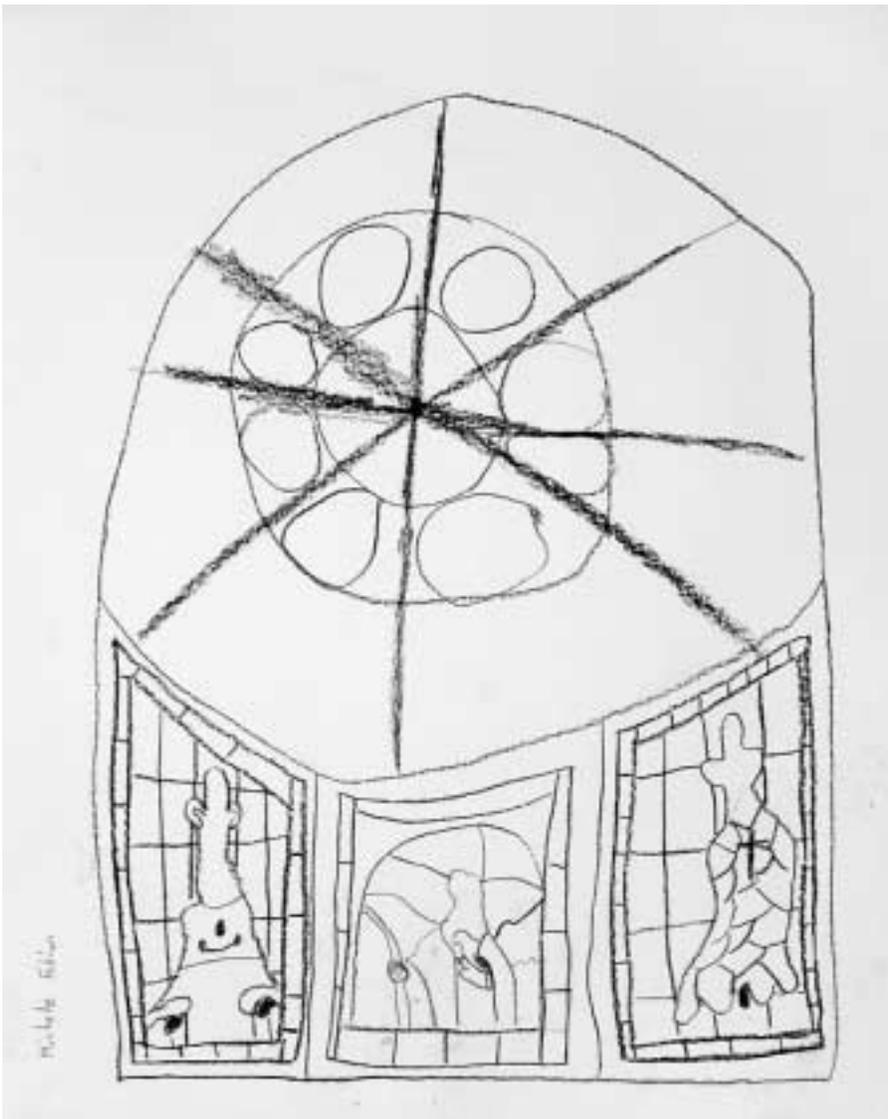
John Leasa



Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class

I'm colorful and as clean as the down of an owl.
I will always represent the many beliefs of people.
Beliefs are important, as many see me.
Nice and clean as the world gains peace.

Michele Fabian



I Stand Tall

People touch me,
People see me.
I feel so glad,
I pray for you.
You pray for me and I for you.
I am St. Joseph.
I stand in Bishop Leonard School.
I stand tall.

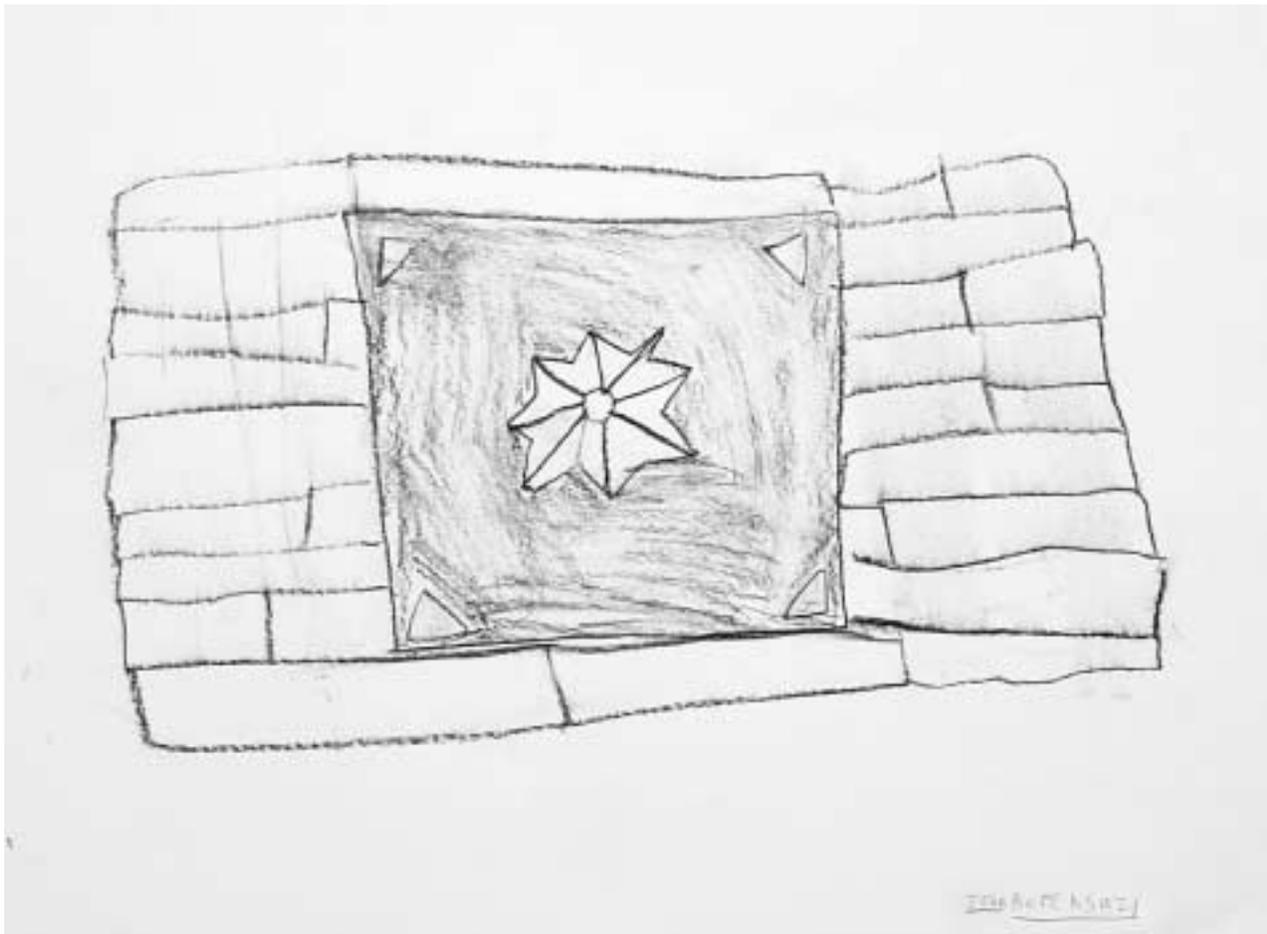
Jeimy Sanchez



Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class

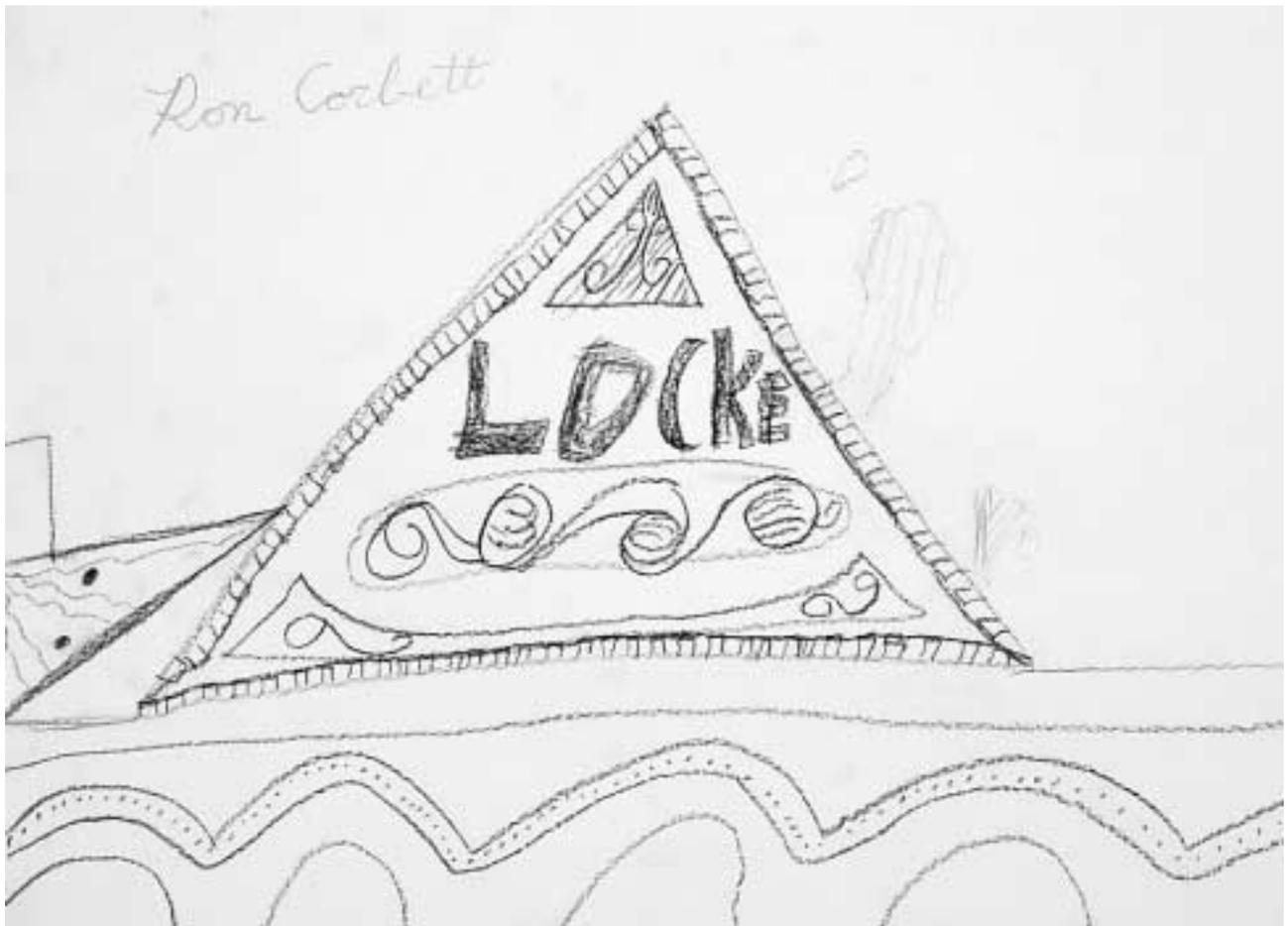
I am as strong as a car.
I do not want to get torn down.
I want people to see me.
Please do not tear me down.

John Bereksazi



Come and buy things from me.
You can also see far and wide from my arched windows.
But I am very old!
You can't buy clothes from my department store anymore,
But I'm still welcoming you with open arms.

Ron Corbett



The Market House

It is such a cool place.
I can play a bunch of sports here.
I really, really love the market house
Because to me it's like heaven.

David Hertrich



The Native Wolf Indian

I am the Native Wolf Indian, chief of the tribe "Wolf Fangs of the East."
I watch over Carson Street like a wolf watching its home.
I can't be broken like a bone.
A strong frame keeps me in place
To watch over my home.

Arianna Williams



Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class

I love the way the Hardware Store looks
When the sun is shining on its sign
With the big shadow so beautiful.
My street number is 2317 Arlington Avenue.

Nathan Becinski



I'm an old, red-and-white building.
My roof is like an upside-down ice-cream cone.
My windows at the top of me look like eyes.
I have the words "J. WAGNER" written on me.
From my eyes I see the stores around me.

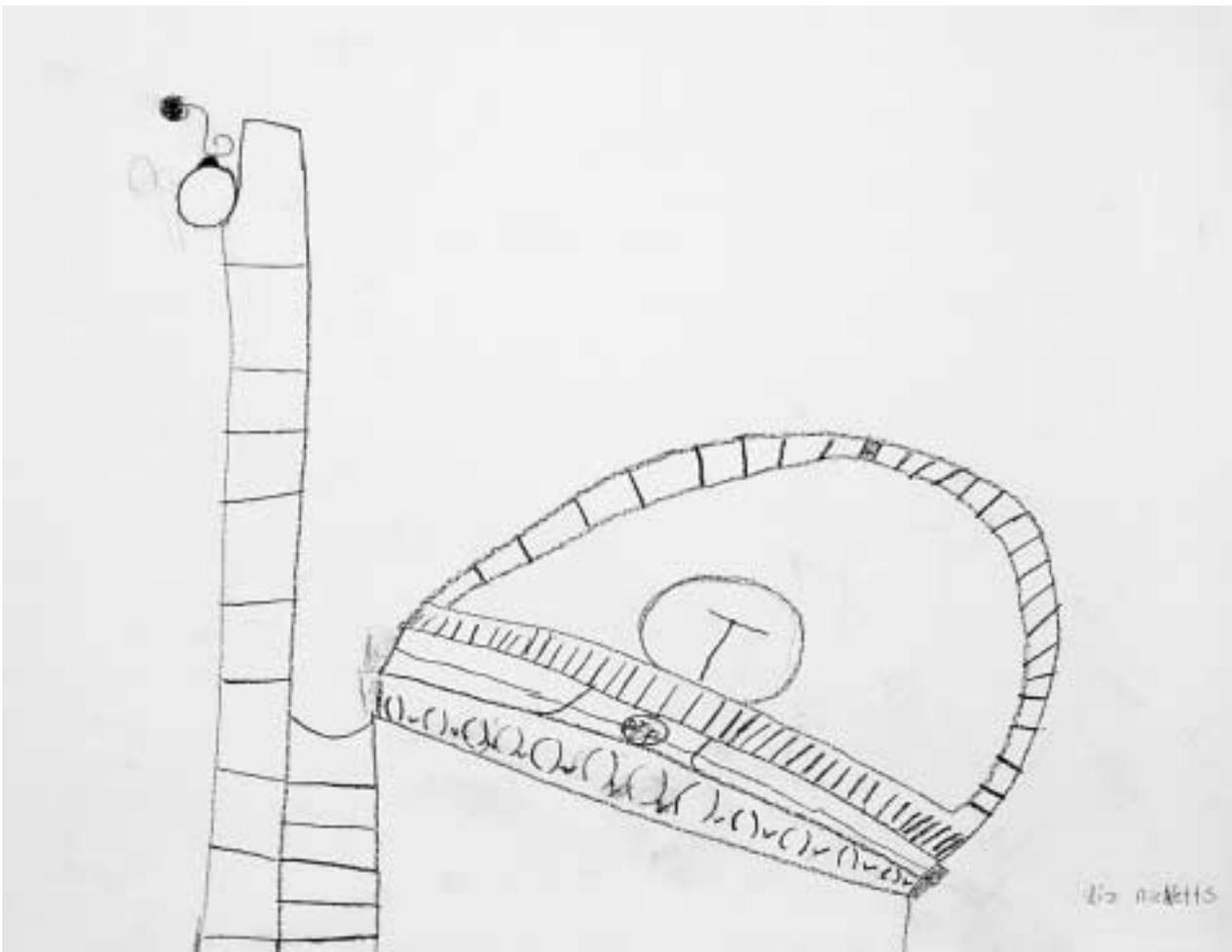
Lizzie Harris



Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class

My sides have spikes to keep away unwanted predators.
I save things for humans like animals keep things.
I am tall like a giraffe.
I have lots of sculptures decorating my outsides
And money fills up my insides.
I am PNC Bank.

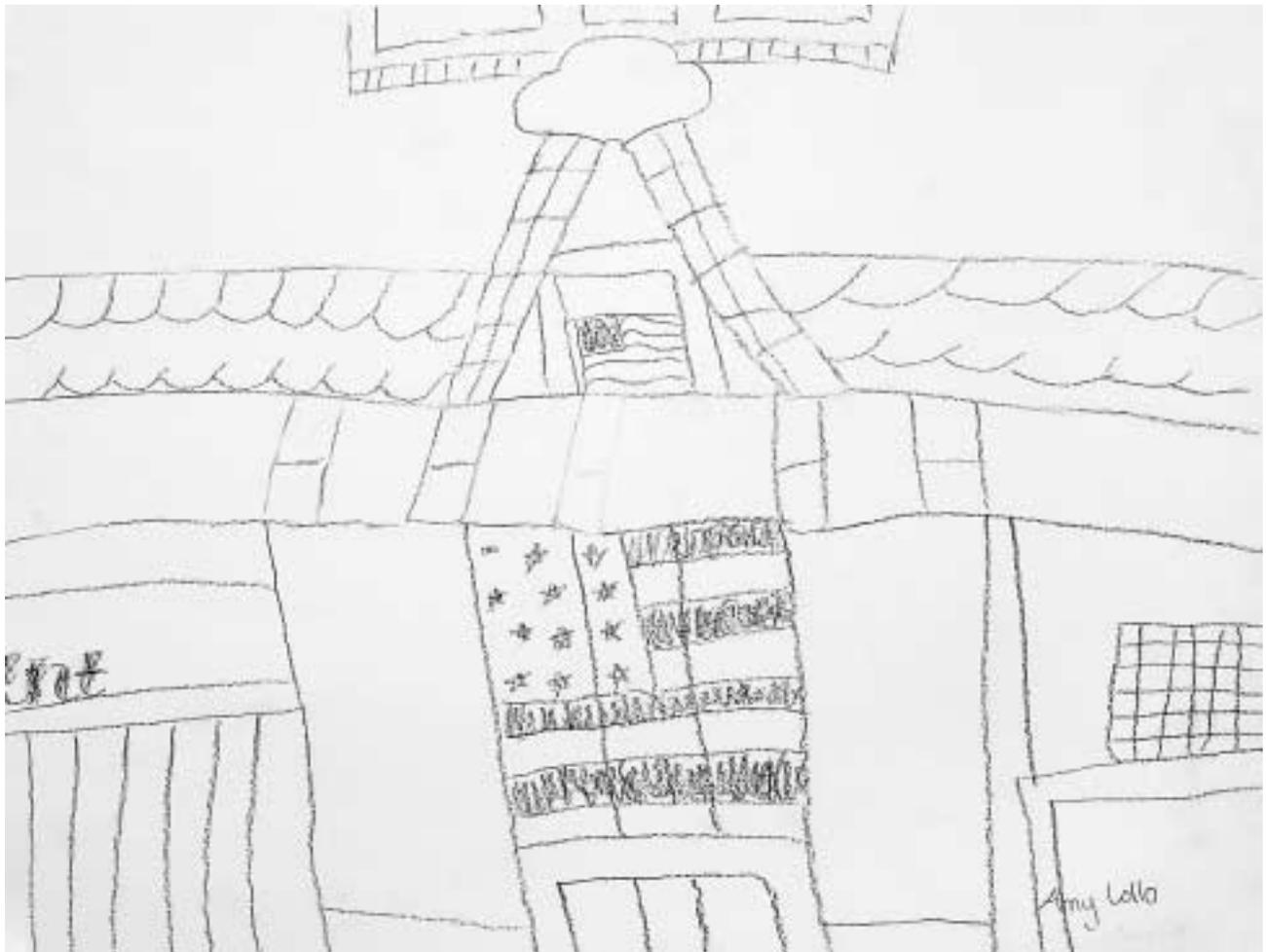
Liz Ricketts



The Old Restaurant

Buy me, use me please.
I have to be used so I don't go to waste.
I can hold all the memories you give me.
My flag stands so strong,
My stars stand so bright,
And my stripes show the glory of the flag.
So, please, use me.
Let us make some memories together.

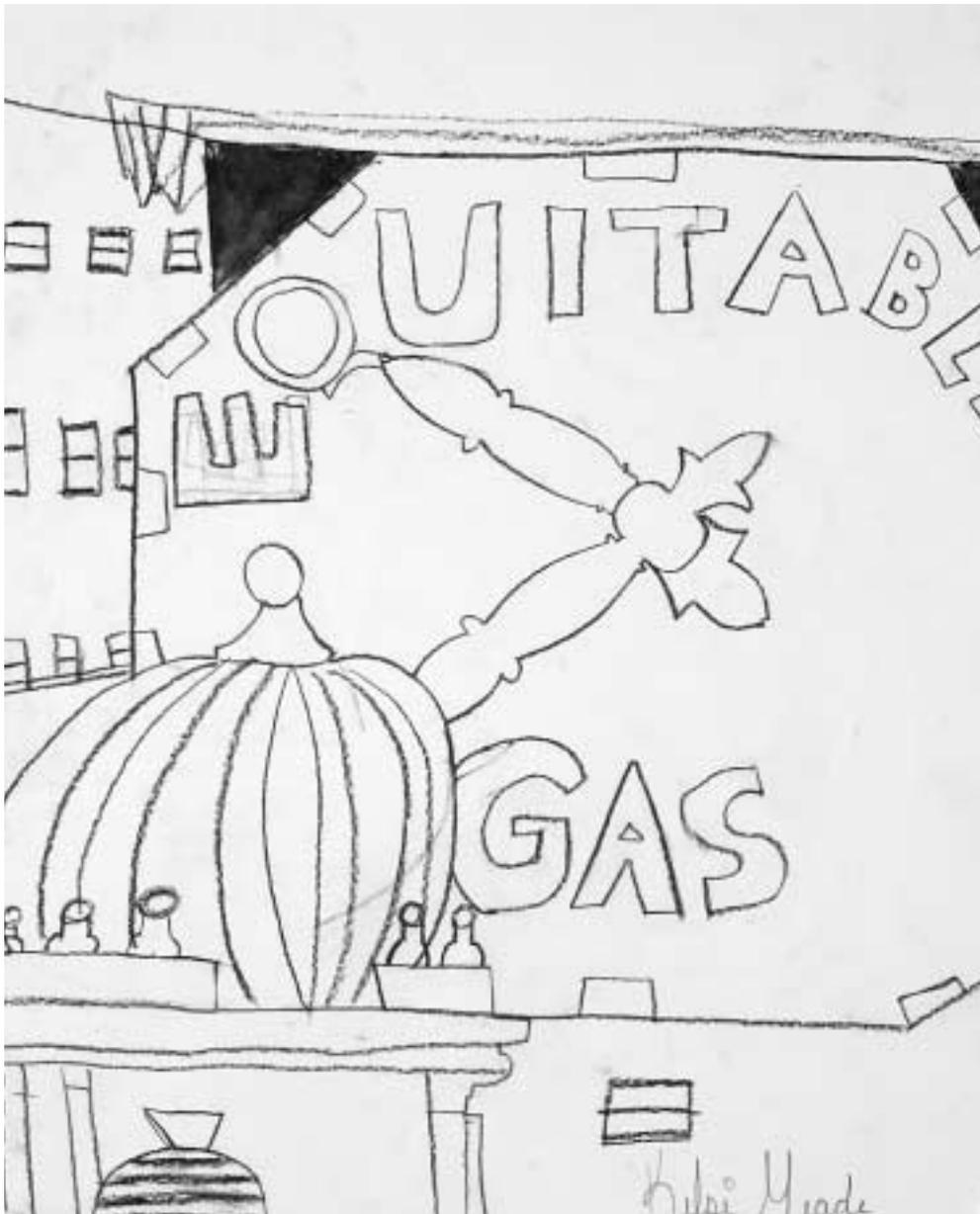
Amy Lollo



Time

My hands are tired of ticking.
People look at me for a time while
You might look at me for time.
The ticking might annoy me for sometime:
Tic Tock, I won't stop!

Kelsi Meade



I stand watch over this place as a wall ornament
Only knowing what I am.
I am a grotesque, or in English, a “griffin.”
I am a mythological animal.
My head and wings are those of an eagle;
I have the body of a lion,
And the tail of a dragon.
Beneath my feet are eggs and darts
Which mean “birth” and “death.”
I can have babies — or take your life away.
I can feel you rubbing your rough hands on me.
It feels like a giant wave of water rubbing against me.

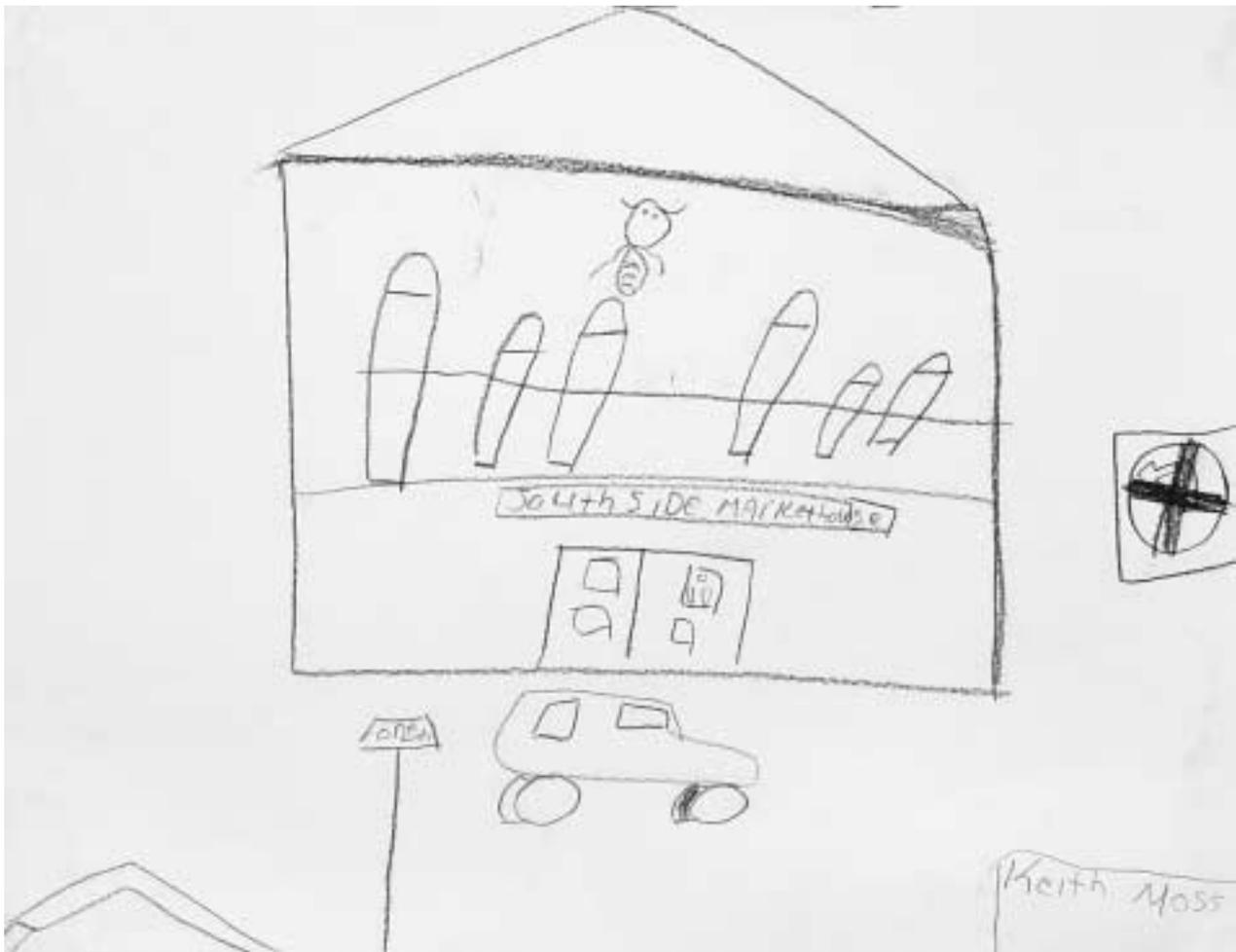
Sierra DeLoria



Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class

I am a place where kids play games.
My statue is looking down on you.
I sold fruit until my windows shattered.
Doors broke down because of a fire.
I hide on the street
Like an owl in the woods.

Keith Moss



Down by Fire

Destroyed by fire,
Rebuilt to help people understand
the true meaning of the Market House.
People walk in and out of me daily,
Buying things before this present day.
Now, they come to play a joyful game of soccer.
Come and go,
Stay a while,
Let's play.
OKAY YAY!

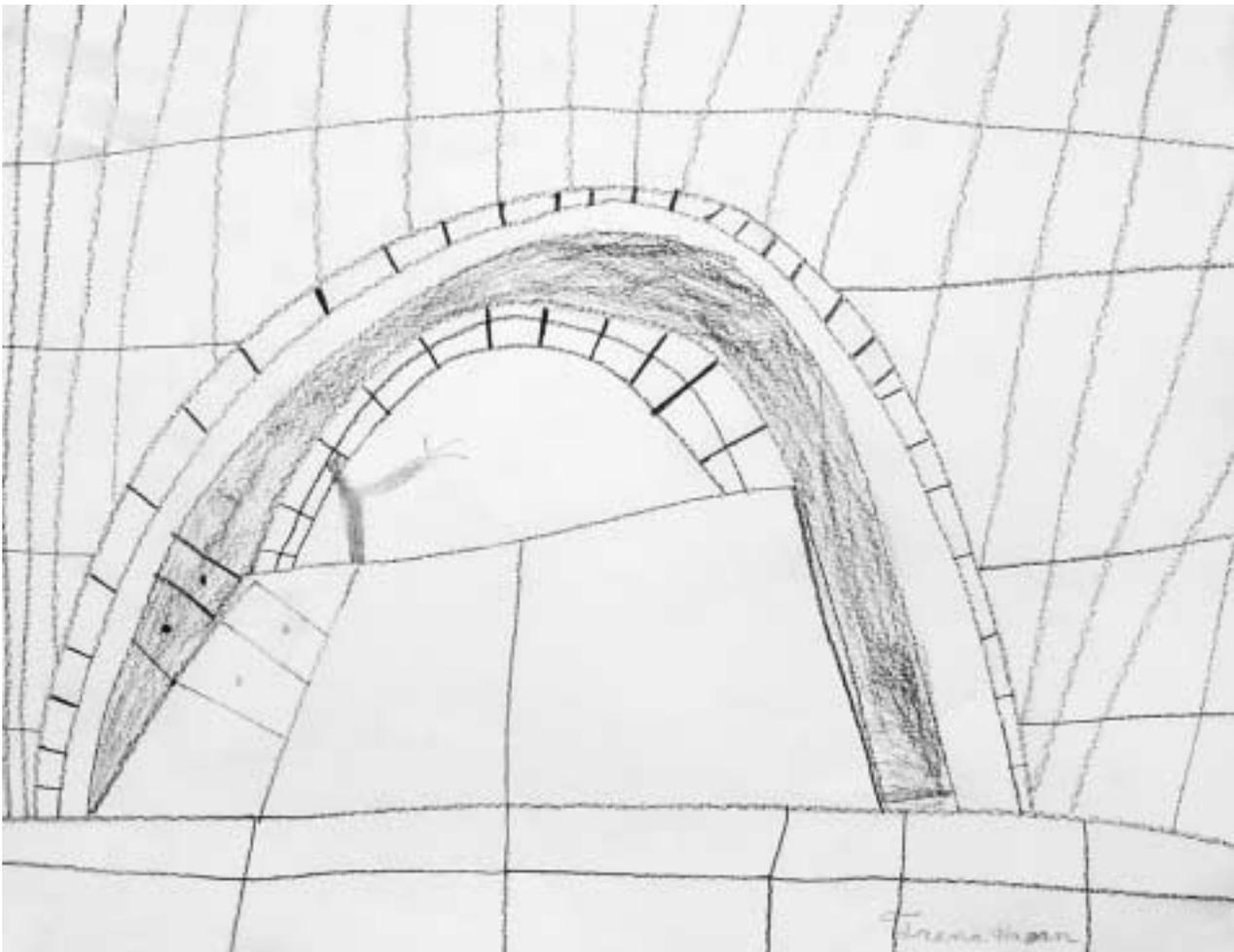
Kayla Claybourne



Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class

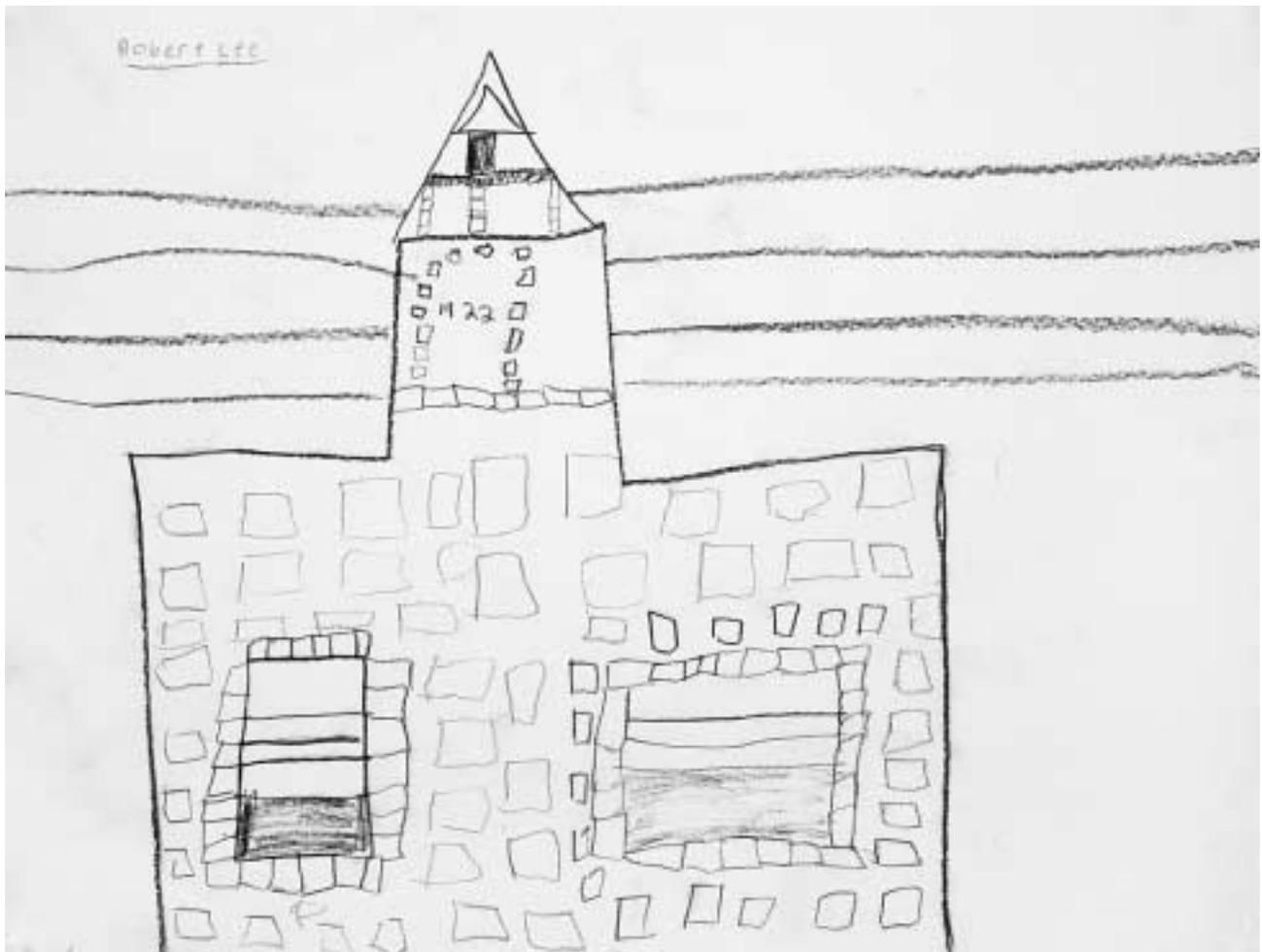
I see lots of people every day,
Then they all go away.
People come and people go,
Sometimes I get sad when they go slow.
I hear the music inside.
Sometimes it makes me wanna cry.
Sometimes people cry
Others keep their tears inside.

Trena Hagan



Please don't knock me down.
I was born in 1922.
I am too old to die.
Don't kill me man, OK?
Please don't take me to heaven.

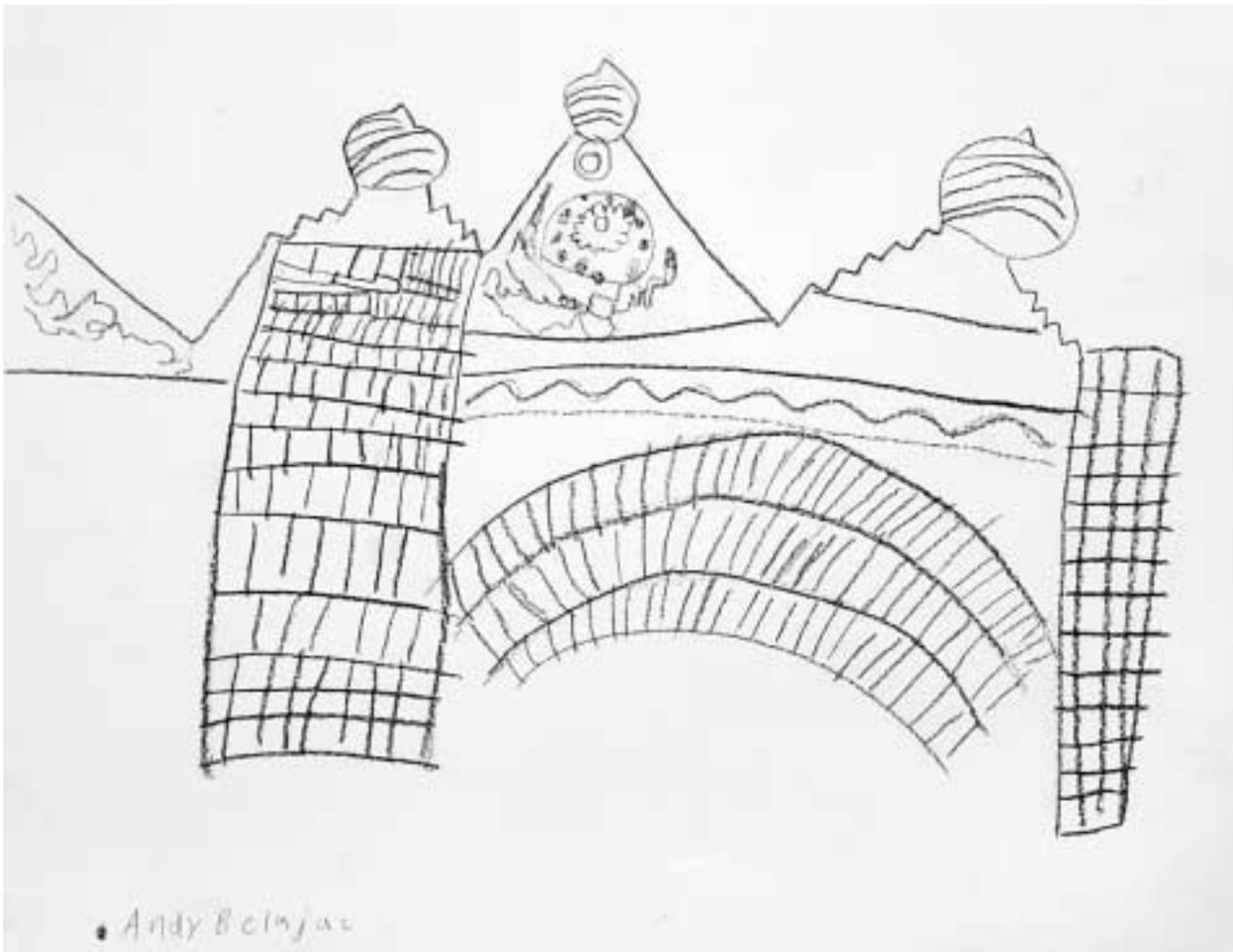
Robert Lee



Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class

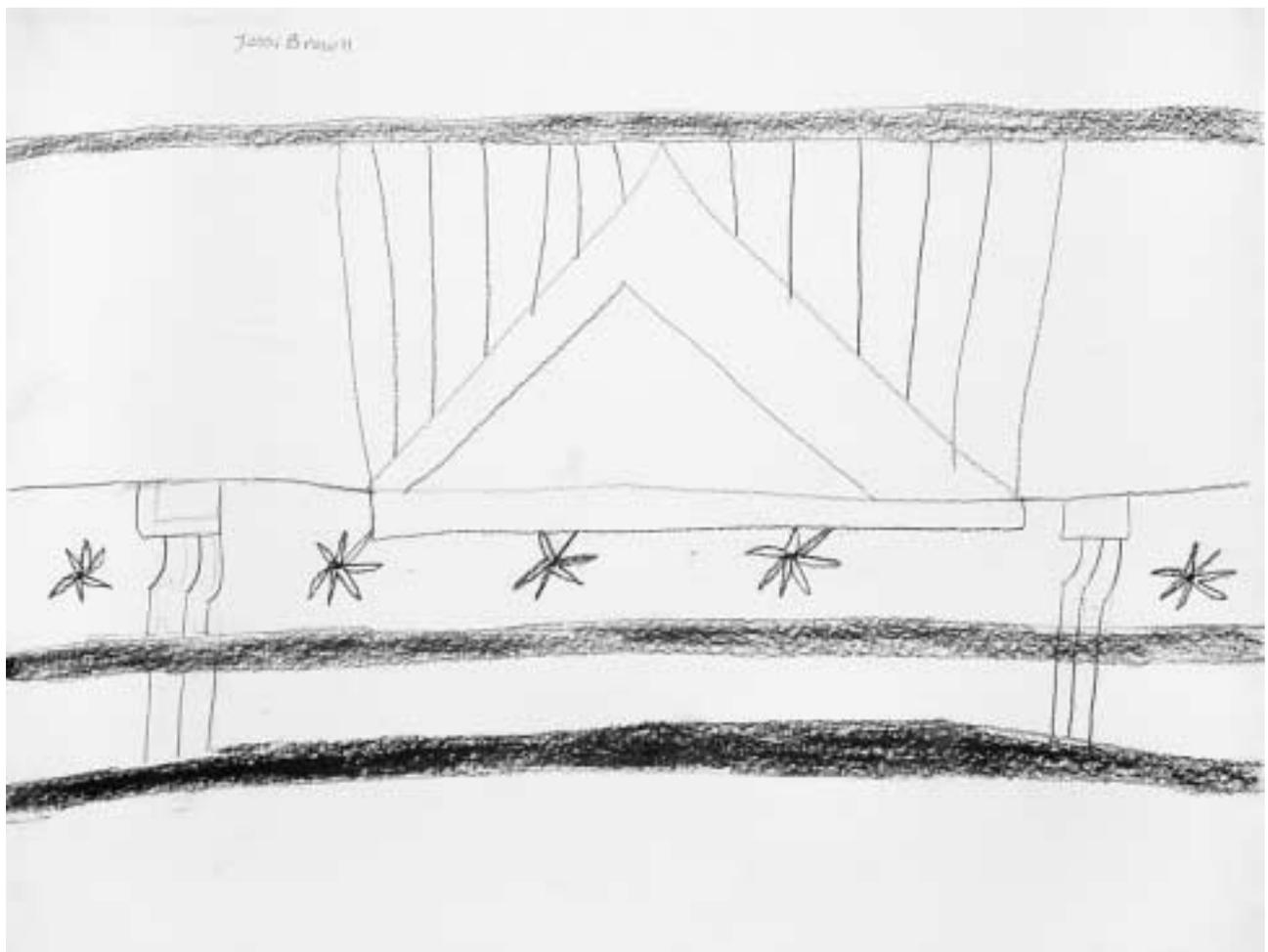
I am tall,
And made of wood and bricks.
My finials look like ice-cream cones,
And you'll get a craving if you see them.
For 120 years I have been on Carson
My pillars rise high in the sky.

Andy Belajac



I am a beautiful building who stands tall
And people are my all in all.
I am a beautiful building who is strong,
I want so badly to hear my door bell go ding-dong.
I am a building who stands tall.
I may be big, I may be small,
But I am a building who stands tall.

Jessi Brown



Watch You

I watch over you
To make you happy.
I give you prayer.
I feel glad you're here.
See that you're here.
I am your guardian angel
So be with me
All day long.

Andrew Krakovsky



Police Department

Police Department, different from an apartment.

Located in Mt. Oliver, not Mt. Colliver.

So old it will grow mold.

Hey police:

Get a new officee!

Derrick Ketter



Now and Then

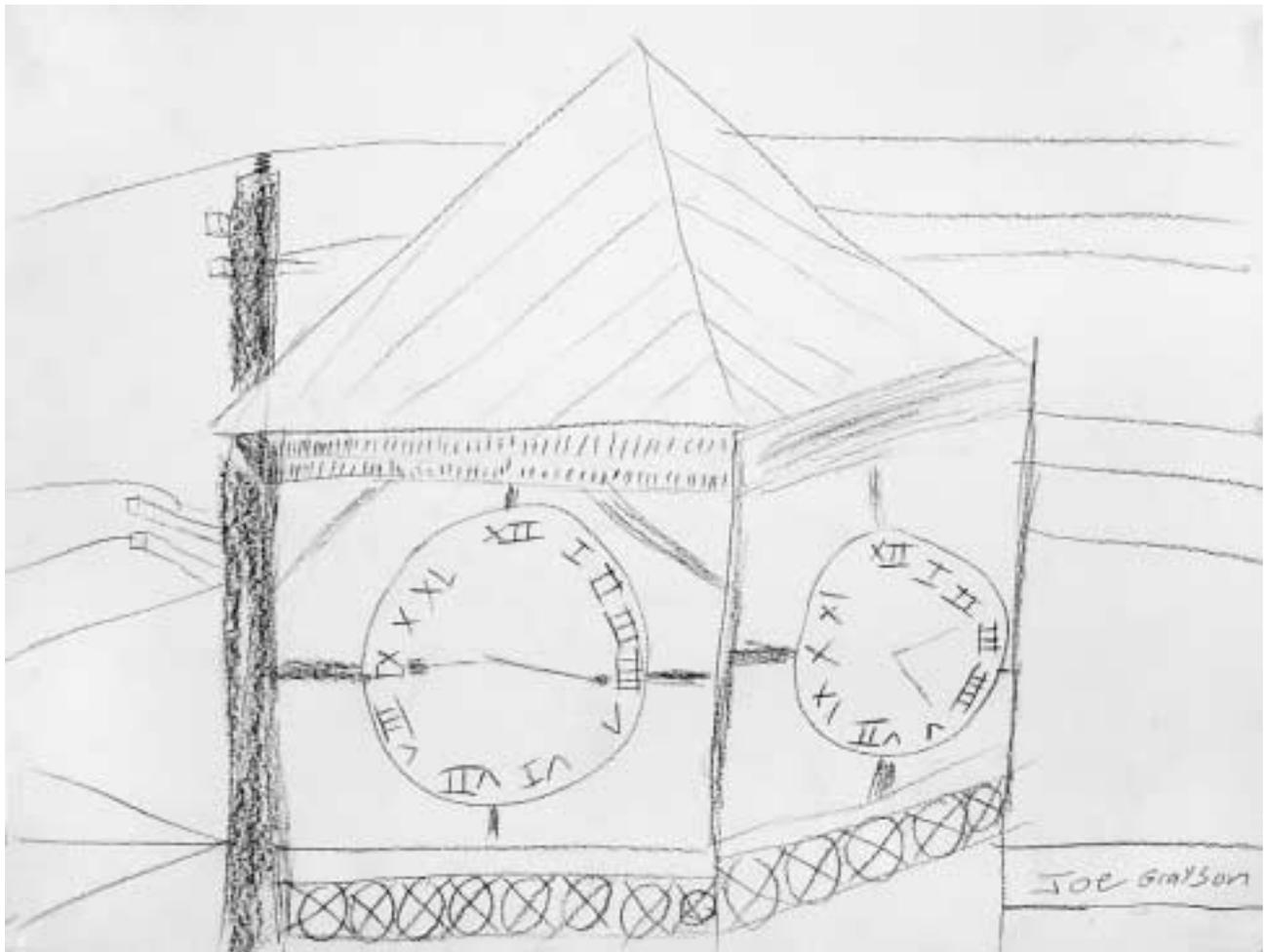
Kids used to run through me everyday
Because I was a school.
They used to want to play on rainy days.
But now, older people sit in their rocking chairs
And wonder when
Their grandchildren will come,
Because now I'm an apartment building.

Tenisha Gibson



I stand 40 feet high
And I make sure you get there on time.
I am blue.
I have numbers on me
Like something you wear.
I watch over you.
What am I?

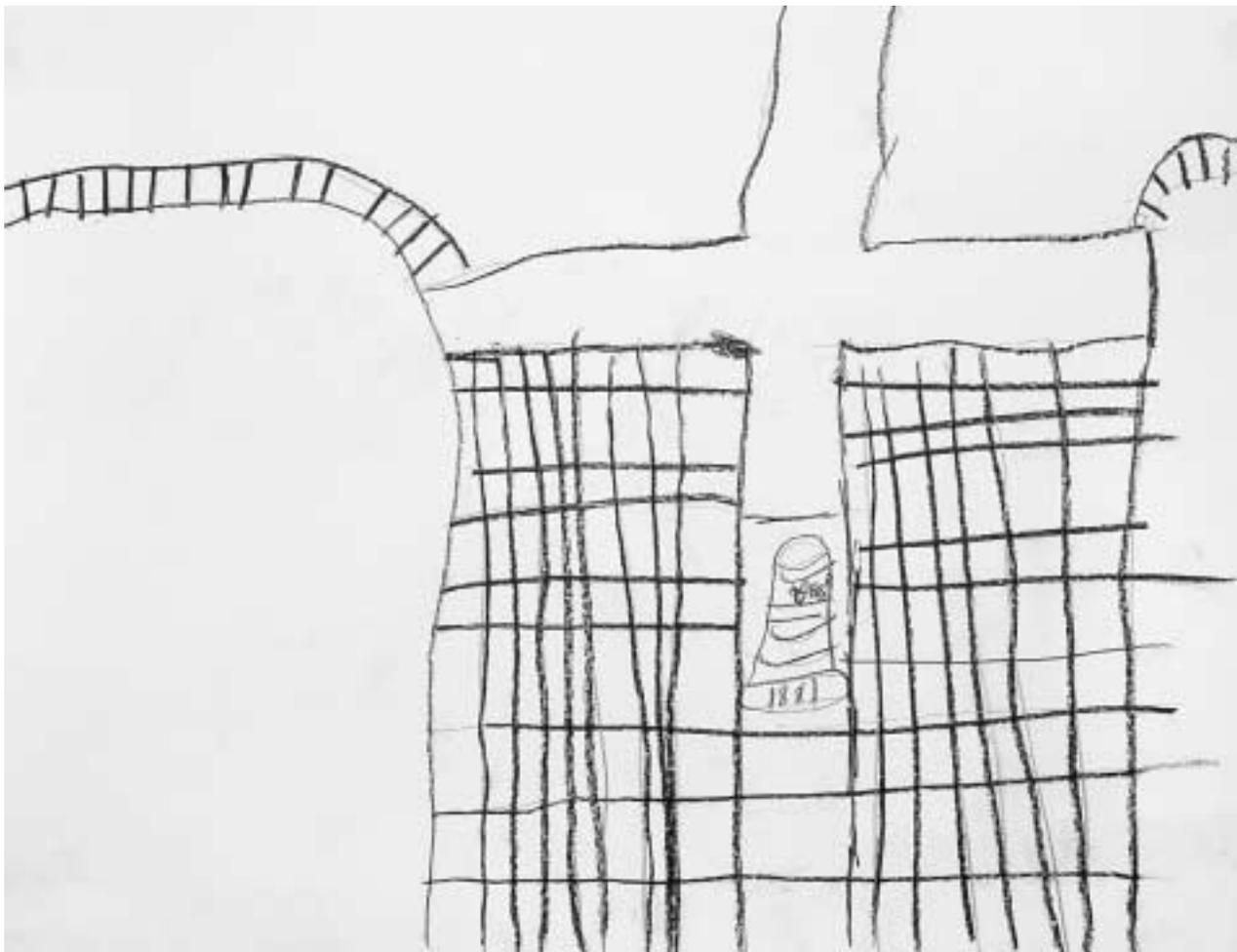
Joe Grayson



Hive

I am a home.
I hold many memories.
I am planted into a wall.
No one can visit
But some can come.
My people won't attack
Because they are stone —
But you could always imagine!

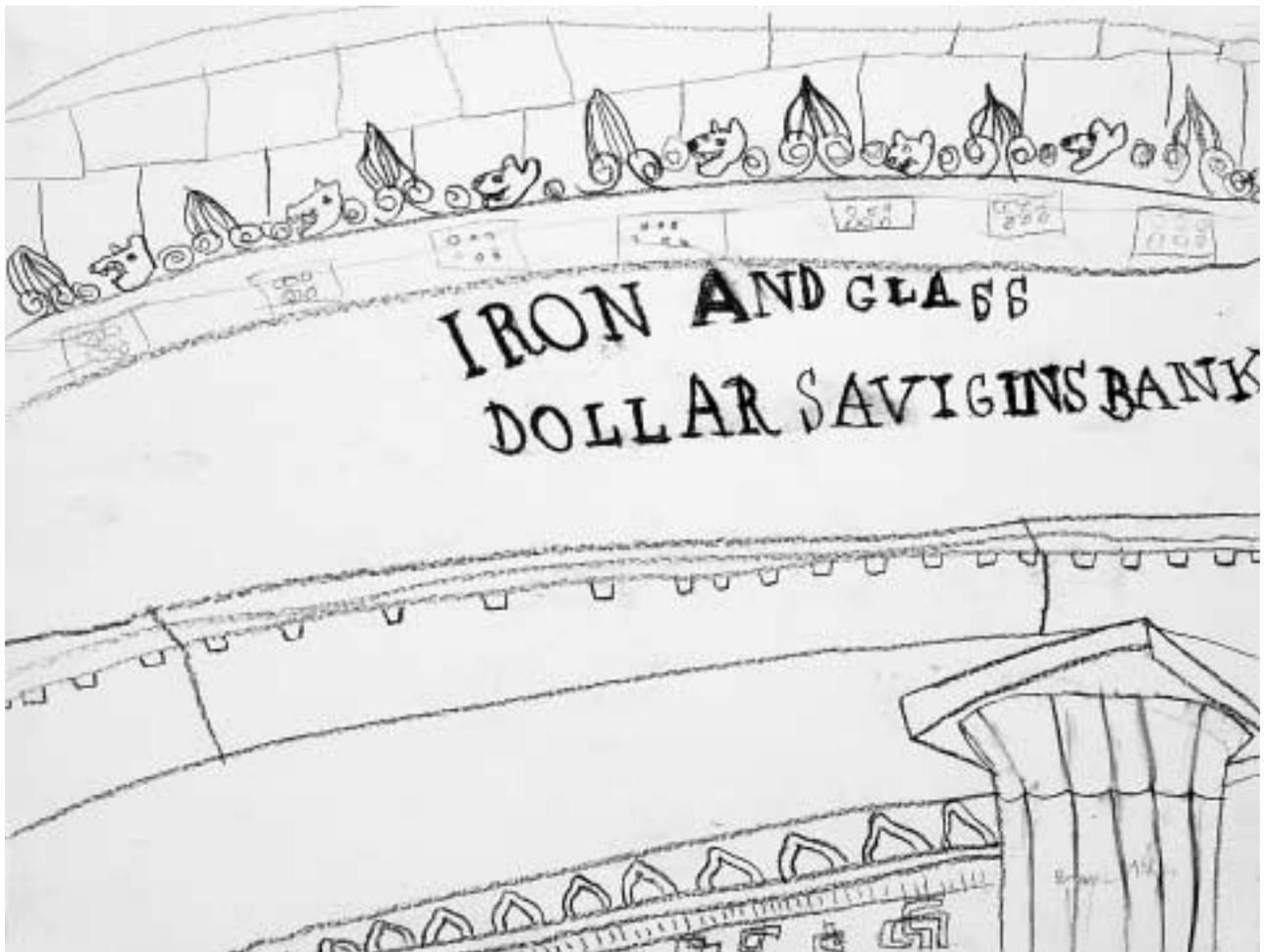
Michael Fedorowicz



Movement

People come
It's you, you see
In and outside of me
Many people, movement, too,
Keep robbers away from me,
Yes please, do!

Brianne K. McKain



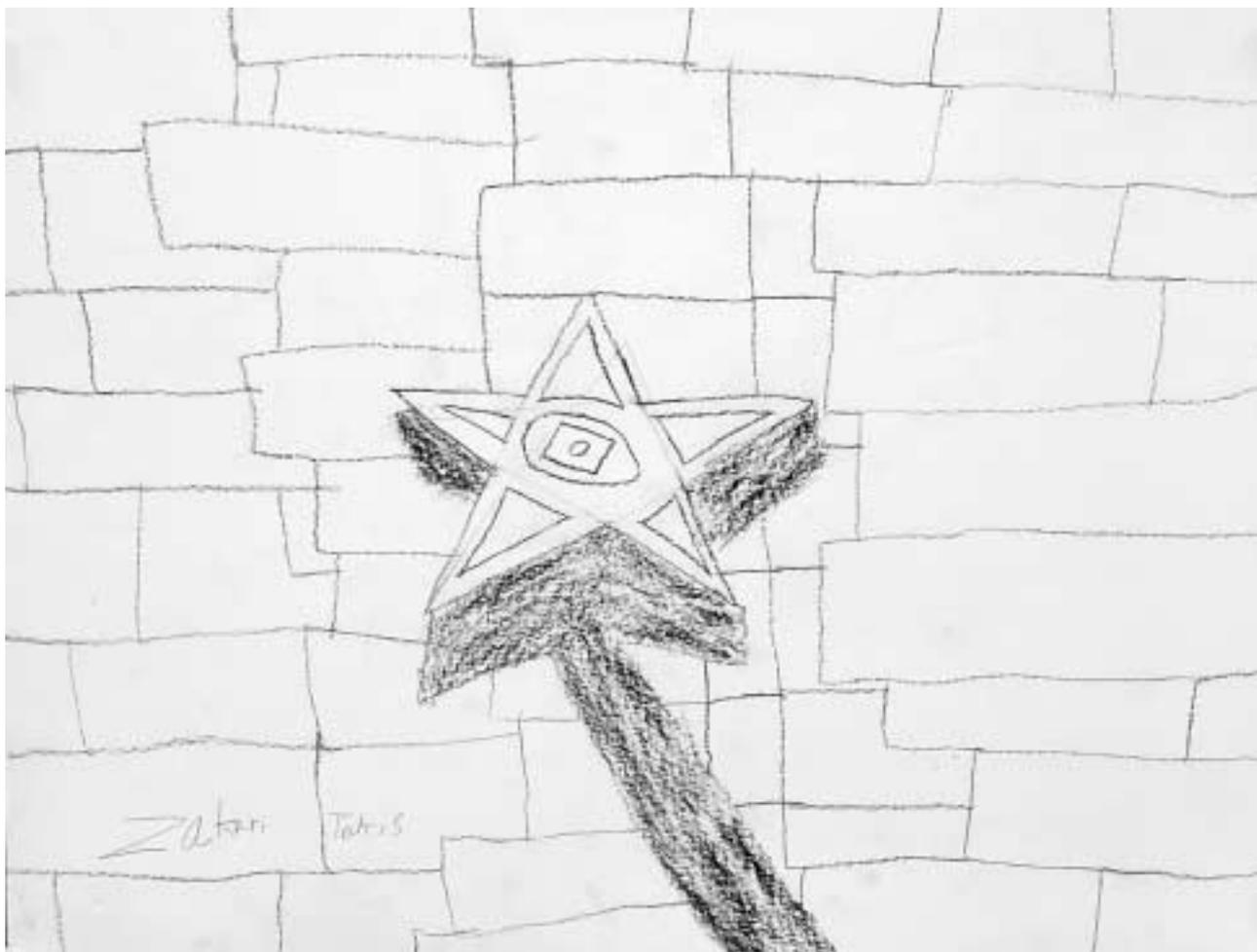
Mr. Herschk's Fifth-Grade Class

The anchor plate is tied through the wall
To help keep the house up —
Like when I tie my shoes.

The anchor plate is shaped like the stars
That I see every night
Hovering in the sky.

And, it's greenish blue
Like my shoe.

Zakari Takis



Add another sketch and poem to this book.



More Programs Featuring South Side History & Architecture

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation offers the following educational programs to South Side schools, community groups, and the public through the Neighborhood Assistance Program/Comprehensive Service Program.

Website—check it out!
www.spotlightonmainstreet.com

Field Trips

- Eye Spy on the South Side
- LTV/South Side Works Tour: Our Changing Community
- Pittsburgh Voyager: Seeing South Side from the Monongahela
- The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks
- South Side History & Architecture Days
- South Side School and Neighborhood Explorations
- South Side Silk Screens at the Andy Warhol
- East Carson Street Scavenger Hunt

In-School Resources

- South Side Back Then and Now Artifact Kit
- South Side Fact Sheets
- Career Awareness Programs

South Side Strolls

- Summer walking tours, every Saturday; free for everyone!

If you would like to **volunteer** to help with any of these educational programs or **participate** in any of these programs, call 412-471-5808, ext. 537, or email: maryann@phlf.org.





SOUTH SIDE BUILDING PRIDE

Neighborhood Assistance Program/Comprehensive Service Program

YEAR 9

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, PNC Bank, South Side Local Development Company, and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.



For further information about the Neighborhood Assistance Program, contact the South Side Local Development Company by calling 412-481-0651 or visit: www.southsidepgh.com



Thank you DCED,
PNC, and SSLDC for
your funding support
that makes these
programs possible.

—South Side Area Students

*PNC Bank
1736 East Carson Street*