

## Impact Statement

Arielle Epstein, Grade 8.

**Keep Fighting**, 2019.

Marker, watercolor on paper, 15 x 20 Inches.

Milken Middle School, Los Angeles, CA

Unsung Hero: Mary Bickerdyke

Mary Bickerdyke was a nurse who changed wartime medical care for the better. Working under Ulysses S. Grant, she made it her mission to provide more efficient care for wounded Union soldiers during the Civil War. She was born in 1817 near Mount Vernon, Ohio, and died in 1901. Impressively, she was one of the first women to attend Oberlin College in Ohio. To many of the soldiers, she was known as “Mother” Bickerdyke because of her caring nature. Almost 300 field hospitals were built by her with the help of U.S. Sanitary Commission agents. She worked as a botanic physician and mainly worked with alternative medicines using herbs and plants. Astonishingly, she worked in 19 battles as a nurse who, “did not let anyone stand in her way,” saving many lives through her courageous acts. Without her, many of our soldiers would have died, causing us to potentially lose the war. She was also a hospital administrator for Union soldiers during the American Civil War and was a lifelong supporter of veterans. Later in life, Mary Bickerdyke served as a lawyer assisting veterans and their families by collecting pensions after the war.

I chose to represent Mary Bickerdyke for my Unsung Heroes project because she stood out in her bravery and showed me what a true hero is. She was an intelligent woman who was not afraid to risk her own life to care for and save others. Mary showed affection, gentleness, humanity, courage, kind-heartedness, sympathy, love, and so much more. She was a strong woman who dedicated her life to helping soldiers who were hurt in battle.

In my art piece, I chose to incorporate multiple mediums to represent various feelings. I hand drew a grid to create an effect such that when you look at it close up, it can appear to be a very confusing piece. But when you look at it from afar it looks complete and put together. I chose to paint, on Bristol paper, in each and every square to show neatness and different emotions with every color. My art piece represents Mary Bickerdyke’s life because as you look at it close it might appear busy and hectic, just like her life, but on the inside, she was very organized with a giving heart and a colorful spirit and determination. When you look at the painting from afar, you can see a clear picture of her looking into the distance, saluting the war planes high in the sky. In my painting I used the elements of design such as line, shape, value, and color. This is shown in the geometric squares used to make up the image. Value is also shown in tints, tones, and shades in everything, especially the sky. The principles of design that were incorporated were pattern and contrast. Pattern is shown in the geometric squares and contrast in the different shades of colors.

I plan on sharing my project with my community by exhibiting it, along with my Artist Statement, at the end of the year Art Show at Milken Community School. The Art show is on May 23, 2019. I will also be exhibiting it on March 29, 2019, at MIX, the Milken Innovators Expo. Attached

please find a video clip of MIX where you can see the Unsung Hero Exhibit from 2017 at the end of the clip at the Art Show.