

Curatorial Rationale

My body of work centers around many different subtopics that pertain to a multitude of different subjects; however my overall exhibition focuses on the theme of personal identity. I focused on creating artworks that represented my struggles and experiences with anxiety and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder along with personal political stances like women's rights and gender equality. I also created some pieces that represented things that are a part of my identity that bring me joy like horror and self portraits. My works consist of two dimensional pieces like painting and illustration, digital works using photoshop, and a wearable sculptural piece as well and I've used a number of different mediums and techniques to achieve each individual goal for every project like incorporating cardboard into sculptures and experimenting with block printing for the first time. Although a majority of my art was created using both paint and colored pencil as they were the two main mediums I learned with, I expanded my knowledge of different mediums throughout my IB DP visual arts journey and have diversified my portfolio.

To carry my overall theme of identity into my actual art, I first began by focusing on the subtopic of mental health and anxiety as that is something that is a part of my identity. In my colored pencil drawing, "The Stressed Woman", I was inspired by artist Gustave Courbet's "The Desperate Man" which depicted a young man holding onto his hair with a distressed expression. I took inspiration from that distressed appearance and altered it so my self-portrait would represent the stress associated with school and dealing with anxiety rather than the state of disparity. The reason for this decision was because I wasn't feeling overwhelmed by desperation, rather I was struggling with keeping up with school projects, running my earring business, and working on college applications which lead to intense and overwhelming feelings of anxiety. I decided to use colored pencils for this project which was important for me because I believe that when I use colored pencils I am most satisfied with the outcome as opposed to other mediums and due to this piece being a self portrait, I wanted to create as much realism as possible so that I could easily display small but impactful details that completely alter the meaning of the piece like the running mascara and eye bags. As mental health struggles are a large part of who I am, I believed that incorporating my favorite medium into such an important and personal artwork would really add to the overall theme of identity.

My current work has now evolved into something that represents my identity now as a senior in high school and the changes I have gone through over the past two years, personality wise. For my exhibition, I wanted to be able to put the viewers in my shoes so that they could understand what having anxiety and OCD feels like and so that they can take a peek into my own head and visualize things that are frequently on my mind like American politics and personal interests. My goal was to use visual impact so that viewers of my art could feel like they could understand who I am as a person without having to do any reading or research. I have achieved this goal by arranging each piece in very close proximity to one another because each piece, although they may seem unrelated, comes together to make a whole, symbolizing how each piece of my personality makes up my whole personal identity.

To conclude, with my theme being personal identity, I found it important to incorporate all of my many interests and struggles that make me who I am by using 2 dimensional art, sculpture, and digital art. I wanted my audience to be able to experience what my life is like just by viewing my exhibition so they could understand me as a person and understand both the hardships and strengths I have dealt with. Like a puzzle, each artwork represents a piece that makes up the whole image or theme making each work a crucial element for both the completion of the metaphorical puzzle and my own identity.