

Curatorial Rationale

Throughout these years I have been given the opportunities to expand my experience in artistic creation by using different mediums in efforts to find the one that I work best with. Along the way, I was able to find not only my best medium but a recurring theme and style within my work that was not intentional. I created each piece as a snapshot of what was on my mind at that moment in time of my life. It wasn't until very late in my creation process that I reflected on the works that I had made so far and noticed the recurring theme of my relationships and friendships with other people. All of my beginning pieces reflect stories of others and how they've impacted and influenced my life, conveying a sense of love or appreciation for such important people in my life. I also noticed that many of my paintings, then realized to be my favorite medium, looked similar in colors and style. I took an interest in black outlining my figures to contrast against bright and vibrantly blended colors used for the backgrounds. With time, my styles and techniques began to improve, and by the time of my self portrait at the end of my junior year, I had become so comfortable with conveying how others have impacted my life that I was able to convey only myself for the very first time.

The success that I had in completing my self portrait both emotionally and artistically set the tone for my senior year in art making. My techniques in my common use of blending bright acrylic paint was only improving, and I began to convey more close and intimate topics that I held so close to myself. I still stuck to my theme of my relationship with others, but that theme expanded to my relationship with myself. I furthered my work in self portraits and made some of the best pieces I have ever made in this last semester. I even focused on the most intimate relationship one can have with someone else; a romantic relationship with a significant other. The development of comfort I've gained in myself, my life, and my artistic abilities are all reflected in a sort of timeline fashion throughout my pieces. This is conveyed through my exhibition by having nearly all of my pieces in chronological order, as it is seen how the topic of each piece slowly steers closer to myself. The final pieces that I worked on focused mainly on that development of myself throughout all of my years and are placed as some of the last pieces of the exhibition.

The development of my work is also reflected through my choices of inspiration and how I incorporate them into my pieces. I do believe that my pieces often look similar to those specific pieces of my inspirations, not quite often an era or movement of art history. I often followed Renee Magritte for more than one medium in my pieces of "Built for Success" and "Optimist", later following pop art for my acrylic painting "Family to Feminist". In these three pieces, I take certain aspects of my inspiration and slightly work them into my own for style and not much of meaning. For my remaining pieces, however, my inspirations vary greatly as it is both the visual style and my interpreted meaning that inspire me. For my self portrait "In My Own Skin", I am heavily influenced by Van Gogh's pieces and it is noticeable, although I tailor the meaning to be personal to me, while remaining similar. In my piece "Migration", I follow the inspiration of Baldwin with the visual style while giving it an entirely different meaning.