

Curatorial Rationale

My body of work has stirred through many completely different concepts, however all of them related to the theme of identity in one's individual life. I have tried to explore this theme in several different ways by looking at my parents' expectations for me, by reflecting on my childhood, and my own beliefs, values, and experiences. Utilizing photographic references and having basic photoshoot before starting a piece has been a massive wealth of having the process go smoothly. My works have established sculptural and painted elements, and I have applied several numbers of processes to adjust the medium to my purpose. I believe all my works are connected between the ideas of reflections over my experiences and myself.

My two pieces, *Hope* and *Memories*, sum up my journey from Burma (Myanmar) to Malaysia. *Hope* reflected on how my family and I escaped Burma because of the government persecution and I am my parents' "hope" to create a better future for us. *Memories* exhibited in my childhood living in Burma and Malaysia using elements such as cherry blossoms and Petronas Twin Towers that remind me of my past. I was inspired by totally different artists, Rene Magritte and Yoshida Hiroshi, and different mediums to create both pieces, however, both pieces are connected to tell my childhood experience.

My artworks *Two Faces*, *Self*, *Fight With A Smile*, *Lost in the Sea*, and *Mysterious* are based on my beliefs. I was inspired by a variety of artists and used different mediums to create each piece. I believe one's own belief is a part of one's own identity. *Two Faces* is a drypoint art that presents a personality that fits everybody, not just my own self. One of my favorite artworks is *Fight With A Smile*. I used the stippling method to create this piece which took a great amount of time and patience. This piece portrayed that life is a challenge but there is always a way to

overcome whatever we are dealing with. *Lost in the Sea and Mysterious* shows how life is a mystery that makes life more interesting and meaningful. All these pieces have in common is to reflect on my beliefs and how I view life.

My favorite medium, *Silver and Gold*, is a mixed media piece that presents my two best-friends. I have two amazing friends that I value, respect, love, and care for. I used a gold and silver wire to make the sculptures. Gold and silver are materials that are expensive and have value. I believe good friends are like silver and gold which is why I incorporate these elements into my piece. I also applied watercolor and hand embroidery to create this piece that shows my skills in these areas. This artwork is related to a theme of identity because my best friends have a great impact on my life which makes me who I am as a person.

The next group of pieces was *The Best of Both Worlds* and *Home* which focuses on the environment. Nature is something that I value and is always a part of us. I strongly believe that it is our responsibility to take good care of our environment. Both pieces are inspired by different artists and used different methods, however, both show my appreciation for nature which reflected my identity.

Dead Brain and *Sister's Love* are illustrations inspired by Jessie Willcox Smith. *Dead Brain* is my perspective on how students heavily rely on technology to do our school work. We often take a short cut just to get things done instead of having a mindset or a desire to learn. *Sister's Love* shows my family and how we take care of each other. These artworks present a theme of identity for showing my perspective on students including myself and portray how we take care of each other in my family.

Viewers might have different themes based on the visual presentation for each piece. Since each piece is different, such as the process, method, artistic style, and inspiration, they emphasize a variety of emotions and feelings. However, they all are connected to the theme of identity.