

My body of work consistently follows the theme of identity, personal identity and influences on identity. This theme has been explored in various ways, with a specific focus on my personal identity and how different aspects have influenced how I view myself. When presenting my work I wanted to cluster together aspects of my identity that I find important, these pieces were grouped together by color, form, and general theme. My pieces were primarily created using acrylic paint, with the exception of a few different mediums. I began the creation of my pieces solely as an acrylic painter, however as I became more comfortable with the process of experimentation I began to explore more ways to represent my identity.

The space I was given for my exhibition consisted of three white walls, but I chose to only use two of these walls because it made more sense for the thematic groups I was trying to portray through my exhibition. I placed my piece *A Natural State* in the center of the main wall because it has a large visual impact and contrast with the other pieces displayed on this wall. In addition, this piece has a theme that continues to impact my everyday identity; nature has always been a constant part of my life and identity that has transcended my many stages of life.

On either side of this piece I placed two canvases of the same size, my pieces *Summer's in Her Blood* and *Childlike Joy*. I placed these slightly lower than the canvas in the middle because I wanted to emphasize that these two pieces had themes that were important to my identity, but weren't as important as the theme in my piece *A Natural State*. On either side of these pieces, I created separate groups of pieces based on theme, one being focused on nature and the other being focused on my personal growth with my identity. On the left side of the wall there are pieces such as *Nymph Lake*, *Summer's in Her Blood*, and *Roots* which all have similar color palettes consisting of blues and greens and similar themes based on my connection to nature. The right side of this wall features two pieces that I found to have the most contrast within my portfolio thematically and visually. I grouped these pieces together in order to show contrast between how I view different parts of my identity, and my personal growth in regards to my identity. The block print *Abstracted Identity* represents a time in my life where I was unsure about my personal identity, and couldn't seem to find positive elements of my identity. Contrastingly, my piece *Childlike Joy* shows an element of my identity that I find joy in and am proud of- my upbringing. My block print also creates contrast by being smaller than the painting, as well as being different color wise; the block print being made with black ink and the painting using pastel pinks and yellows.

On the left side of my exhibition space I grouped pieces of various mediums and sizes. By combining all of these differing pieces together, I was able to express the versatility of expressing identity and the large variety of factors that make up a person's identity. The overarching theme of this wall was how surroundings impact identity. In the center of this wall I once again wanted to create a contrasting focal point by including a piece that was focused on my moms identity rather than my own. My piece *Suppressed Spirit* also has visual contrast with bright colors in the center and a dark background, in addition this piece creates visual contrast with the rest of the pieces featured on the wall as well as thematic contrast as this piece is about my moms identity whereas the other pieces on this wall are about my identity.

Identity is explored throughout my exhibition, each wall representing how I perceive my personal identity as well as identity in general. The idea of identity is shown through the use of color and the medium of my pieces, and my pieces are grouped together thematically by how they relate to the concept of identity.