

Art is a beautiful visual representation of one's views of the world, whether it holds a huge significant meaning or not is up to not only the artist but the viewer as well. This series of art presented by me was made to represent hope and despair. The idea of living a life where one is unhappy, but even though all hope for betterment is lost, there's still a slight hint that things will get better. All pieces are solely inspired by personal experiences I myself went through during my years in school and the outside world, basically, this is me presenting my life story. All artworks presented show a different creative approach as well as medium used, varying from, paintings, sculptures, digital collages, and illustrative works.

First set from the series was made to represent broader issues. Desire represents the human instinct of wanting more. In relation to my theme, I wanted it to represent wanting the unachievable. In relation to another piece Beautiful Demise, representing toxic beauty standards and its effect on how I viewed myself in comparison to others. These pieces go first because they are, as I call it, the start of insecurities and wanting the unachievable.

Following along are seven pieces regarding mental health. Each piece holds a similar meaning, and inspiration, however, I wanted each one to represent a differing factor relating to mental health. Each piece had the sole purpose to evoke discomfort. A very prominent subject in the pieces are the gaze and hands. In Pills, Dyspnea and More, the hands show a major role in the piece, my goal was to be able to create emotions with just a hand, a challenge but something needs regarding the pieces. Pills is a great example: the hands show desperation and agony as they try to get out of the overflowing pills drowning them.

Overgrown Sight represents the violence and hatred that continues growing in the world. Which can be closely tied to another piece of mine titled, Behind Closed Walls, representing the ongoing violence prevalent in my neighborhood, both pieces done in different mediums, sculpture and color pencil. Overgrown Sight is very natural-est, the reason being that I wanted to show how affected the world has been by other actions, whether it is throwing toxic waste and killing our world, or continuing to live a life of bliss against the ongoing violence, causing our world to slowly fall apart.

The last set of paintings follow the topic of "Healing". Fireflies through Crimson Days, resembles strength. A moment in time represents self-growth. I wanted these two to represent the positive parts of my life. My idea was to end my exhibition on a positive note. The reason being that it is part of my story, alongside the despair, this is the hope that walks along. In order to convey this feeling correctly, and make it stand out as positive when displayed alongside the other more darker themed pieces, I used brighter colors and warmer tones and made them the focal point of the artwork. Both are paintings in which I greatly focused on adding contrast to make these colors stand out. By having these bright "happy" colors, I felt I could convey these positive emotions.

For all these artworks, I want the pieces to show and tell a story, as the artworks vary from negative feelings to positive ones, going from absolute chaos to finally a hint of hope, which is why I decided my overall theme would be of "Hope and Despair". A notable difference in the

different sets of paintings is that in both the sets dealing with more negative issues, mental health and societal issues, I used more dull, cool toned colors. For the positive set, healing, there's a huge contrast in colors compared to the others as I used much more brighter colors. The colors set for each piece of artwork help convey its overall meaning, which is something I thoroughly thought about throughout the process of these pieces. The pieces were set in a chronological order from despair to hope, starting off with the negative based pieces first ending with the positive ones to further show my vision.