

Curatorial Rationale

Throughout these past two years in art I have seen a great improvement in not only my skills and techniques but also myself. This journey has taught me how to express myself in creative ways as a means to relieve stress as well as inner thoughts and feelings. My vision for presenting this body of work is to display the work with development of the meanings and metaphors displayed throughout my pieces. I wanted to use themes in my piece that can be used to bring awareness to mental issue and possibly ways to cope with given mental issues. For example, the particular themes used include mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety, suicide, schizophrenia, etc. are presented within this body of work as well as the emergence from these types of mental illnesses and the expression of this through art. This can be seen not only through my journey as a person but also through the development through my art during these past two years.

Ideas explored during the creation process include the use of art as an expression of emotions as well as the overcoming of hardship. My body of work was highly impacted by artists such as Francis Bacon, Vincent Van Gogh, and Iris Scott. For example, Francis Bacon used his art as a way to express social issues such as the rejection of homosexuality in society during the early 1900s. Francis Bacon's piece entitled *Head VI* inspired my piece pertaining to social anxiety entitled *Bah*. Vincent Van Gogh's emotions also drove Van Gogh's style of painting, for example, while he was at an asylum he painted *Starry Night* which displays erratic movements similar to the episodes he was having at this time, this piece inspired me to create the piece *Starry Life*, a piece that despite the happy title had a darker twist. Iris Scott is yet another painter that inspired me throughout my art journey, by finding a new way to create fine art using her fingers. She paints with her fingers and creates a sort of fauvist or post impressionist style which I also included within some of my pieces including *Paradise Springs*, in which I used Iris Scott's technique of finger painting, and *Emergence* which were both positive pieces pertaining to my emergence from mental illness.

I wanted to display my artwork in a way in which it shows emergence from mental illness or hardship into the so-called light or happiness in life. This will be done from left to right. The left will hold the darker pieces while the right will hold the lighter pieces in terms of emotion as well as color given that color is often associated with particular emotions. The way I will exhibit my work will contribute to the meaning and metaphors I am trying to convey because the audience will visibly be able to see a color shift in my work as well as an emotional development throughout as the work is viewed from right to left. Strategies used to do this were the placement of the work along the wall from left to right spread out and visible from one angle to show the progression of the works, this will metaphorically represent from past suffering to a current state of happiness.

The biggest piece of knowledge I want the audience to take away is that emergence from mental illness is achievable. I want the audience to feel hope for the future if they are suffering from mental illness. As well as feeling proud if they are one of the people like me who have overcome mental illness. I want my audience to feel an emotional and personal connection to my work because at some point everyone has suffered and overcame a hardship in their lives and should be able to easily relate to my exhibition and experience my journey first hand through my work.