

The theme of my entire body is without a cultural focus and would not be a collective whole; the entire body of work focuses on identity in one's individual life. With the ability to relate my theme to my personal life and focus on a single transitional phase assisted me in the sense that my works have a fluidity. Utilizing materials such as acrylic paints, linoleum and Photoshop to create digital pieces has been a massive wealth of therapy for me, and I believe all my works are linked between the ideas of reflections over bad experiences. The concepts that I have attempted to explore are sensitive to me, such as self love and self realization; within this idea I tie these concepts to mental disorders that I have developed. Due to previous life experiences, my ability to self evaluate and improve my art both on an aesthetic and metaphorical aspect. In applying these experiences to the theme of identity the pieces tie together creates a body of work that is not only connected aesthetically by my artist's voice but thematically in conveying similar themes.

My personal favorite medium, acrylic paint, is a medium I use quite often. This is not limited to my academic and professional art life but it is open to my personal life as well. In accordance to that, I personally believe that I am able to get my general ideas across to a viewer or audience a lot better compared to when I am using a medium I am not fond of. My favorite pieces, coincidentally, are not done with acrylic paint but in digital form. However, a very important element called texture is left out of the picture when using a computer to edit and draw pieces. The difference between my paintings and my digital ones is the texture; the brushstrokes, the slight extension from the canvas versus the smooth glossy finish of a print and the accuracy of every stroke and impeccable blend. When I'm painting in the traditional manner, I don't paint to get to an end point and simply paint to paint but until the piece at hand feels as though it has come to an end. I want an audience to realize the difference between the efforts of an oil painting and the efforts of a digital painting. This is not to say that digital is any easier, in fact the digital pieces tie my exhibition together.

The space I was used for my exhibition included three white walls and a podium for a physical 3-D object such as a sculpture. The way I decided to organize my exhibition was a direct nod at the themes presented.

I displayed my works in a way that introduce a harsh reality, with my sculptural work, *Camouflage* being the first thing you see. The unnerving and vulnerability of the piece brings to light the central themes presented within all my works. In between this piece are bigger pieces meant to represent my true self that I have tried to conceal. Closing off the exhibition I showcase pieces such as my illustrative prints encompassing motifs of growth and vulnerability, which allows the exhibition to come full circle by wrapping back around to vulnerability and an obvious fear of exposure.

The means through which I create art gives voice to the way I illustratively express myself. While the mediums that I work with are not especially varied, I don't feel constrained by them nor feel as though it puts restrictions on any of my work. The themes and motifs being mostly similar across the board is not intentional, due to art being the biggest therapeutic activity in my life these themes are present in my expression.