



I planned to create art that reflects classical pieces with a contemporary twist, making each artwork both historical and relevant to society today. I myself am a partisan in many social justice issues, incorporating these issues and raising awareness about these problems with my artwork is my goal. If my art can give people an alternative perspective or altered perception on an issue, and critically think about the societal impacts, then I will have truly become a successful artist. Creating art has allowed me to express my emotions without using words, allowing me to use the negativity to create a beautiful piece of art out of pain, it will always be one of the most fulfilling accomplishments of my life. The theme that consists of all of my eleven pieces is: Modern Day America. Issues the nation faces like gun violence, racism, mental health awareness, sexism all are important to recognize and address. I feel that freedom through expression and creativity allow these heavy controversial topics to be brought to light in a more emotional and thoughtful execution.

Working with various mediums across my exhibition has allowed me to explore my identity as an IB Visual Arts student. Without the opportunity of the program I wouldn't have been as successful in being able to diversify my creative expression. My favorite medium to work with is photography. The 100 photos summer project, as well as my 'Bacon Series' opened my eyes to an unexplored form of creativity. Learning about this form, like how the various megapixels and apertures can affect shutter speed and light within a photograph was a rewarding experience. Illustration and painting are my two strong suits, though photography is my favorite when it comes to creating art both within the bounds of academics and on my individual personal time. Clay is a particular medium that doesn't suit my creative identity, and is something I have come to shy away from as an artist. I particularly am not fond of the texture and time needed to make a piece, and I commend those that produce such beauty within this medium as I could not have the patience to do so. Sculpture is something the IB Visual Arts program introduced me to. I found it challenging to formulate a three-dimensional piece from found objects for the University of Milwaukee project collaboration.

Within my exhibition, I wanted my bodies of work to consist of a solid forward moving direction. An evolution of ideas, mediums, and creative individuality within myself. Starting with my self portrait I felt was an appropriate fit on this artistic journey. Since my days in primary school I have struggled with mental health issues, and found that creating and expressing myself through various mediums in art has helped my mental state return to a state of peace. I was able to create my self portrait using acrylic paint and sharpie, the piece symbolizing my personal struggles and representing how I present myself and a reflection of how my emotions affect my art and creativity, as well as how I paint and portray people in each of my pieces. Concluding my exhibition with my Triptych, a very personal piece to me, allowed for the work to conclude itself within the bounds of the theme.

Building a relationship between the artwork and the viewer is critical. I find that having created work on the basis of controversy and substantial topics, the viewer is more likely to respond and connect in either a negative or positive way, or perhaps both. Technologically speaking this did have a constraint on my work as it had to fit within the bounds of a specific theme, however I have never felt more free within the artistic identity than I did through the IB Visual Arts program. It is because of the opportunity of being an IB student, that I am able to develop not only as an artist or student, but as an individual in society. The themes within these eleven pieces could be portrayed and evaluated differently by each viewer, but nonetheless make the viewer feel the powerful forms of expression through the mediums presented.

