

Curatorial Rationale

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As I began the IB DP art program, I became thoroughly concerned about the influence society had on others. Whether this was through norms, constructs, or expectations. My vision for my body of work was to address these influences and showcase either how harmful they are or merely address them for what they are. As I believe that art cannot explain universal experiences or feelings because there is no such thing, I believe that art instead aims to “eff the ineffable”. Essentially, art tries to communicate discernibly. In my body of work, I do not explain my experience, nor do I explain societal constructs or norms. Instead, I describe and express my personal experience of society’s impacts. I rely on my audience’s imagination and intuition for my messages to be properly communicated, allowing my intended vision for my body of work to be perceptible and understood.

Although my body of work is created using many techniques and mediums, there is a recurring idea addressed within social constructs/norms. Through this program, I have experimented with numerous mediums with great success. Even with contrasting mediums, the common idea was communicated throughout my works. Although my pieces express different experiences of society’s influence, they all share a common theme. Some address my experiences from childhood (example: “Deflowering”), while others focus on my teenage experience (examples: “Cloudy”, etc.). Along with this, some address my experience as a woman (example: “Unspeakable”, etc.), while others simply express my experience as a human being within society (example: “Within a Tree”). These experiences were influenced by societal constructs, expectations, and norms. As I personally have experienced the negative effect of society, I thought it was important to address it due to the lack of addressment from other sources. Art is a form of expression and I felt it important to express such an issue that many individuals have most likely experienced.

Although not seen in all of my work, a common strategy I began to develop was using visuals or ideas that would make the viewer uncomfortable. I found that this was an excellent method of engaging the viewer. The sense of discomfort I received from viewers of my pieces demonstrated more interest in the piece. This strategy was developed throughout my journey in this program, however, I appreciate the contrast between work that makes individuals uncomfortable and work that lacks that aspect. Experiencing my work as a whole, I believe viewers may turn away if there is an overwhelming sense of discomfort. As some of my artwork makes individuals uncomfortable due to the visual aspect or of the deeper meaning, I made sure to arrange my presented art to allow the viewer to fully digest the body of work without becoming overwhelmed with discomfort. As some of my work did not utilize this strategy, there became a sense of harmony in my presented work. The balance between the uncomfortable pieces and those lacking this strategy is exhibited.

I intend for my audience to develop an understanding of my view of societal constructs and norms. No two people have experienced the same influence and expectations of society, however, through art I can share my experience to allow individuals to either relate or learn. Much of my audience may have experienced similar societal impacts, however, others may not be able to relate to any of my work. My intention was not to allow others to relate necessarily, rather, I wished for individuals to merely understand my experience of my society. The artwork I chose for my exhibition was not chosen at

random. Instead, I grouped them together due to their common themes and addressed issues. During this process, I was able to understand the complexity of varying mediums and techniques. As my IB DP Art program is ending, I am grateful for my increased understanding of the art process. I plan to continue to tend toward my passion for art and expressing my experiences within it. I also plan to utilize my understanding of the art process throughout the rest of my courses and my further education.