

## Curatorial Rationale

My vision was to present a body of work that focuses on societal issues and questions routine activities. I wanted to make connections between types of issues that are often silenced or overlooked. My work aims to define my experience as a female in western society thus far through my own perspective. I have explored ideas that are intriguing to me, and make reference to self-expression, politics, and the environment. I live in a youthful subculture that welcomes a diverse group of people. This has allowed me to learn and grow in a community with different types of people, as well as recognize that art is used as a way to understand the point of view of others. This exhibition has served as a way for me to experiment with different mediums and ideas.

While much of my work is self-portraiture, I have diversified my material use. As I have morphed throughout the last few years, I have become more and more experimental. I have developed into someone who loves to naturally push the boundaries of societal norms through appearance and presentation, I have found that the changes I make in my personal life influence me to experiment with new mediums. Thus, my portfolio is based off of the concept of change. For example, as the formal quality of my work progresses from a simplification of figure, to working with a profile made of felt, there is also a progression in idea and concept. I am influenced by artists like Barbara Kruger and Melissa Lee Johnson. These artists have inspired the youthful theme of my body of work, and have influenced how I create mixed media work seen through my use of words or phrases in the artwork was inspired by these artists who use diction the strengthen their messages.

The exhibit is capable of showing a natural progression when it is displayed all together. An example of this is in my self portraits, when one can see how my physical appearance has changed (especially hair). The pieces are arranged in a way that groups them together thematically, and by color. For example, my three square shaped self portraits are placed together because they all obviously show me, but in very different situations.

One strategy that I use when exhibiting my work is organizing them based off of the size of my pieces. While many of them are small, I recognize that a bigger piece will consume the energy of the room and draw attention to the work, while small pieces will draw a viewer closer to the presentation. One work that I have purposely printed large is my digital collage. This piece has two figures in it standing side by side. I wanted to make these figures life-sized. This way, the viewer is more likely to make connections between themselves and the work by comparing themselves to the bodies. I wanted to make this piece my biggest work because it also serves as a statement piece, acting as an introduction to the rest of my work. One other strategy that I have used is engaging an audience through bold statements. This way, my work can “shock” a viewer, by impacting their point of view.

The arrangement of my work is so as to create connectivity throughout the pieces. I have done this through the sizes of the works, and the use of shape, color, and linework in each individual piece. I use a wide array of color and have chosen to place pieces together that complement each other. For example, on my digital collage, I used blue and pink, which are colors commonly associated with gender, in order to critique the wage gap. I have placed this piece next to a drawing that has similar colors. When looking at my body of work, a bond should be created between my art and the viewer, depending on their experience. They may either be intrigued or comforted, depending on how much they agree with my individual perspective. I hope to comfort viewers but make them question ideals at the same time. My bold exhibition serves as a way for me to communicate the ways of youthful female life.