

My body of work investigates a variety of different issues that overall connect the main idea of existentialism. Themes found within this topic include; absurdity, isolation, dread, and freedom. These themes were developed from personal experiences and observed issues within my community. With my work I sought to display how short life can be, creating an emphasis on the role we play in this world. In order to display these ideas in the most effective way I decided to use a range of mediums. Mediums help communicate emotions within the piece by adding a different texture or tone in color. Throughout my exhibition I included sculptures, acrylic paintings, drawings, digital work, and photography. By working across different mediums I was allowed to develop technical skills within different art forms that I was not as comfortable using before. Most of my work was also inspired by the use of self taken photographs, this was done in order to share a more personal experience or concept within my piece.

The two most important themes of existentialism include absurdity and the loss of purpose. This was well expressed within my pieces "*Smile!*" and "*Day Dreaming*". There is a connection between these two pieces as they show a manipulation of human qualities. Both artworks show the replacement of identity by not including a face. I wanted to convey the reality of overthinking and how dreadful it can be. These ideas connects all of my muted or darker toned artworks, while the brighter and colorful pieces revolve around the idea of freedom. The use of vibrant colors expresses a freedom of thought, where calmness clear mindedness is displayed.

The warm color pieces were made at times when I was experiencing the most happiness and usually when surrounded by family and friends. The cool color artworks were influenced by isolated days. The darker tones in contrast to some of my warm colored artworks were created to make the audience feel a shift in mood, from joyful to dreadful. The manipulation of reality into absurdity within some of my artworks was intentionally done for the audience to consider these drastic mood shifts in life.

The exhibition is separated by the difference in color and theme. By placing my brighter artwork in the center of the exhibition I will engage the viewer by attracting their attention through the common vibrant colors that are immediately facing them. While the darker toned pieces will be placed in the corner walls. These are pieces that touch on the mood of isolation, therefore they will be isolated from the rest of my colorful work. Artwork which is most isolated conveys a particular importance to the audience. They create a statement, calling out to the viewer to approach the piece and dissect the large conflict of isolation my pieces promote. These pieces will also be of larger size, to create a distance with the viewer and attract attention to the larger work specifically. Being placed in the corner will guide the viewer to approach the piece and also corner them, making the viewer less likely to be distracted by all the other bright work.

Pieces like "*Smile*", "*Day Dreaming*", "*It Burns*" and "*When Reality Strikes*" are all placed in the corner walls of the exhibition and similarly are all Surrealist pieces. It appears to be more significant and looks better from a distance, where the viewer can make out a whole connected piece instead of looking up-close for a smaller detail or losing the overall purpose to it. Surrealist and cool color work is grouped along the sides of the exhibition wall in order to force the

audience to focus on that piece only, instead of being distracted by a burst of uncoordinated colors and emotions.

Whether the artwork had vibrant colors or dull tones; the main relationship between all works in my exhibition revolves around the audience understanding that we are all people who have found a comfortable place in life and have at times suffered as well. The exhibition is presented as a whole to create a connectedness within existentialist themes that overall revolve around something we all have in common, being alive.