

IB Visual Art
2022
Madison

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Curatorial Rationale

The works I have chosen to present aim to explore female identity within society. Throughout the process of creating my artwork, the theme of beauty standards for women is prevalent. In addition, some of my piece's personal experience has played a considerable role in the influence of the artwork, such as struggling with the pressure to have the perfect body image, particularly on social media. As my work progressed, other effects such as Willem De Kooning and Damien Siqueiros artists inspired me to use their mediums such as oil paint and photography to create my artworks.

The artworks that I would have made for my exhibition include various materials and mediums, from oil painting to clay moulding and an installation. Using materials such as oil paint and photography helps convey the natural and the emotion of the models used, as these mediums tell a story to the audience. For example, the photography piece inspired by the artist Damien Siqueiros, my work called "Marriage", illustrates the frustration and restriction of the emotions within the piece due to her realistic facial features. This piece creates a relationship between the audience and the photograph as the viewer can see and feel the model's emotion due to the expression on her face (screaming). It represents her pain and frustration with arranged marriage. However, the pain and frustration to the audience represent a struggle within their lives, which this piece can define, and they can relate to the anger expressed in the piece.

A few of my pieces have focused on the female body and how manipulation and unrealistic beauty standards are created within society for women to feel they should stand for these standards. My pieces show the beauty and the realistic view of female bodies. My clay sculpts called "mother nature" represents the natural growth of figures, with all the unevenness because it shows the reality. My abstract piece "courage" represents the fight and the breakthrough for women to push out of stereotypes and transform into their own identity, to have the courage to be strong within the world. Ranging from photography to clay, I would have also made an installation by demonstrating a distorted figure hanging in front of the audience behind a mirror. So, when standing in front of the figure and the mirror, you will see it reflected upon yourself. It depicts the idea of a distorted figure, and it connects with the audience as they become the painting.

I would have placed my exhibition so that it is open. All my artworks are presented to the audience, as my artwork can be available for interpretation, as everyone can relate to the majority of my artwork. I would have my artworks relating to nature, including the ribcage, clay sculpture, and my abstract piece. So that my artworks are categorized together so that they all link smoothly together, as it will help guide the audience through different experiences. The installation would be so that the audience can view themselves through the painting reflected on the mirror clearly, so I would have placed it at the end of my exhibition as I think it's important not to let other artworks overpower my other pieces. Allowing access to view or even take a picture in the mirror with the body over the top to see yourself distorted. I would have placed all the photographs, including "marriage" and "controlled", together, as the red from the background of "controlled" compliments nicely the pale pink background of the "marriage" photograph. Finally, I would have displayed the paintings (oil paint and digital art pieces). I would have placed them next to each other to emphasize the social media aspect of women's beauty standards.





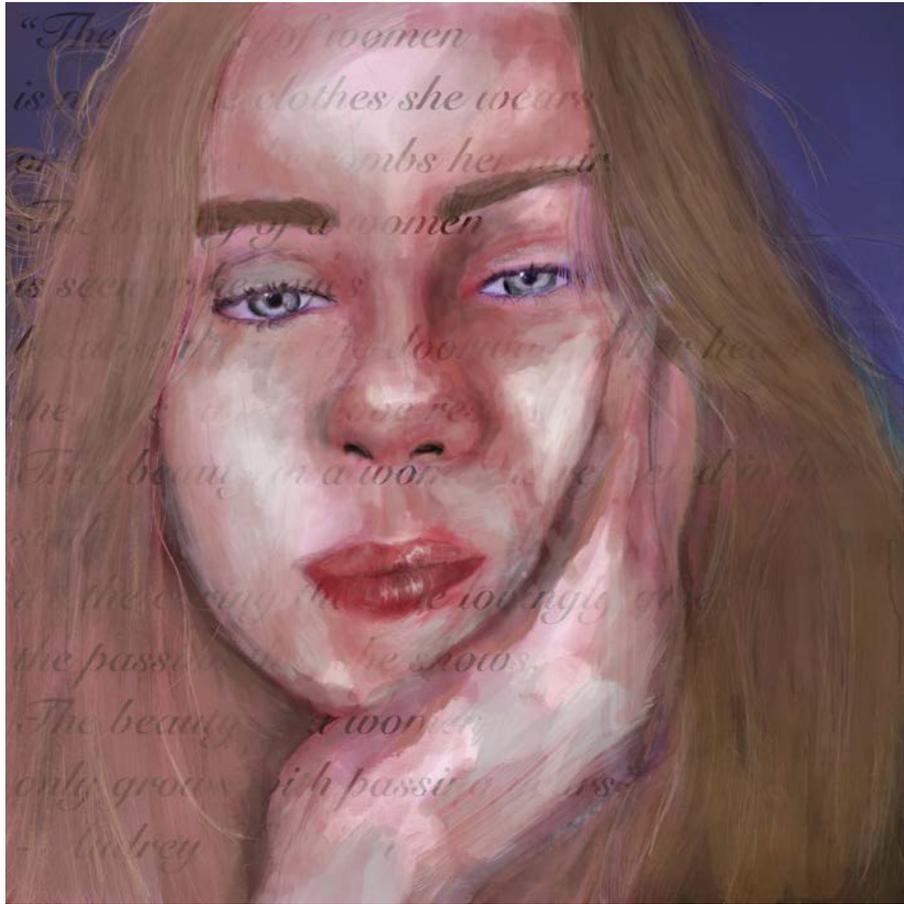
Marriage

Photograph

60*90 cm

January 2021

I was inspired by the photographer Damien Siqueiros, as I was intrigued by as he used photographs to tell a story, which I implemented into my work. Within my photograph I used a red ribbon to show the bond between the male and female, however, it also used to represent the force and the constraints of the women. This work shows the issue regarding female identity, as marriage is two bond two people together and by being married to someone forcefully, you lose a way to express your own identity. This can create confusion and frustration for the female which is shown in the model's facial expression.



Beauty of a woman

Digital painting

60*60cm

December 2021

Inspired by a poem by Audrey Hepburn. I wanted to portray the beauty of a woman painted. I wanted to draw attention to the eyes of the girl in the painting as within the poem the author states that the "beauty of a woman is shown in her eyes". I wanted to emphasize the beauty of a woman isn't on the outside it's from her inside, I used contrasting colours as the skin tone, instead of the usual skin colours to demonstrate the texture, also it demonstrates conflict in the imagery. I have added the poem layered over the girl's face, to represent her inner self as the poem is very faint, it's as if she is expressing herself towards the audience.





Reality

Oil paint

120*180cm

November 2021

The artist Willem de Kooning inspired me to create this artwork, due to the distorted figures and the bright colours used in his paintings. This piece shows body dysmorphia and for women to fit into the 'beauty standard'. I can show the different types of manipulation that people use on Instagram or other types of media to create as a teenage girl I relate to this piece as many girls manipulate their bodies so that on social media, they appear perfect when in reality their bodies do not appear like that. I have used a portrait picture of myself, as it makes the work relatable to the audience.



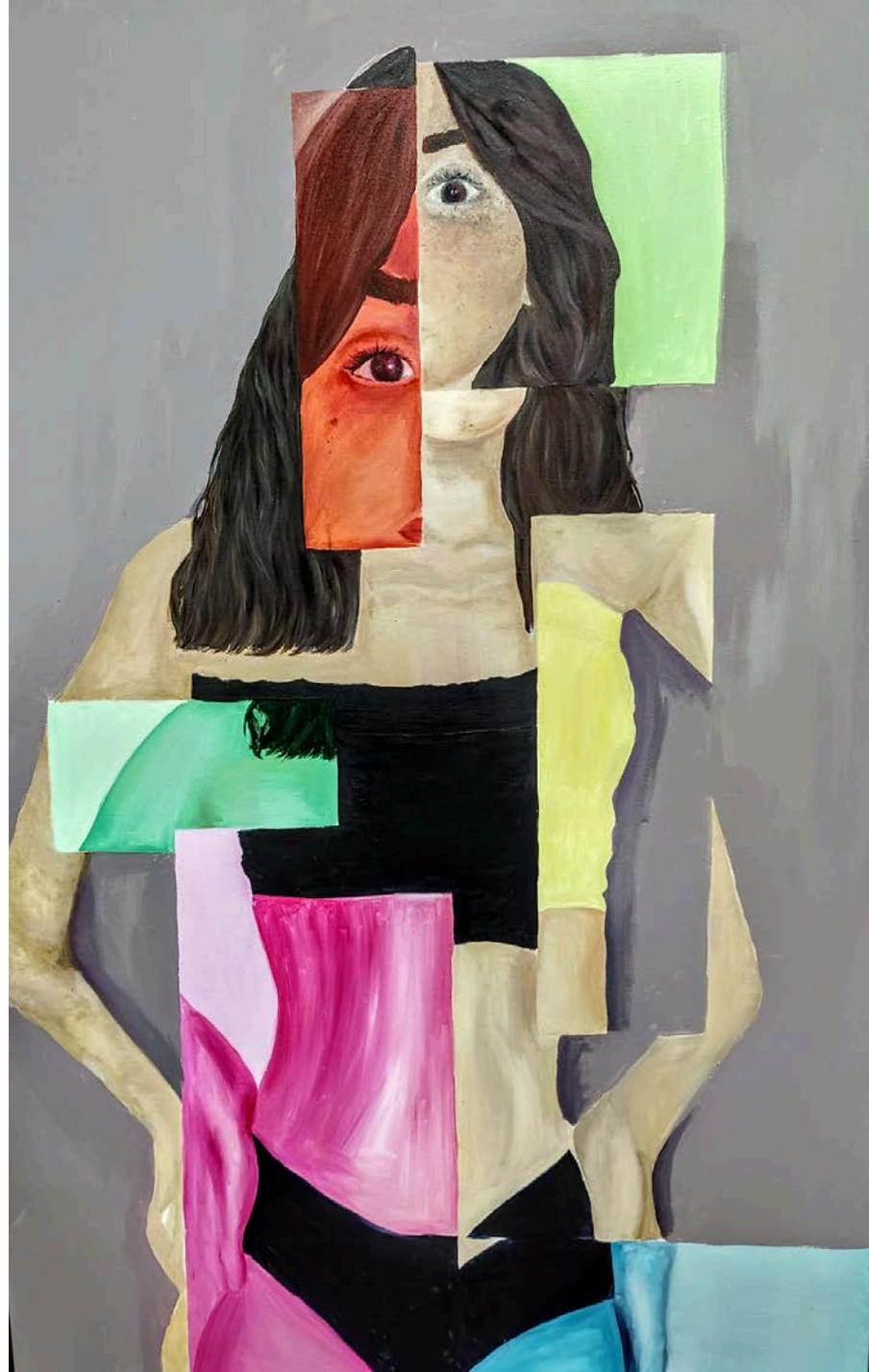


Mother nature

Clay sculpture

November 2021

This piece of a female body, with aging tree bark protruding from the neck and the chest on the body, represents the natural growth and empowerment of female bodies from a nature perspective. It is linked to mother nature, and the nature of female bodies where they should embrace their womanly flesh, flaws, and misshapes within their figures. By using clay, I was able to mold the female body, to emphasis the curves, and molded the figure to show that bodies aren't perfect, which can be shown on the sculpture, for example, the uneven breasts.





I am women

50*80cm

Photography

March 2022

Inspired by Willem de Kooning I wanted to portray that women should embrace the 'flaws' in their bodies. I used his distorted figure of a women and painted it on perspex so that you can see the paint both sides. I wanted to show the audience what's wrong with the figure or shape or size? But not only what's wrong with an oversized figure, but also what's wrong with being too skinny or too small? I want the audience to become the painting, as when having the painting in front of you and the mirror behind, and see the painting on your body it will become a distorted look of your bodies.





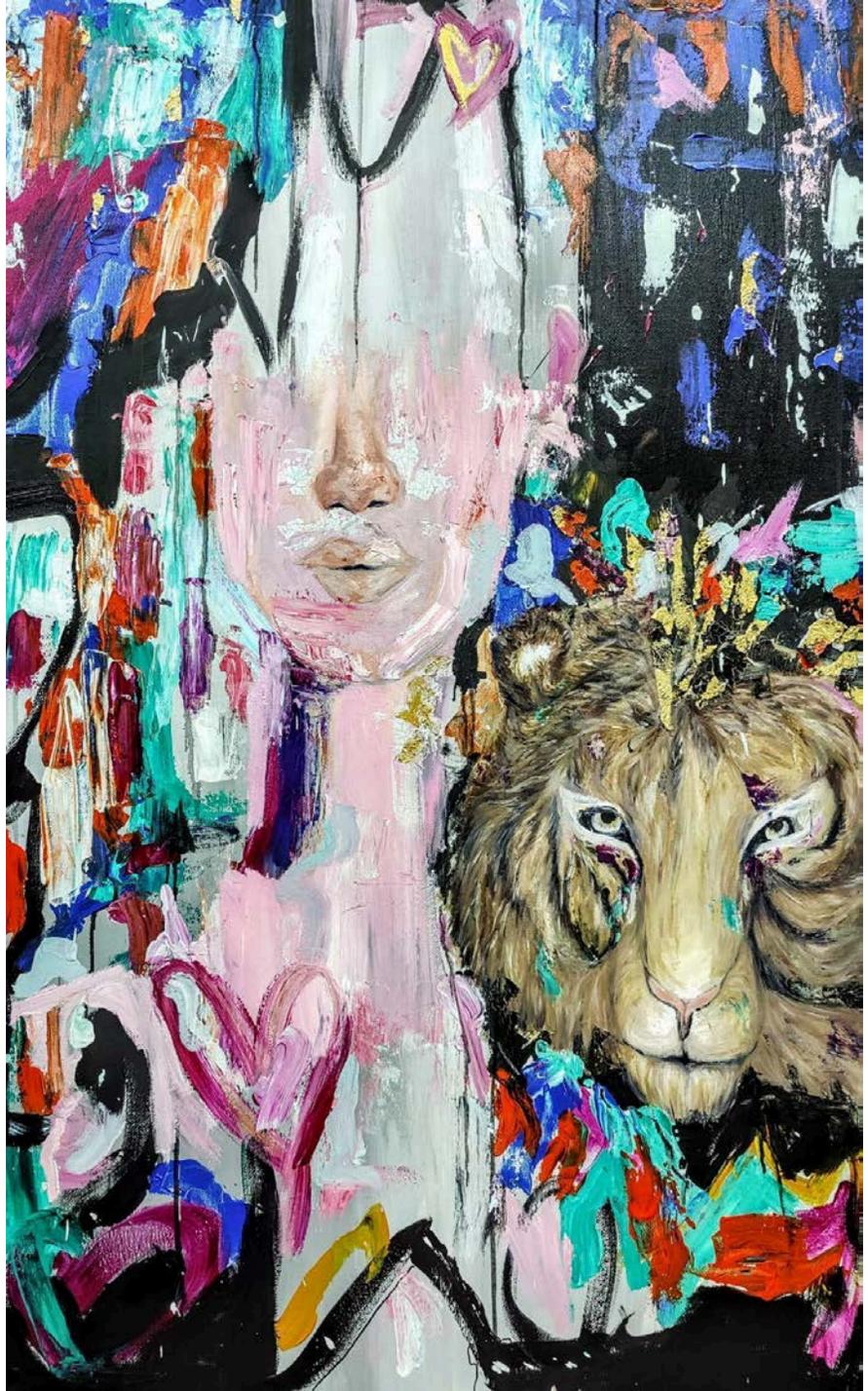
Controlled

Photograph

40*60cm

January 2021

This piece aims to explore female entrapment, due to the control of media to fit into beauty standards, as the media sets an unrealistic standard for women to follow. Following these standards can feel like you're being controlled and dictated by these standards. It shows how women are controlled by beauty standards, and the idea to be perfect. However. In the photograph, the model is trying to break from the standards, as she is pulling on the ribbon. The red represents anger which links with the emotion of the model, to represent the struggle to break free from expectations.





Courage

Oil painting

90*100cm

June 2021

This piece represents the growth of women in society, how they are expected to live up to a certain standard, look perfect, and juggle a work-life balance. This piece demonstrates courage and power due to the lion, which is usually represented by males, as a powerful animal, however, I contrast that idea with a woman to show women breaking those stereotypes and expectations which can be shown by the chaotic background. I experimented with chocolate wrappers for the gold texture above the lion's head, to highlight the power and beauty of becoming strong and brave.





Golden

Plaster and clay sculpture
February 2022

This piece represents the transformation and change of a body from life to death. The golden insects represent perfection and transformation. I have placed them on the ribcage as if they are climbing up and consuming the ribcage. I used insects as the main focal point of the piece as they symbolize objects of creation and this contrasts with ribcage as it is now deceased. This portrays the imagery of change and forming into something new.



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