

During my time in IB art I was always exploring new mediums, processes, and most importantly; themes. The themes and ideas I wanted to display in my work changed frequently and upon reflection I've realized that most of my work can be split into three distinct phases. These phases each explored one basic theme that I was interested in at the time. These phases represent my struggle with consistency and my inability to find one subject that I find truly meaningful. This is exactly what I want the viewer to see in the exhibition; a student struggling with their artistic identity and the attempting to find meaning in their life. To display this I first chose eleven pieces that could be categorized into one of the three phases. The three phases were mental illness, memory, and religion.

While laying out the exhibition I decided to display the transition between each phase by splitting the space between the different themes I was exploring. In the first section of the exhibition I displayed four works relating to mental issues. The next was dedicated to work displaying the fragility and importance of memory and had three works. The final section had four works that questioned religion and its place in my life. I initially wanted to gradually change between each section but due to limited space I had to create a distinct division between each section and the three pieces about memory had to be displayed separately.

The specific materials and techniques also evolve based on the section. In the first section about mental illness there are two paintings, one sculpture and one digital collage. The paintings dominate this section and take most of the attention; this is particularly important because it's the only section that includes them. By only showing paintings in the beginning of the exhibition it shows how I was initially interested in painting but this interest quickly diminished. These pieces are also intensely expressive and emotional, both through the color and content. The paintings are dominated by deep reds and light browns and they depict strage scenes with mangled and bloody figures. This raw emotionality is almost entirely left behind in the next sections.

The second section of the exhibition is dispersed throughout the exhibit and contains three works that explore memory and its importance. Of the three works displayed there is one collage, one sculpture, and one digital work. The sculpture in this section is quite similar in style to the one in the first section. It was created using gauze and has the same delicate appearance. The main difference between them is the presentation, I chose to present the physical sculpture instead of just an image of it. I believe this shows my struggle with not being able to determine how I should present sculptures; in a controlled or uncontrolled manner. By displaying a sculpture physically I had less control over the viewers interpretation of it. It can be viewed from a variety of angles instead of just straight on like an image. By giving up control I changed my identity as artist, I became far more open and didn't feel the need to control everything.

In the final section of the exhibition there are four pieces that explore the meaning of religion in my life. One of the collages is a physical copy and the other two are printed digital images. The printed copies were created in slightly different ways; the diptych was created entirely by hand and then scanned whereas the triptych was created mostly digitally and then printed on a large scale. All of these different

processes to end up with relatively similar products shows my inability to stick to one method. Although they all have different processes they share some similarities. The color scheme of each piece is relatively similar utilizing dark blues and reds alongside surreal visuals. I believe that by placing these works together at the end it wraps up the exhibit excellently and shows that although I'm still struggling with consistency I have come a long way as an artist and am beginning to find my artistic identity.