

The overall theme of my art stayed the same, focusing on the identity and culture of one's individual life. I explored this theme through things like my care for the environment as well as the personal struggles I have with my identity within my daily life. Also, a lot of my pieces have to do with the culture of my family, either directly or indirectly incorporating Czech, Scandinavian, and even my modern Americanized version of my culture. My works dealing with these concepts have explored the mediums and techniques of acrylic painting, various printmaking types, and digital works through the use of Photoshop. My vision for my body of work was centered around the theme of identity and culture and I envisioned that I would be able to create a cohesive body of work in which the pieces all worked together visually as well.

In my block printing and painting pieces, I was inspired by Alphonse Mucha's style of Art Nouveau because of the use of line and color in his pieces as well as the Czech culture evident in each of his works. His works often focused on the idea of a new woman and the societal issues that faced the Czech people at his time. I wanted to use this idea to form the concept of a "new identity" that focused on who I was, especially within my culture.

In order to develop a relationship with the viewers, I tried to pick issues with my identity or stories from my cultures that other people would be able to relate to or form a connection with because some of the identity struggles that I have are common among many groups of people, especially viewers of my age group who are dealing with the struggle between adulthood and our childhood years. The viewer's personal relevance to my pieces was further strengthened by my exhibition and presentation of my works. When setting up my exhibition I planned out how I would display each piece, especially because I wanted to split up the series pieces as well as my paintings to vary up the pieces and sizes and carry the viewer's attention across the body of work in the exhibition rather than just one piece. I also included my 3-D art piece with the painted shoes in a central location on a podium to add some definition to my exhibition and make it seem less static to the viewer's eye.

My paintings tended to have a lot to do with my identity compared to the other works, which is why I split them up to enhance the singular focus on each of the issues that I struggle with. Each of the problems in isolation gives the pieces a stronger sense of how large the problem is rather than being grouped together as one overarching problem. Another way I displayed the pieces was by focusing on the contrast between color. All of my black and white smaller pieces were used in between the larger, more colorful ones to create a large contrast rather than displaying all of my colorful pieces together. This also helped with moving the viewer's eyes across the body of work when displayed, making it look more aesthetically appealing.

Many of my pieces from the beginning of my junior year I liked, but eventually, I grew in my sense of my artwork style and developed a greater connection to the overall meanings as well. As an artist, it is interesting to see how my style has developed, but I enjoy more the development of my identity and struggles reflected through my pieces. I could tell when different hard times in my life were, which is something that I hope the viewers are able to see and relate to through my exhibition.