

The way art is presented can often reflect the motifs or themes in which it represents. The final element to a gallery, or to a show is the presentation of the final product. With that in mind, I attempted to organize my gallery. I enjoy the idea of a typical gallery with the off grey walls, vast spaces, and the serenity that accompanies this setting. I envision soft light and gentle footsteps. Everyone is lost in their own thoughts and interpretations of the work before reading the artist's intentions in the exhibition. However, I am concerned about the different types of work, and the lack of the cohesive element to the experience. All of the work I decided to show is fine art, but the media make it difficult to present using the standard gallery setting. I have one photograph and the rest is drawings and paintings. The sizes are incredibly varied, and this also fed into my concern about the unity of my gallery. I wanted to stay away from the idea of a puzzle like gallery; cramming my work together in the smallest area as possible. This results in clutter and disarray, which reflects poorly on the artwork itself with an air of tackiness.

What I decided to use as the umbrella idea for my gallery was one of utilizing outside perceptions and the effect this has on self-image. This goes beyond the cliché beauty standards and expectations, rather it is the emphasis on self doubt and the constant fear of failure while learning to grow and work with personal insecurities. A lot of the pieces that I created focussed on physical and mental self-image. Anxiety, the constant fear of not living up to personal preconceived notions of what success is, and how to be happy even when those goals are not met. As much as this gallery is about the questioning and frustration that comes with mental frustration, it is also about the journey that is in place while accepting yourself for who you are. There is no final piece that explores the finishing of this journey, rather the importance lies in the process of healing and the confidence that is gained through these experiences. There is a focal point to the gallery; which is my self-portrait. With the focus on the mental aspect of growth and acceptance comes a starting point and the desire to change. From this starting point, the process is tracked. Through the perspective of school, from the thoughts of others, and how these various events shape you is what the gallery is utilizing. This process is seen through series of pieces that utilize time as the change constant and the distance between each individual piece.

The display is not enough to draw in views by itself. The self destructive tendencies in the symbolism of violence ie. blood, fire, and bruises draw the viewers in. The attraction to violence and destruction, the ability to not being able to take your eyes away. There is somewhat of a disgust factor that draws humans in to the dismay of others. Several of the pieces are series that demonstrate the effect of change over time. The placement of the pieces is a reflection on the ups and downs of a journey, and how acceptance is not a linear relationship from the person that you are to the person that you strive to become. The main idea that I want the audience to feel is a sense of distortion from my gallery. There is an emphasis on skewed proportions and different conceptions of what it means to be skillful or talented. The ability to view people through an altered lense is what is important to further the depth of understanding. People are often more critical of themselves than of others. Through this gallery, there is a questioning of self perception and how it would feel to be perceived the way in which you view yourself.