



## Dareion Wertz - Curatorial Rationale

My vision for presenting this body of work is to show my journey as an artist. Over the last two years I have experimented with new materials and techniques, including different printing methods and digital collages. I have also refined my skills with acrylic and watercolor paints. I explored issues and ideas that have affected me as I have grown up, including suicide and the expectations I face as I approach adulthood. I have constantly struggled with finding myself along with satisfying the people around me. This theme can be seen in my digital collage *You're So Bright!*, where I explore how constantly being praised and pushed caused me to fear disappointment and failure. I was able to truly infuse empathy into my MIAD project. This experience exposed me to completely new creative techniques and college level critiques. I attempt to put emotion into all of my works, as I often use art as a way to explore my feelings and escape from reality.

The theme of growing up can be seen throughout my body of work. *When the Plum Blossoms Bloom* showcases for the first time how I use acrylic paints on a large scale. The piece explores reaching for growth and maturity while dealing with the everyday big and small struggles of life. *Coming of Age to a Teen Near You* and *the Haze* explores romanticisation, something I myself am guilty of. Remembering the past better than it is and feeling unsatisfied with the present. *Unfinished, an Updated Self-Portrait*, sums up the theme of my art the best. It is a visual representation of myself as I continue to discover who I am. The sketchy style represents the fact that as a person, I myself am unfinished.

I always have wanted my artwork to be interesting for viewers. Whether it is with bright colors and captivating subjects, I wanted people to become interested in the stories each work told. I even hope some people can relate to and find comfort in seeing feelings similar to theirs put onto paper (or canvas). I have arranged my works in a way that shows how my skills have changed and developed. This further shows my theme, as the viewer gains an idea of how I have grown while creating these artworks.

For me, art is extremely important. It amazes me that people can create so much out of nothing. Viewers can be moved by simple lines and color on a canvas. My exhibition is very personal, as it showcases what I often can't find the words for. Works are grouped together depending on how much their themes can be connected. Some relate more than others, but the whole collection has a theme of emotion and struggle. I am very proud of the work I have put into these pieces, and I hope this is made clear by my exhibition.