

For the longest time in my opinion, art has revolved around feelings/emotions and thoughts. If it included those three things then it would always be considered a great piece of work. That thought has changed dramatically as I got older and matured greatly, but it wasn't until recently it changed. My high school works and goals revolved around that idea of what art was. In addition, my goal for a theme has changed with the transition from my junior year to senior year. In junior year I reached for a consistent theme of "inner feelings", I would try to have the message of the pieces revolve around a certain feeling or multiple feelings. Not so much of how the feelings affect someone, but more of the presence of those feelings as a whole.

During my junior year this is what art was all about for me, it was about showing emotions and different types of feelings. At the time I figured it was best to showcase it through the actions of the subject and the effect of their environment. For example; my triptych piece titled *Feelings* has the message/focus exhibited by the colors of the dripping paint in addition with the body parts they are on. It doesn't show the feelings effects on the subjects (the bodies) but it shows the presence of the feelings. This is what I planned on repeating with all my junior pieces. As I moved further into senior year I started to drift into creating a theme of what I found to be of more personal interest and not a super popular theme; blood/gore and violence.

My senior year theme was focused on a achieving looks that were realistic and bloody/gory. Each piece was meant to give the viewer something to think about and something to feel towards in a dramatic fashion. For example; my large digital painting titled *Not Bad* depicts five men that were hung for a crime. Every man has a sign around their neck, four read "guilty" while one says "innocent". The one who is innocent is also the only one of color of the five men. With the addition of tied rope around the necks and dripping blood, the piece really gets people more aware of the current crimes against color that are unfair while also maintaining the bloody theme. This theme continued throughout my senior pieces while some focused on a more realistic look, like my Chuck Close inspired self portrait, while others were mainly bloody and gruesome thoughts like my *It helps* painting.

I decided to show the mix of my themes in my exhibition with my chosen works. Instead of putting all of junior works on one side and senior on the other, I knew it would be best to kind of blend them together and have them side by side, sort of like a pattern. I was also very serious about creating a gradient of brightness, colors and saturations of the pieces. This way it makes the exhibition as a whole blend together and much easier to look at.

Throughout my entire setting up process I took it as if the exhibition itself was another piece of mine, that I had to create an installation with only eleven materials. This was a crucial mindset for me to have because it really helped me achieve the goal I had for the viewers. The goal was that when the viewer would look at it, they wouldn't just see eleven different art pieces hanging on a wall and that they would see a mix of themes and concepts. I also wanted the viewer to be drawn in by the look of the scene, I wanted their eye to move to each different piece individually as they looked across and not just glance over it. I wanted each piece to have an affect on the viewer and have them really experience the works as an individual but also as a whole with the exhibition. This was because both of my themes included the use or presence of feelings thought provoking, so this is exactly what my setup needed to incorporate.