

The theme of my body of work relies upon the fragility of the mind and how individual outtakes can vary from candid to blurry. This is explored through brief inclusions of current events and trends - from COVID and its consequences to the justice system's lack of responsibility in society. I delved into these themes by contrasting mediums with the primary focus of creating a balance between reality and imagination. With this idea in mind, my projects are often varied by abstract impressionism with additional intent for realism through photography.

The chronological order allows for an abstract piece to be depicted with a semi-realism project to follow afterward. *Reflecting Upon Holy* is a photography piece that enhances the idea of a hyper focused individual that can see clearly without any outside influences. However, immediately after *Blurred Glance* follows it which is the exact same image except blurry and colorful. The theme between the two illustrates the imbalance of the mind and how easily it is to have a breakdown from real life. A sense of self destruction due to a mental instability is clearly presented within *Loss of Familiarity*, *Thick Skinned* and *Reaching for Passion*. The first demonstrates the deterioration of a building that represents one's haven, and to let it crumble is a reflection of a poor mentality that no longer cares to adhere to responsibility. It is furthered in the next project of a painting that allows for a visual portrayal of an individual that is losing themselves as they begin to fade away. The last artwork of a lino cut instills two connotations of a similar theme : Yearning for an object in a toxic way that one eventually begins to decay within themselves and the other, of acquiring the object only to control it rather than enjoy it. The breach between dreaming and achieving borders a split personality as the two are drastic in contrast. The break down within these three pieces are paired with moments of clarity within other artworks.

Fauvism artist Henri Matisse and surrealist artist Salvador Dalí are idol inspirations for a prominent two-part series within this collection, which focuses upon the vulnerable mindset people acquire from current events. In the parody version of COVID, colored pencil pieces *The Persistence of COVID* and *Afternoon Celebration* contrasts rely upon positive and negative connotations. This derives from the thought process from people and how they often times associate fixed events with emotions. Despite the former artwork being colorful and vibrant, the depiction of seemingly innocent morbid subjects dismantles that notion. It is followed by the next piece in the series, which is colored with mostly cool colors to depict a blue feeling. The tone also provides an aesthetic that of a memory which is the intention of the piece, a time before COVID where people can enjoy themselves freely without a worry over safety regulations.

Alas, there is one final photography piece, *Wonder*, which allows for a moments of lucidity for one's environment within a city. It admires an everyday setting and portrays it in a glorified beauty to illustrate its own fascination. However, that sense of stability is ripped away with both *Splat* and *Distraught*. The former is the final tip over the brink as it's an abstract painting of a barely coherent reality. It then transitions to the last project which is a mixed media of a unstable mentality that no longer holds any recollection of what is in front of them. Instead, memories from past journeys and experiences is all that remains as their heart only knows of muddled versions of itself.

Creating this collection was personal to me due to its relativity and the representation of current events. COVID has made a significant impact on me as a person, both personally and objectively. From the loss of hobbies due to safety regulations to no longer being able to connect with others. It begins to take a toll on the mental health and I wanted to create that within these art projects. However, they are more exaggerated than I had originally intended but I feel as though each piece compliments the overall theme positively. Through the process of each art work, I was able to admire the organization that went into the display and creation. It is how I was able to find a cohesive topic and branch from it thanks to the required criterias that were set.