

**Tied Down**  
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As we grow, at one point or another, all of us find ourselves yearning for the days of our childhood when things were so much simpler and, for lack of a more accurate word, better. But were they really? I created this sculpture to challenge the misconceptions many people have about their memories of their childhood. This sculpture is a self-portrait of sorts and is an altered representation of how I view my childhood. From a distance, the sculpture appears simple, cute and unfettered. However, on closer inspection, one sees that things are indeed far more complex. The sculpture is far more nuanced than it might appear at first glance, as many children are, despite the common belief that everything, from their lives to their personalities, are simple. One also notices that the sculpture is tied down, as all people are by the societal expectations they are born into. This bondage restricts people and prevents them from being who they truly are, often without them being aware of such ties for long periods of time. The sculpture has many distortions, both major and minor, applied to it, to represent the distortion of memories and the lasting effects societal pressure can have on a person.

The ties are intended to be invisible from a distance, as so many societal pressures are, but can be seen if one cares enough to look closely. Moreover, they are quite substantial and not easily broken by those they bind without outside help. The unfinished look of the sculpture suggests the sense of growth and development and it also questions what changes will appear as the sculpture grows and whether the bonds restricting it will ever be broken.