

Perceptual Hue Transfiguration

Within this work, I explore how digital manipulation can enhance distinct and intentional emotional responses that ultimately connect with images created from the camera, and in turn, from the world around me. This connection, as I see it, is influenced by my growing up in the Caribbean. My family and I moved from St. Kitts and Nevis to the U.S. Virgin Islands when I was three years old. Seven years later my mother, sister and I all became U.S citizens and gave up our citizenship. Art has always been a way of identifying myself ethnically and culturally. When looking for subject matter, I often explore imagery that elevates itself from the seemingly mundane to the abstract or unknown. I wander through the art building on campus, a place I've considered my home, and began taking pictures of abstract objects while paying attention to how light reflects on them. The end goal of capturing these subject matters are to present something that will resonate at a distance with the viewer on an unconscious level. Formally, I am most interested in using color, pattern, and textures to warp the perspective of the viewer. As an artist, I am concerned with the impact of color contrasting and blending on both the unconscious and conscious mind. Conceptually, I am interested in the use of color and identity in a young generation. Coming from the Caribbean, color expression is a distinct part of my visual language. In youth culture, color is used as an expressive tool of self-discovery and cultural pride. The specific color combination in my art have the potential unlock nostalgic memories or create new ones.

Exploration Through a Warped Reality

This series focuses on my journey to America and the events that I experienced while here. Before coming here, I imagined countless scenarios about this great land and what I thought my life would be like. All these scenarios however, were based off of books, T.V shows, and other second hand sources. My overactive imagination and naïve ways of thinking created a self-controlled environment, almost like a sitcom, where I was the main star and the world revolved around me. In these past four years, I've awakened to the wonderland that is America, in both its massive size and diverse cultures.

I compared my four years in America at Lycoming to the story "Alice's Adventure in Wonderland." Ever since I've seen Walt Disney's adaption and read Lewis Carroll's book, I've been captured with not only the story and characters but the examples of symbolism and the uses of language. Similar to Alice, I created a fantasy world where I had control over everything but once I was thrown into the very world I dreamed of, I grew to hate it because I realized what little control I actually had. My surroundings were far too wild and free-willed to be tamed. Not having things, the way, I wanted made me uncomfortable and overwhelmed. Overtime I wished to be home in a smaller environment where people were more like me. *Exploration Through a Warped Reality* is a mixed media collage series made up of watercolor paintings, digital drawings, and photography. These various medias, along with my use of color, enhance the feelings of excitement, anger, fear and delight. My images are to be read as a narrative of my journey. One that starts with a dream that slowly transitions into an adventurous tale about the wacky characters and landscapes the girl interacts with. In my work, I focus on blending my Caribbean up-bringing with my current American education through abstraction. Mixed styles such as vibrant colors and the basic elements of art help add depth to my pieces. Instead of viewing the work as one stagnate piece, the viewer slowly begins to be drawn into my world and experience my feeling of terror as I move from one world to another. Back home, stories are passed on orally but I wanted to preserve my story of great confrontation with a false reality. This mixed media piece represents the relaxed and free culture I was brought up in and the vibrant, colorful person America has imprinted upon me.