

Henry Bub Artist Statement

My vision for the body of work I will be submitting, and representing my High school portfolio as, was to relate every piece to an aspect of my life, and specifically overcoming and highlighting my insecurities and struggles throughout life. I've always been one to hide my faults and troubles under a thick coating of humor and friendliness, while my actual mind was either on fire or drowned out, and I found that the best way to express all of this, and possibly to help others express themselves like I have and still need to work on doing, is through my art. I wanted to make my pieces express my exclusive feelings, but also be applicable to many viewers' individual struggles, so by expressing myself and leaving it open ended viewers can feel their own struggles within the piece, and themselves. Eventually my pieces would delve deeper into my personal struggles and life, expressing hardships that I needed to voice. While some of the pieces within my choice list are more deep than others, each one is still connected to my personality and what makes me who I am, and in some, how I got there. Self expression is one of the most important values I have within my personality and how I communicate to those around me, I always want the truth, and I want self expression, as I am attracted to it, whether for friends, or a partner, which is the main reason it's the motif around my entire portfolio. This stemmed from childhood as I was always the one left out within my family, being the youngest, I was never a part of discussions, and was lied to constantly by my sister and parents. Which caused me to lie to myself, and put on a facade around friends and family, resorting to humor and smiling to hide my actual bottled up anger issues and depression. Until I syphoned that into my art work for this class, and for IB, utilizing my creativity and my Illustration skills, I was able to effectively express myself through those skills.

Many artists have influenced my personal style and my meanings behind it, a few in particular that were partial to how I conceived art and expressed myself would be Roy Lichtenstein, one of my favorite illustrators of the modern POP era, his style and his bright colors influence me today, and made me always strive to work on my piece to show the best color combinations. Another influence to my more meaningful side would be Odilon Redon, who is famous for injecting his symbolic work with human emotion, despite being creatures that look grotesque and hideous.

This class and IB's guidelines have made me stretch how comfortable I am when making art, starting from just pencil pen and paper, rarely coloring, just working on form and illustration, I was set on creating characters giving personalities, as I was introduced to video games at a young age, being inspired by characters like Mario, Zelda, Donkey kong, and the Mercenaries from Team Fortress 2. But this class pushed me to use illustration boards, canvas, paint, charcoal, printing, so many different ways to convey messages, that I was floored at first and intimidated, but I feel now that I can actually use these mediums to great effect.

My current works revolve mostly around my roots as an illustrator and character designer, creating tangible characters with personalities are my specialty and my home. I have joined competitions, and have even done commission works with my current art. But I learned valuable lessons on color theory, shading, positioning, and other necessary rules to art, that I would be caught dead without. My upcoming gallery show, I have positioned my works in a way that will convey growth of character, and how my style has grown over the 4 years of art class that I have partaken in. Many things have been a part of my life, from artists, to dreams, and to self expression, and I am glad that I was able to do all of these things with a smile on my face.