

## Heavin-Lei Hampton Artistic Statement



My vision for this body of work is evaluating my personal experiences as an artist, and being able to showcase my techniques and artistic style. This body of work relates to two different issues, fear and addiction (both being relatively negative). I researched and dwelled heavily into these themes as I look back upon family members and their various addictions, I decided personally to convey that message artistically. I didn't keep that idea for long however, nonetheless I changed my overall artistic approach relating to fear, specifically various phobias people have. For the first body of work, it was connected to the theme of addiction, but the other 10 body of works all revolve around phobias. Each piece of work allowed me to experiment with various different mediums, some I find more comfortable using than others. Being in the IB DP art program, I had easier access to different materials, especially within the printmaking process. I was unfamiliar with the process of creating prints within my

2 years in the program, however I enjoyed the process more than I anticipated. My favorite mediums of choice to use within expressing my artistic style is digital manipulation, and digital drawing. Prior to being in the IB DP art program, I was already well experienced in editing photos in the photoshop software, and I would personally draw digitally in my spare time as an artist. These mediums allowed me to easily format my work and connect various of my pieces to my theme.

Personal experiences and common fears are influenced in my work, as my first body of work related to smoke addicts, and the other 10 contribute to common phobias people have, some of those phobias in which I deal with as well. This comments on how difficult it is to function having these contributing factors.

I have exhibited my work in an ironic fashion, as the viewer feels the opposite of the negative emotions played out in my pieces. The artistic expression varies in how intense the feeling should be, whether minor or heavier on a personal level. I aim for the viewer to be intrigued by my work, diving to find the bigger message within my pieces, while keeping in touch with their own personal opinions of the work. To express this, I organize my work with lighter colors placed with darker hues, and vice versa as to create confusion in their emotional interpretation. Some pieces give off a calming emotion, others create a more chaotic feeling with the work.

The goal of this exhibition is for the viewers of my work to be more considerate and understanding of other's personal struggles on a daily basis, besides simply just gazing up my artistic style and color choice. Taking advantage of this, I try to emphasize on how uncomfortable and unnerving it feels analyzing my exhibition. I intend for the audience to feel and sympathize with the struggles of addiction and the mental struggles of having various phobias. These can also relate to viewers who personally dealt with these factors themselves, and creating a small connection between them and my body of work.

The way my work is arranged immerses the viewer's confusion, in which enhancing and varying my artwork's message. The work itself is personally up to the audience, as there is not one meaning for

the work to be seen as. Each phobia can be interpreted differently, whether the feeling is uneasy, or the image makes them feel joyful, it's purely up to the spectators themselves.

Creating this artwork allows me to personally express my personal experiences and manipulate them into my work aesthetically. This adds a deeper meaning to my work, rather than creating art for just decorative reasons.