

## Curatorial Rationale

The vision for presenting my body of work includes trying to display every piece in a cohesive manner, without allowing any of the pieces to become lost. The central theme around my work was based off a quote by Cesar A. Cruz, stating that "Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable." I realized I subconsciously was trying to create works that would show my perspective and beliefs of reality. My work is heavily influenced by my experiences at school, and what we've discussed throughout my classes. I've noticed this the more I began the craving to create my works in a way that would be distinguished from others. My art does not strive to impress people off of pure talent, but instead it creates depth and intensity of emotions. There are many ways to view what has been created, which can either comfort or disturb the viewer. Many of the works are geometric giving the gallery a sterile and clean cut appearance. This is contrasted by the amount of things going on in each piece. My art has always been about expression and everything seen shows that. I've experienced multiple perspectives of political ideas, oversexualization, superstitions, ethical decisions and different pathways which my life can take me. All of the photos contain a sense of sentimentalism. Although most of my photography seems dark, it was taken in lightly. Something that comforts me has the ability to disturb the public eye. All of the works show a diversity of beliefs through different visual ways.

Across multiple mediums I sought out to give my work a sense of purpose and meaning. None of my works have distinct meaning, leaving some more up to interpretation of others. However there's an obvious set of beliefs and commentary in some of my works, especially within my postcard design series. There are many different ways to approach the subjects that I wanted to discuss, and these are the things that tend to draw the most people in. They make people view subjects through my eyes. My high school experience has been a large confusing mess of feelings and passions coming and going.

However temporary these feelings seem to be, art is consistently there. My art shows my journey of what I've learned, and what I hope everyone else can learn too. I've come to realize people don't know nearly as much as I thought that they did. My series, *Rape*, has become one of the most significant works in my gallery, educating viewers on the concrete statistics. The amount of people who were truly taken away by the meaning goes to show how ignorant society can be. My gallery also presents nudity from all genders. Where I see beauty, others see explicit content not made to be shown at a school.

The exhibition is interactive for the audience as they can see it in multiple ways, and even see themselves inside of it. When presenting the work I first and foremost needed to find a way to present my piece *Your Body's a Landscape*. This piece uses shadows to show a broader depth in meaning and beauty, requiring darkness. Since the piece needs a dark room, it had to be versatile enough to present in the dark and light. Hence this led to the addition of light throughout the entire gallery. My project *This is Not You* shows the saying in several different languages, drawing in a more diverse crowd. The lightbox reads "This is not you", many other meanings can be discovered through reflection. My post cards are available to take and to be put out into the world, as well as smaller pictures of some of my works. It is my belief that art should be free, and so if people want to have a part of it, it would be my honor to provide it. My hope is that through the interaction of my gallery people will be able to respect everything that I have created and put out into the art world. My art has taken a lot of risks, and putting it out there is another one.