

Curatorial Rationale

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My vision for this body of work has been to create art that communicates both personal expression and emotion. My main focus was on the human experience in order to create work that is relatable and connects with the viewer. I wanted to convey personal expression and emotion through my art. In this body of work, there are pieces that relate to anxiety, change, and personal growth. I relied on my personal experiences to influence the overall direction of my pieces.

My body of work explored a few different main themes. Many of my pieces focus on endings while also emphasizing growth and transformation after things end. My piece *Future Fertilizer* is based around the idea of how life and death are interconnected. Death is inevitable, but that death can fertilize new growth, new life and beauty into the world. I was influenced by my own life experiences when it comes to shedding one's old self and evolving into someone new. Throughout my body of work, I was greatly inspired by the art of Ando Hiroshige and Paul Ranson. Hiroshige, a 19th century Japanese artist, created beautiful landscape art on block print. I was influenced by Hiroshige's use of large foreground elements. Paul Ranson was a 19th century French painter who's landscape art often had very limited color palettes. I was specifically inspired by his color used in *Apple Tree with Red Fruit* when making my diptych illustration, *End & New Beginnings*. I used a similar warm toned limited color palette and colored linework. I'm most proud of this piece. One reason for that is that when making this piece I experimented with many different color palettes which resulted in me being much happier with the final outcome. I also enjoyed making a two panel piece for the first time. Many of my illustrations take place in nature. I enjoy incorporating natural elements of foliage, the woods, and flowers to symbolize growth and rebirth. While I am most comfortable drawing my illustrations, in my body of work, I explored a variety of mediums, materials, and techniques. One medium I chose to try was using gouache paint. In my piece *Future Fertilizer*, I was able to add texture by layering horizontal lines of different colored paint.

My artistic style has developed in many ways. Learning about many different art movements has greatly influenced the pieces I have created and has improved the work I have done. Specifically, I feel I have learned more about how to use color and create backgrounds. The way I decided to display my artwork was based on the flow of color and similar themes. I wanted to arrange my pieces in a way that made the transition of color schemes smooth and

was pleasing to the eye of the viewer. Many of my themes are very relatable to others and I hoped to inspire the viewer to acknowledge difficult times and learn to grow from it.