**Self Portraits: Under Pressure**

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**Description**

For my project, I decided to partner up with other members of the Humanities scholars to create a set of paintings (namely Kate, Kennedy, and Bethany) that represented some aspect of our experience in the program. We weren’t initially sure of what we wanted to paint, going back and forth between a couple of ideas before settling on the idea of self portraits. One of the best things about Humanities for me is the fact that they prioritize viewing the beauty of the world, often through artwork at the Urban Arts Center and the Wexner Center for the Arts, and we wanted to create our own pieces of art to commemorate that. In the painting, the subject resembles me, but her skin and face are melting off. For me, this represented the metamorphosis that coming to college did for my personality. Every day I see myself becoming a better version of me, and I have no doubt that art and my passion will help me become my best self.

**Process**

We got together as a group and brainstormed together for a couple of weeks before we actually took any action, but eventually settled on the idea that self-portraits would be the best option. We had to plan ahead to get supplies, find a good time to meet that would fit within everyone’s schedule, and brainstorm themes for our paintings. I personally didn’t want to just paint my face without any twist, so I looked online for inspiration and tried to keep my mind open to all ideas.

**Results**

I was really pleased with the final result of my painting. One of the hardest things to do was creating the right skin tone for my subjects skin because the only two colors I had were a dark brown, yellow, and some white. I love that it resembles me and I really like how the dripping, melting effect worked out to create a sort of three dimensional image on the canvas. I also got the added bonus of a relaxing afternoon that helped me compress from a day full of exams and stress.

**Reflection**

I think I did gain something from completing this project, aside from the fact that I have a one of a kind portrait to hang up in my apartment next year. I had the chance to think creatively and know that no matter the product, it would be celebrated and valued by the people I shared it with. I think painting is a really good outlet for me, especially since I love makeup and the skills I learn from that are pretty transferable to creating art. I plan to pursue law so art may not have the biggest priority in my life, but I’ll be sure to make time for it.

