

Yihan Zhang

Curatorial Rationale

In reality, there are people who tend to be fame and gain, who want money, who want status, and who forget the importance of who they are and the importance of their 'body'. The body is the source of life for us, and it is also something that we need to take care of throughout our lives. The intention of creating these works is to appeal to people to love themselves and to tell them not to have anxiety about their appearance and body image. Everyone is a unique individual and deserves to be cherished and appreciated.



In my work, I use a lot of expressive lines to represent the torn and struggling feelings of each person in the artwork. In two of my paintings, I have used a clash of bright colors to make the viewer feel the impact of the colors and thus appreciate the main theme of the work. In two of my paintings, I used charcoal strips to display it. In one of them ('Power'), I also used watercolor to sketches out of her in different forms, in my personal feeling, I chose watercolors to outline the body because I think they represent the female body well, they are soft and curvaceous. For my sculpture, I used mesh wire to create it because I think women are strong and unbreakable and that can demonstrate well in mesh wire. In the outer circle I used wire to surround the main body, I wanted to express the need for women to have a hard armor to protect their bodies. Lastly, my two digital photography have the meaning of looking forward and expectation, since the person have been looking into the distance from an interior space, and I used buildings and watercolors to replace the body parts. I wanted to use this to represent the bustling city she aspires to live in and the watercolor to represent her melted heart.

The intention of the exhibition is to demonstrate how important is one's body is, and let the audience know the main theme I want to promote to them and all the females. To emphasize my intention, the artworks are displayed in a wide-open area, guiding the audience to walk in and understand the journey of a woman's experience from mental angst to final relief. Audience can follow the order that the artworks arranged and find out the theme and meaning behind it.

For the exhibition arrangement, I arranged the space in the form of a pentagon, I placed the painting 'Freedom' in the middle, as it best reflects the theme of women being in charge of their own bodies and not caring about outside voices which I want to promote with. To the left I put "struggle" and right of it I put my digital photography "Expectation", I am hanging these two pieces on the wall because it will take the viewer on a journey from a woman's body depression to her ultimate relief. On the end of left, I am settling "Calmness" and "No Emotion" because they all preach the main theme of blandness. On the wall above, I will hang my second painting "Puppet" on the ceiling, as it represents being bound by the outside world and one's own desires, so I will hang it on the top to form a good link with the chains and make the viewer understand the main idea better. Below the hanging painting will be my sculpture, which represents the central theme of this exhibition, the need for women to have a hard heart. I will place a square pier as a table to display the sculpture, which also represents the heart of the exhibition.

I hope my audience and viewer could understand the information I want to express and get inspired in their own life.