

My exhibition has shed many skins throughout my decision-making process, usually because I wanted a different format for my work. The themes I pondered were cast on a large spectrum, from beauty to poverty. I finally decided on Youth and all that is lost when you grow. This theme was explored throughout my final exhibition, from lost dreams and hopes to my childhood experiences. I decided youth would be a good tie-in for all my pieces because they all had to do with either youth or the aspects of yourself you lose as you mature. My works range from paintings to sculpture, but all incorporate the general theme of youth.

Most of my pieces are quite easy to interpret as I go for more of an obvious “in-your-face” approach when creating work. Some of them are not and this is because they are based around a feeling instead of an experience. An example is my sculptural piece. This piece focuses around the feeling of claustrophobia because I’ve suffered from this fear since I was a child. You would not be able to tell it was about claustrophobia because not everyone struggles with this problem, but you could tell it was about feelings of tightness due to the structure of that piece. I wanted the viewers to be able to follow the work and understand that I made my pieces based off my youth experiences. I wanted to basically show the evolution of myself, starting with minuscule pieces such as the Beauty of Dance and work my way to complex pieces such as Lost Hopes and Dreams. I wanted the viewers to see that evolution, to basically age with me. I wanted the viewers to kind of “follow the leader”. When I set up my exhibition, I placed pieces that are similar in meaning as well as time frame first then worked my way to pieces that were closer made, but also similar in meaning. I thought that this set up would allow people to understand the reasoning behind my pieces and how I, again, evolved as an artist. I didn’t want to be depicted as a stagnant artist so I decided to place my pieces in ways that would combat that. I also used light to my advantage as a way to provide emphasis on certain artworks. I generally provided emphasis on pieces that really encompassed my entire theme all together. I made sure that pieces that were really focal and important had a ray of light shone on them. I also used the surrounding environment as a way to demonstrate meaning. The environment was very dark and subtle, which supports the theme of lost hope and the loss of youth. I also made sure the lighting was also dark besides the specific light I used to show emphasis so that way it could reflect the darkness of lost youth.

I also wanted to reflect the theme of evolution and evolving as an artist to be reflected in my exhibition. I wanted to use the progression of my artwork as a way to demonstrate me growing as an artist as well as a person. When I was younger and started art, I was very immature with my work. I used many overused themes and my artwork wasn’t very original. I used this in my final exhibition because even though the work wasn’t very original, it was something I completed and was proud of and I wanted art that I was proud of to be included in my final exhibition. I wanted to demonstrate the evolution of my art, being as I evolved as a person.