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Art 105

Assignment 3: Inspiration Reflection

1 - Self Portrait - Adrian Piper, 1981.

For my initial research, this piece stuck out to me. The purpose behind her self-portrait is really important and inspiring. I wanted replicate how she took her own self-portrait to a more influential and relatable space for the viewer. This inspired me to use the idea of our society’s idealized beauty standards and how they affect me personally. Similar to hers, I wanted to make my piece be a message that the viewer is not alone.

In terms of her technique, I enjoyed how she used sharp contrasts within the highlights and contours of her face to show a solemn expression. Though I’m smiling to show an area in my drawing where I am self-conscious, I wanted to replicate this. I kept these sharp contrasts in the boxes of my perceived traits to accentuate the deformities. My full face represents a realistic view of my face, so I kept the contrasts low to have a purer feel to the drawing. I also liked how she had her title in her drawing to make a straight-forward message, which I decided to replicate in my drawing as well.

2 - Self Portrait - Kathe Kollwitz, 1892.

What inspired me most in this drawing was how she created her background. She highlights the face with lighter values, but creates a messier, dark background which I think made a interesting flow to the piece. I decided to put my own spin on this while connecting to my message of the drawing by repeatedly writing “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” across the background. I think this pushed my piece to have a more interesting composition that draws your eye all the way around the page.

3 - Self Portrait - Christian Scott, 2020.

This artist sparked my interest in making a piece that involves the idea of “perfect imperfections.” I had been following this artist on social media for a while because I admired his ability to make exaggerated imperfections into beautiful art pieces. I used his techniques in the boxes of my drawing of creating exaggerated parts of my face that I am insecure about. With my widow’s peak and smile, I really pushed making my uneven teeth and pronounced hairline clear but still realistic in terms of value.