

Exhibition
Student B (SL)

Curatorial Rationale

I wanted to use my art to express contrast. I'd wanted to paint things that were beautiful, but also had darkness. Going into this I knew that my skills as an artist were limited because I never taught myself how to paint.

My first piece, *Flying Colors*, was an attempt to explore some of my culture by painting a lady doing a traditional Mexican dance, and use color and shape to express the speed and joy of the dance. I used bright colors because I love them and because it is a very vibrant dance, with brightly colored costumes. The patterns in the background reflect traditional Mexican patterns. I think this piece is weak, but it was my first one and really helped me to explore the use of acrylic paint and combining colors.

My next piece, *The Only Light*, is another painting because I felt that my painting skills were stronger than my sculpting skills. The piece depicts a jar with a butterfly in it. The butterfly is stuck in the jar while all around it fireflies are escaping. It shows how we are surrounded by crazy and bad things and we can get stuck in the middle of them but we can get around that. In order to get across the pinpoints of light for the fireflies, I built a box behind the piece and put some battery operated lights into it. I made little holes in the canvas so that when the battery lights are switched on and the room lights are switched off, there are actually lights shining.

I think my two strongest pieces are *Falling Leaves* and *Colored Leaves*, sister pieces influenced by a trip to Yosemite National Park. I was intrigued by the size and beauty of the enormous old trees and wanted to communicate some of that with my art. I took photographs of the trees from different perspectives. I made my tree thin at the top and thicker at the bottom to make it look bigger. I used a dark background to emphasize the brightness of the Fall leaves and cold colors on the tree for contrast with the bright leaves. My wire and bead sculpture, *Colored Leaves*, uses warm and bright colors to express the brightness of leaves.

My work has been inspired by nature, the darkness that surrounds us has been used to surround my pieces in the exhibition.

Word count: 399

Exhibition Photograph



Flying Colors

Acrylic paint
40x51cm

Artwork 1



I always wanted to be a dancer, so I decided to express the joy of dance by using bright colors and extending the lines past the end of the skirt to make it look like they're flying.

The Only Light
Acrylic paint
38x49cm



Artwork 2

The butterfly is a symbol for a person stuck in a bad situation, and the bright colours and lights show that they can overcome it.

Falling Leaves
Acrylic paint
61x92cm

Artwork 3



Summer Flower

Acrylic paint

30x41cm

Artwork 4



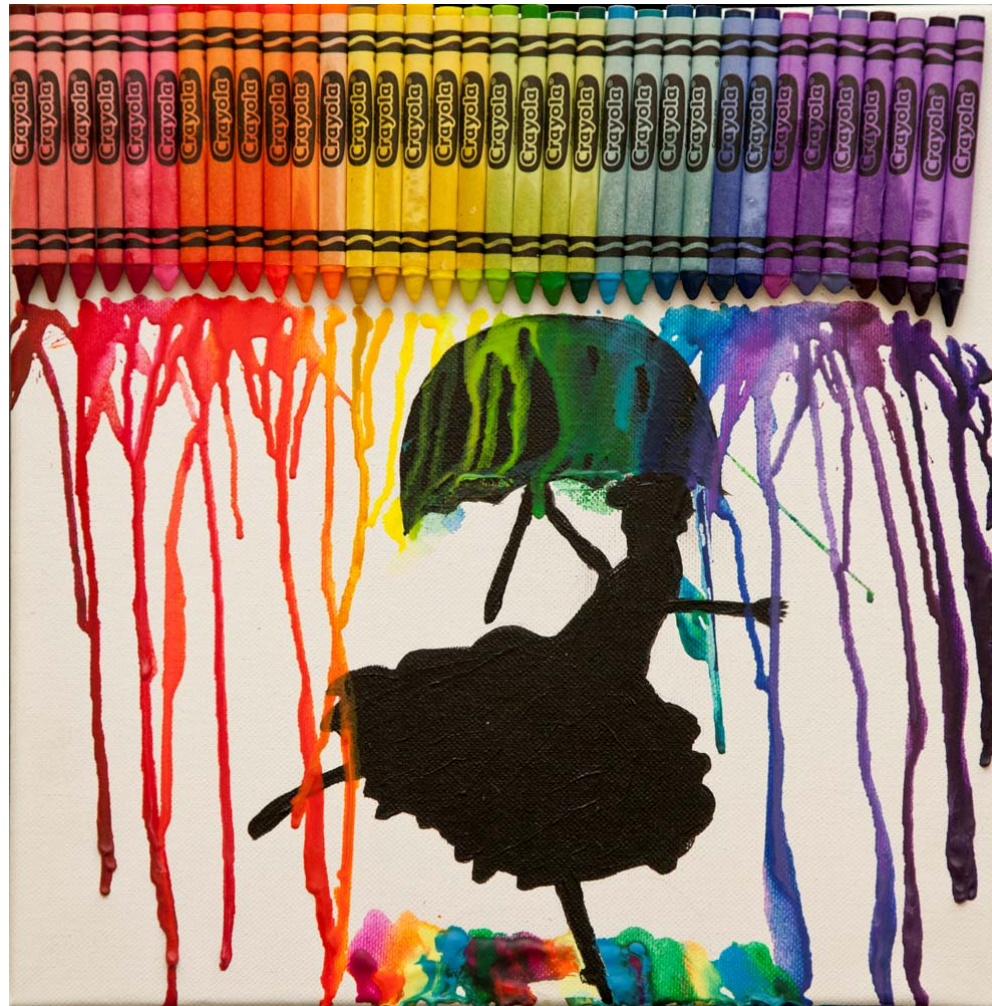
I used bright colors and a beautiful flower to express the joy of summer.

Dancing in the Rain

Acrylics and crayons

30x30cm

Artwork 5



This piece is about protecting people, especially children, from things they might not be ready to face.

Complete Opposites

Acrylic

30x30cm

Artwork 6



This piece is about how people are all similar, yet different.

The Blue Peacock

Acrylic
30x30cm

Artwork 7



This piece is about the dark side of beauty.