

My installation is meant to express how I experience dysthymia. Dysthymia is a mental illness that I have struggled with since I was twelve years old. During my research, I explored the way that mental illness and its treatment varies according to financial status and the ways that young people tend to cope with and confront their own illnesses. I concluded that common ways to deal with illness among people my age aren't always healthy in the long term.

This installation is meant to create a safe and comfortable place for the viewer and for me. Due to my illness, I don't feel like I am able to use the word "happy" to express myself. I always feel like I am being untruthful or the word doesn't belong to me. This doesn't prevent me from enjoying myself or having a good time. I communicate these experiences with my installation.

Pale yellow paint and grapefruit slices, among other objects, create a setting for positive interactions and an overall feeling of warmth. As light reflects off the walls and the pom-poms warm the feet of the viewer, my piece strives to evoke a feeling of comfort in the participant the same way it does for me.

Blue Rae S