

AND EVERYTHING NICE.

After months of fangirling over my favorite musical artist, I questioned what my goals or intentions were in this dream relationship, and how I became so obsessed in the first place. I told myself that surely I wasn't crushing over a celebrity who has no idea of my existence, yet in actuality that's exactly what I was doing. Having crushes was definitely always a big part of my childhood. But I had always expected them to sputter out as I grew up. While researching, I began to explore the strange world of schoolgirl crushes that have followed me into my young adulthood. To have a crush, you are presented with a dichotomy of the strangest kind. On one hand you feel butterflies, sparkles on even the worst day. You feel an endorphin rush when they notice you, even if it's brief eye contact or an accidental brush of the arm. Yet, on the other hand, there's the darker side. Full of obsession and constant doubt, you are driven insane and, if rejection ensues, you will feel crushed. I associate crushes with my youth, when times were simpler and the ties I shared with people were far less tangled.

This led me to make this sculptural installation, a space in which I recreated feelings brought up by this dichotomy. On the outside of the cave, I used a bubblegum pink shade and sparkles to allude to the sense of playfulness and youth; on the inside, however, it is a dark and claustrophobic experience. Crushes are something that I have found myself diving into, even when I know the darker side is ever present. This cave creates a situation where one will feel the urge to go inside it, but what lies inside is unknown.

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