

My final project took the form of a series of paintings that symbolize not only the beauty of nature, but how it is an empowering force. Nature has the ability to subconsciously force one to look inward, leaving you with new understandings about yourself. My first backpacking expedition provided me with experiences that took me on a physical and mental journey which aided my growth as a person and artist. Nature has always been a crucial part of my life but I never truly understood my attraction to them. When I was surrounded by the simple beauty of nature along with my thoughts, I realized that is when I feel the most fulfilled. Discovering this passion changed my vision for what I wanted my final project to entail.

My main inspiration came from the memories I have with my Romanian grandmother whose passion in life was caring for her gardens and her loved ones. During the time that she was sick her mind and body stayed focused on her garden and I could never comprehend how something so simple and natural could provide so much joy. My grandmother left behind a legacy that pushed me to discover the meaning behind the simplicity of nature.

I illustrated my past and present memories with oil paint on wood and antique surfaces. The speed at which I painted was quick and my brushstrokes were loose, intuitive and instinctual. This fluid way of painting gives me the freedom to take the beautiful imperfection of nature and portray it in my art.

THAT CERTAIN FEELING

Diane H.