

I constantly find myself reminiscing on the past. I think of the fun and joyful imagination that came with the mind of a child. How unexposed I was to the horrors of the real world. I find myself looking at old photos of myself and feeling jealous of the little girl in front of the lens. The girl with her mind flowing with the unimaginable and irrational. Looking back, I feel envious of my own self, the part of me that I concealed for the validation of others.

“She is too innocent” are words I have heard for my entire life, but I now ask myself why that is so bad. For my project, I decided to focus on this personal loss in asking myself, what is stopping me or others from living in a “child-like” way? All my life I have been expected to grow up and live a life that is controlled by others instead of myself, but what if I don't want that? Inspired by Alexander Calder, I decided to use printmaking and sculpture to create a piece inspired by a baby mobile. By using old photos and etchings hung from wire, I wanted to create a look back into my past. Using my old art styles mixed with my new style to showcase the breaking of boundaries to maintain a childlike ambience in my life.

This work is meant to challenge the viewer to think of the boundaries placed on growing up. I want people to walk away from my piece feeling in touch with their childlike self in the same way that I have been able to accept the fact that I appreciate the child in me.

ENTERTAINING CHILDHOOD

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