

For my Oxbow final project, I created a dollhouse with four rooms, each room representing a different vignette of girlhood progressing through time. A dollhouse holds meaningful symbolism to the concept of girlhood. When you are a kid you are constantly feeling small and belittled. When playing with a dollhouse you feel like a big giant, like you have a sense of power, playing god.

I was inspired by artist Amalia Mesa-Bains, whose work I viewed on the schoolwide trip to the SFMOMA. What stuck out to me specifically about her work were her object collages. Her work felt like a collection of memories, each and every object seemed meaningful to the artist, like there was a story behind them. I wanted to portray the same feeling as her work and decided to include my own small trinkets relating to my childhood into my final piece.

This process was very enjoyable for me. I used to create full rooms and furniture for my Barbie dolls when I was younger, so creating this project felt like I was revisiting my younger self. Girl hood is important to the stage of life I am currently in, it is all I've ever known, and now I am beginning the process of leaving it all behind.

GIRLHOOD

Tess B.