

Michelle Gibson
Artist Statement

Senior Capstone Fall 2020

This year has been a time of great isolation, division, and grief for many people around the world due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and social tension. I found it necessary to focus on unity and peace in my own life to overcome the bombardment of negativity. My artwork reflects images described by the Biblical ideals of 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. These verses provide an analogy of the human body comprised of many parts working together towards one unifying purpose. Harmony is paramount to survival and progress.

Each painting is reflective of a singular body part. Each part is unique, beautiful, and holds value to the body as a whole. Diversity is necessary for the body to work as one. Just as important as the ear is to hearing, the foot is to walking. Vibrant acrylic paint strokes and 3D silk foliage encourages viewers to see the natural beauty our bodies hold while the wood canvases of varying shapes and sizes reinforce the idea that diversity is necessary to create a harmonious body. Assembling this visual collage of painted body parts while incorporating wood and flowers will create a scene of beauty and the significance of how we are inherently different and that it is a part of nature to be unique.

These works are a reminder of how important it is that we see ourselves as a united front and that individuality is beautiful and necessary. The free and expressionistic brush strokes and meticulously added flowers create a body of work representing these verses that I hold so dearly. My collection of paintings is to work as an artistic expression of the importance of unity and the inherent beauty of diversity.