

## Artist Statement

Abigail Simmons

I have always enjoyed drawing people. I began to really being to explore it in high school and knew I wanted to do more and more. I started off trying to do photo-realistic portraits, but that began to be more of a headache than an enjoyment. I knew that I wanted to continue to pursue portraiture, but in a less traditional way, and this work that I am doing now is where I landed with that.

I draw inspiration from the old red and blue 3-D movies with the two toned glasses. I have always liked the look of those images that have the black and white middle image with the red and blue on either side. I wanted to explore that, and began experimenting with the lines and adding more images and abstracting the image even farther. I like my pieces to be a little bit confusing to look at at first. From a distance, they can be a bit difficult to make out what is going on. But on closer inspection, it is clear that it is the same repeated portrait. I like to use very bright colors and experimented some with color temperature to make the space push forward and pull back in different areas. I played this up a bit more in my drawings by using warmer and cooler colors in the background because I enjoyed experimenting with the depth, but that became less important as I went on. Over time, the pieces became more about the person. Different personality traits and different pieces of their character became the main focus. There are many different parts that make up a whole personality, and I know that I don't typically show my whole personality to everyone, and I know that others don't either. That is what I am now exploring. What are the parts that make up the whole? And how can the colors I use represent that?

I have used acrylic paint and Prisma colored pencils to make my work, as they are some of my favorite mediums to use. I hope to continue to push this concept even further, and maybe even explore more with my mediums, as I continue to make work outside of school.