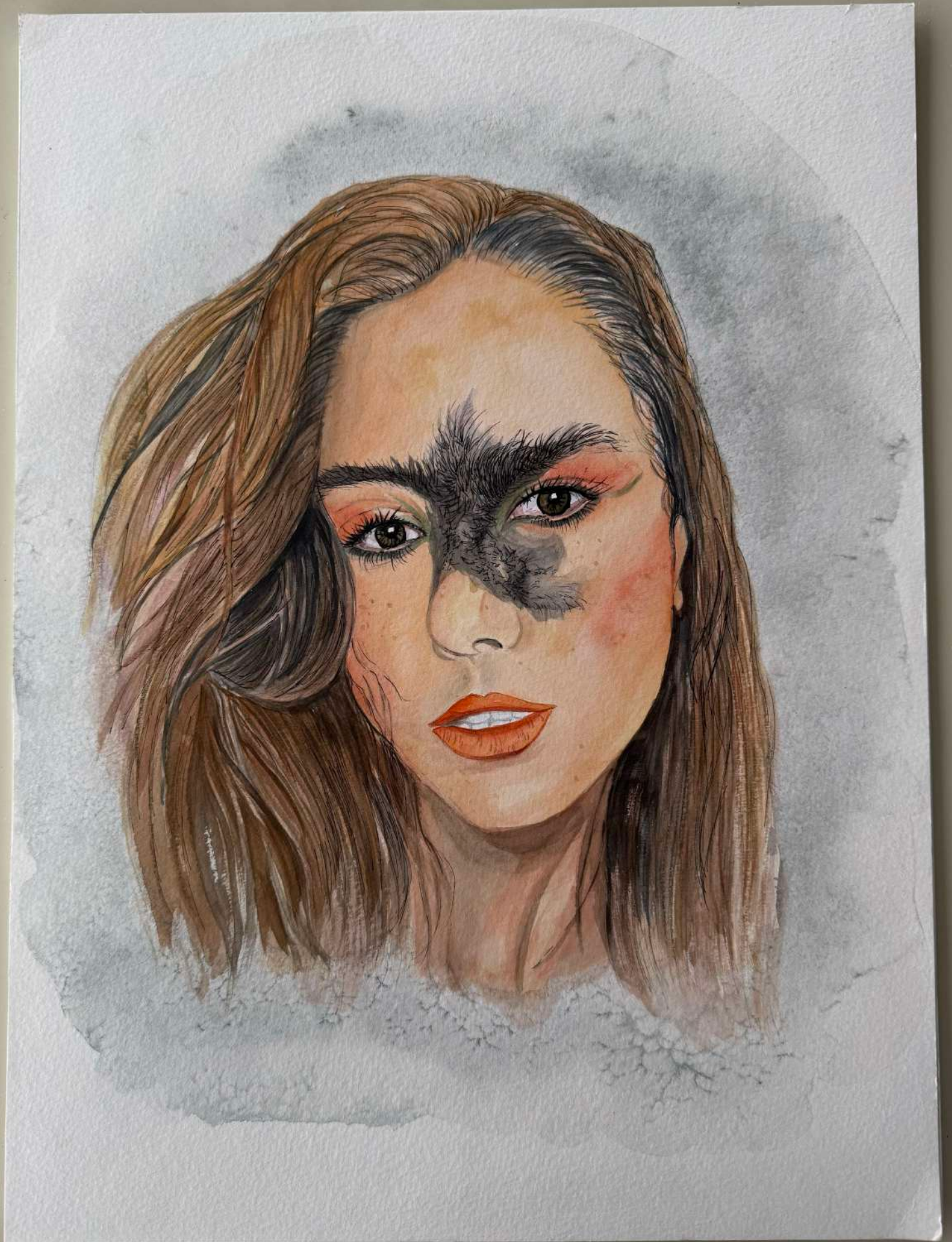
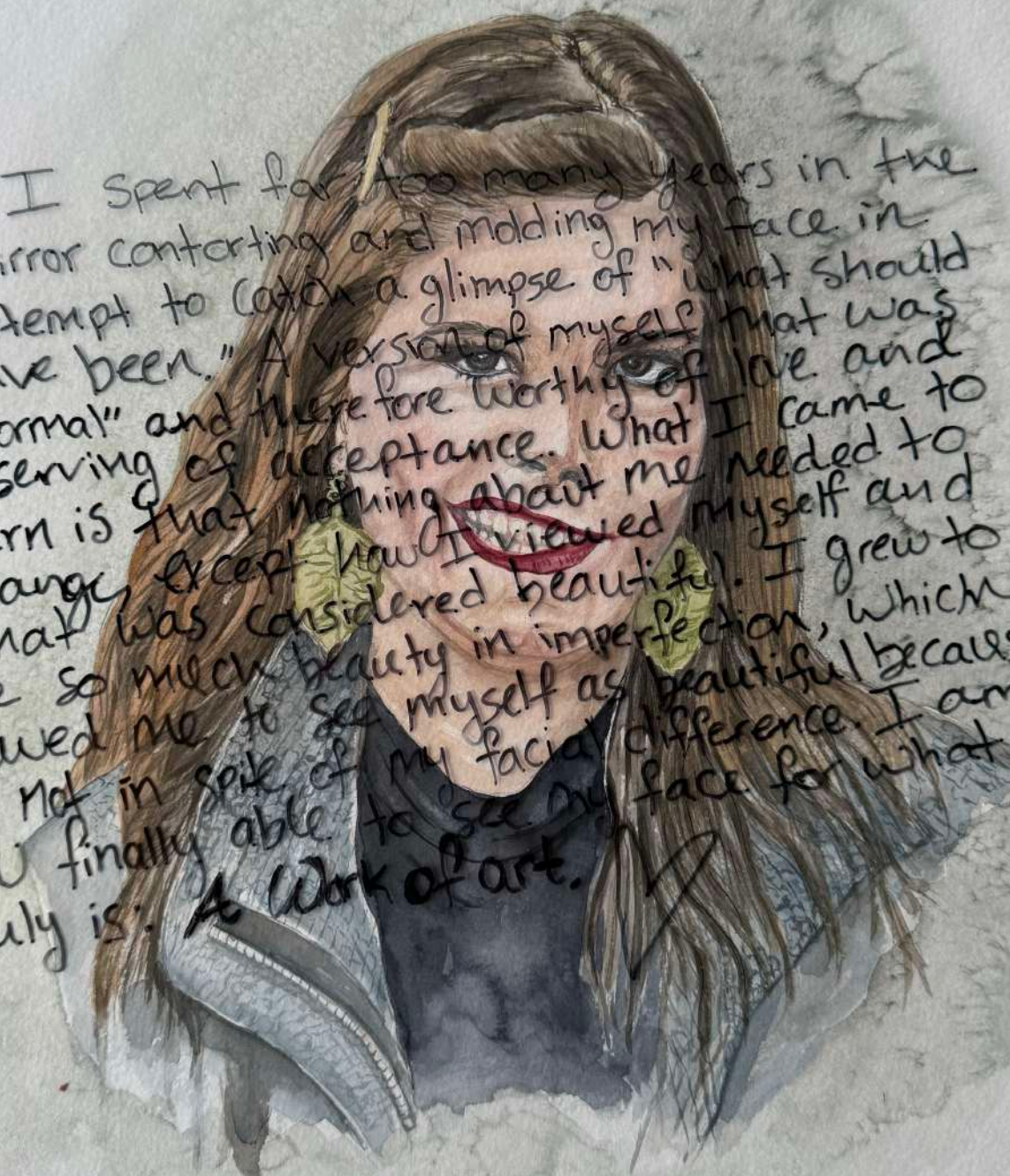


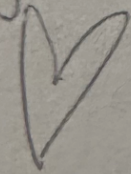


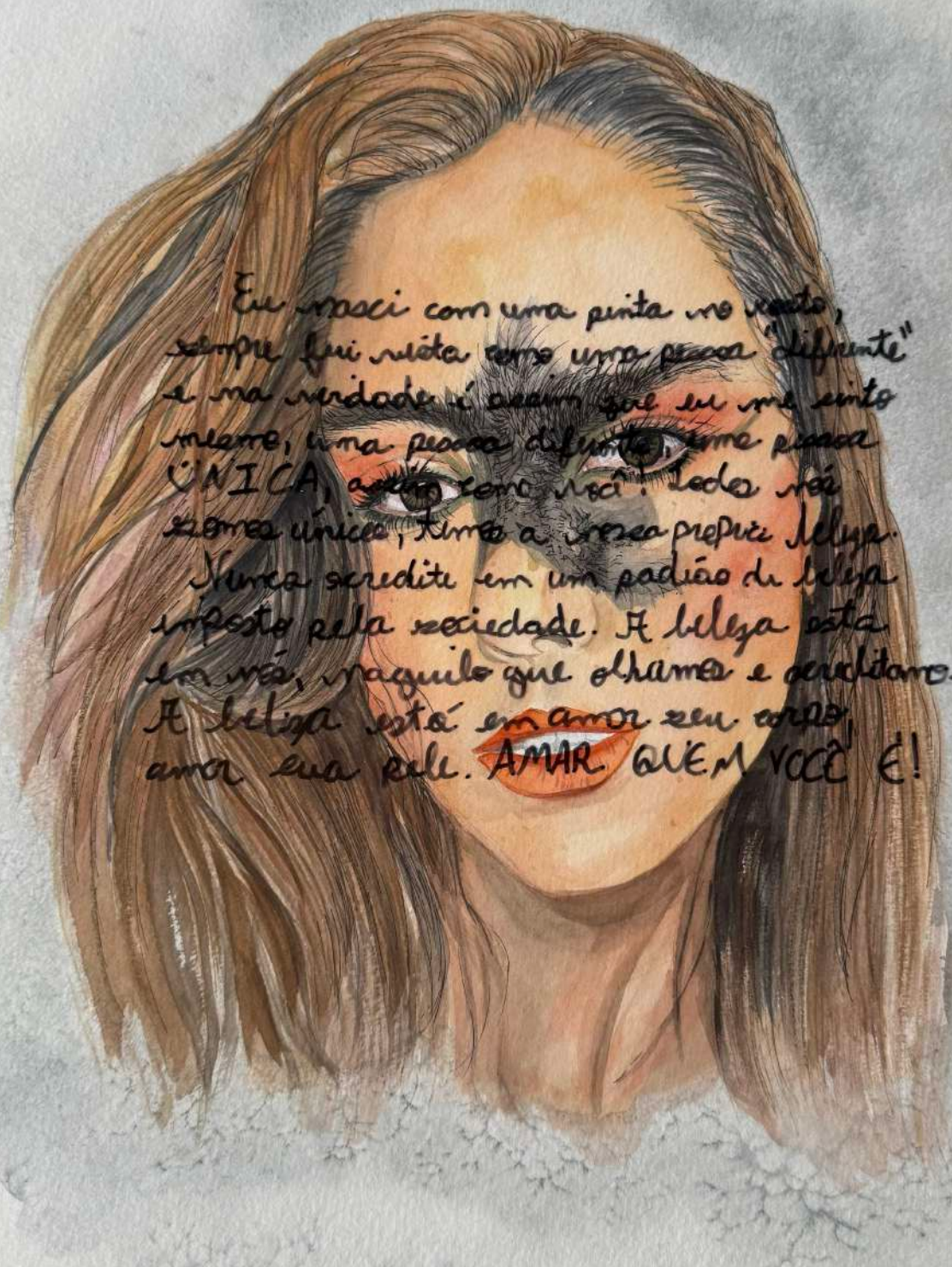






I spent far too many years in the mirror contorting and molding my face in attempt to catch a glimpse of "what should have been." A version of myself that was "normal" and therefore worthy of love and deserving of acceptance. What I came to learn is that nothing about me needed to change, except how I viewed myself and what was considered beautiful. I grew to see so much beauty in imperfection, which allowed me to see myself as beautiful because of, not in spite of my facial difference. I am now finally able to see my face for what it truly is: **A work of art.**

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Eu nasci com uma pinta no rosto,
sempre fui vista como uma pessoa "diferente"
e na verdade é assim que eu me sinto
melhor, uma pessoa diferente, uma pessoa
ÚNICA, assim como você! Todos nós
somos únicos, temos a nossa própria beleza.
Nunca se credite em um padrão de beleza
imposto pela sociedade. A beleza está
em nós, naquilo que olhamos e percebemos.
A beleza está em amor seu corpo,
amor sua pele. AMAR QUEM VOCÊ É!

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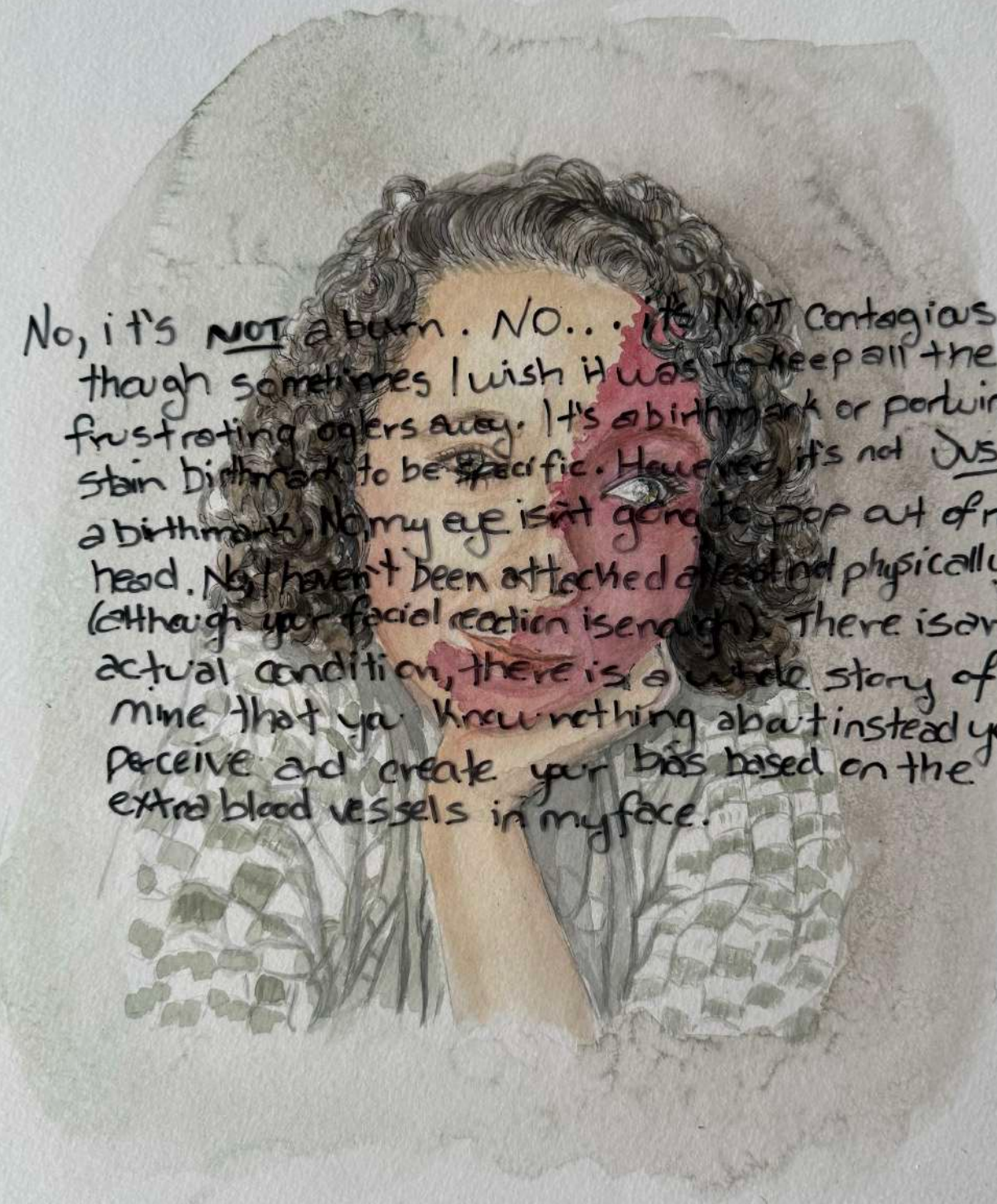
Mariana Mendes

Translation:

I was born with a birthmark on my face, and I have always been seen as a
"different" person, and in fact, that's exactly how I feel—a different person, a
UNIQUE person, just like you! We are all unique and have our own beauty.

Never believe in a standard of beauty imposed by society.

Beauty is within us, in what we see and believe! Beauty is loving your body, your
skin! LOVING WHO YOU ARE!



No, it's NOT a burn. NO... it's NOT contagious, though sometimes I wish it was to keep all the frustrating others away. It's a birthmark or portwine stain birthmark to be specific. However, it's not JUST a birthmark. No my eye isn't going to pop out of my head. No I haven't been attached at least not physically (although your facial reaction is enough). There is an actual condition, there is a whole story of mine that you know nothing about instead you perceive and create your bias based on the extra blood vessels in my face.

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