



Mercedes Roys, Grasshopper

Chenango Valley High School. Binghamton, NY.

Artist Statement

Working on my self-portrait proved to be more challenging than expected. My piece became more of an abstract illusion than a human figure due to the lack of inspiration at the time of assembly. The thought I had for this particular sculpture was to show two different points of view that an individual may have about themselves or someone they know on a personal level or just passing by. This would be what you see on the outside may not be what's on the inside, showing the somewhat average parts of you vs the darker, scared side of your personality that may not be the prettiest or most comfortable for yourself or others to see.

I started by consulting my art teacher and then began the sculpting process by building clay up on my armchair, then started blocking my shapes and marking where I wanted everything for a size reference. Once I did that, I cut my piece on the top of the head, neck, and chest and began to carve clay out until it was hollow. I then reattached the three sections back together. I sculpted the main features of the face and chest area. I added and took away clay to make the face. I decided to make a hood over the back and head area. I used doilies to create an imprint on the clay by pushing it down and using a rolling pin to make the imprint deeper. After firing, I added a little bit of stain to create depth. It was a finished work of art!