



Lemon Jenkins, Grasshopper

Williamsport Area High School, PA.

Artist Statement

“Loathing the Innocence” is an acrylic piece that I started in the first half of the school year as an assignment. It started as a trading card-sized collage which I then enlarged on canvas paper. I tried to convey not just the destruction of innocence, but also the hatred toward the younger self that still had that innocence. It's both destroying something that you can't destroy, as it is in the past, and the destruction of something that many try to preserve. It shows the struggle of the once innocent child that is now a more experienced and damaged grown child trying to navigate in a world that robbed them of what they had. The foreground is more violent and has harsh contrasts with the phoenix being the resentful older self and the stuffed bear being the young, innocent child while the background is simultaneously playful and somber.

Commentary

I first met Dr. McDonough in middle school, but I didn't have her as a teacher until 10th grade. The first of her classes I took was Mindful Art, which was a welcome practice during a difficult time in my life. Combining mindfulness and art gave me a minute to focus more on the process of creating art, with less focus on the outcome and product (though I do still care very much about the finished product). Dr. McDonough's classes have helped me learn that it's important to show your progress even if the work is unfinished. That is something I really struggle with, and Dr. McDonough pushes me to fight the perfectionism that holds me back from finishing.