



Brooke Shockey, Master

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Why I Chose Natalie Blain and Lee Reed

I chose Natalie because she has triumphed over so much adversity throughout her years as a student. Artistically, she has grown, opened her mind to feedback, and learned to use her natural perfectionism and curiosity as fuel to overcome obstacles, rather than just causes for frustration and distraction. I chose Lee because I see great artistic potential in him that he struggles to see in himself. Despite not knowing him well for very long, I have enjoyed getting to know him through how he inserts himself in his artwork. I look forward to guiding him toward new possibilities in visual art and helping him grow in the future.

Artist Statement

This unconventional take on landscape painting on a rough-cut shard of wood was prompted by a need to show my students how to take a simple prompt like 'landscape painting' and come up with a creative and personally meaningful solution that has the ability to speak to viewers intimately without ever exchanging words. The juxtaposition of two scenes in "Redwoods Legacy" presents my fear of missing out on realizing my lifelong dream to hike through the serene redwood and sequoia forests in the American northwest before they are mostly destroyed by logging, drought, and fire. The two physical sides of this 'painting' also nod to the tension in dualities between human influence on and celebration of the natural world, showing scars as a testament to the resilience and covering them, and the fragility of stability.