

Morgan Leigh LeBrun '20

*This isn't Easy*, 2019

Water-based ceramic

ART999



"This piece will feature tears of gold to mimic the gold tears Zendaya cries on the show, *Euphoria*. To symbolize the rollercoaster of emotions that teenagers today experience, I will make these tears with a glue-gold compound. This idea was inspired by the Japanese art of repairing pottery that has been broken with gold, silver, or platinum dusted lacquer called Kintsugi, meaning 'golden joinery,' also known as Kintsukuroi, meaning 'golden repair.'

I have been an active ceramicist for a couple of years now, and this is my second attempt at such a large, hand-built, hyper-realistic human form. This piece presented many challenges, specifically when it came to time management and accepting that sometimes the clay tells me what to do, not the other way around.

This piece was inspired by the show, *Euphoria*, which follows the complicated lives of teenagers today, including those of a drug addict, a transgender female, and a jock with a complicated home life. I used Zendaya's expression from the cover of the show as inspiration for the facial expression of this piece—a woman from my imagination. The show highlights that being in high school today comes with a slew of complex societal norms which generations before did not experience. Depression and anxiety are no longer taboo topics to discuss, but everyday struggles that need to be vocalized and better understood. I hope this piece inspires people to participate in active conversation about mental health issues in teenagers today."

Instagram: @artbymorganlebrun

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*Poppy*, 2020

Oil on canvas

ART 999

"For this piece, I wanted to continue to develop my painting skills as my first time using oil paint was last spring. I wanted to paint my Grandfather, Poppy, because I wanted to take on the challenge of portraying his warm spirit. To do this, I focused on using warm pinks and oranges for his skin tone and concentrated the highlights in his white hair.

I also made the background a dark blue to show that he is the light in a dark space. This piece was a challenge because I had to work with the materials I have at home, but I am happy with how the piece came out, especially his shirt and neck region and the highlight on his cheeks. I really struggled with the eyes, but this is a learning process and hopefully I will improve my techniques over time."



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*Angelina*, 2020

Digital drawing

ART 999

“For this piece, I used an iPad and Apple Pencil on *Procreate* to draw my good friend, Angelina. This was my first time using these tools for portraiture and the process consisted of a lot of trial and error. I found drawing this piece was great exercise for portraying human features and the movement of hair which helped me when transitioning to oil paint for my other piece, *Poppy*. I am very happy with the end product and feel I was successful in portraying Angelina’s warm, yet reserved persona.”



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