

NAME: Anna Burns

YEAR PIECE CREATED: 2020

TITLE: *Pretty*

The assignment was to create a piece consisting of a single word and found objects or materials reimaged as a painting. I wanted to come up with a concept that had depth and elasticity of meaning, and could be interpreted in different ways depending on the viewer of the piece. The idea of beauty is something that resonates with me, personally, and I felt a connection to design I was beginning to develop. Everybody has their own opinion on what is beautiful to them. Beauty is not just how a person looks. It ranges from physical appearance to the wonders of nature and the world around us. In this piece specifically, I wanted to include all of the things that I think of when I hear the word “pretty.” I included things like makeup, tape measures, and a scale to represent the physical aspect of the word pretty, and how high of expectations society has for people in terms of their beauty. The word itself is painted as cutouts from magazine covers to tie in with the concept of society and the media’s perception of beauty. The mountains, trees, and birds bring in the other, more important side of beauty: the world around us. What we should really be concerned with is how “pretty” life is.

I believe the strengths in this piece are in the color scheme and the concept. The assignment was to choose two complementary colors to mix and create as narrow or wide of a color scheme as we pleased. I used red and green and successfully created many different colors and tones throughout the piece. The concept is also something I believe to be a strength of the piece. The concept behind the word “pretty,” as described above, follows the assignment instructions and also holds a strong meaning personally, and others will most likely relate in some way. The weaknesses of the piece are in the composition. Although I believe that I demonstrated successful use of line and color, I think that the sense of space and depth is somewhat lost in the “collage” feel the piece has.

All my life I have struggled with self image. I have always been overly concerned about my appearance and how others see me. As I have grown older, I have experienced more of the beauties of life itself and learned what is important and what is not. Where I am now and where I used to be in terms of confidence are worlds apart, and that is something I am proud of. I always try to make my work connect to me and my life in a way that other viewers can relate to in their own way. I like to spark emotions that feel relatable and remind the audience that no struggle needs to be faced alone. There will always be someone who understands and is right there with you, and that is a feeling I intended to create with this piece.

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: A-S 102 2D

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Chelsea Clarke