

My piece is based off of Pablo Picasso's painting *Le Rêve*, which translates to "the dream." This painting was said to have been completed in only one afternoon in 1932, when Pablo Picasso was 50 years old. This piece immediately caught my eye because of the simplistic nature the model is painted in: her resting pose, her relaxed expression, her poised nature. You could go as far as saying she looks dream-like. Upon further research, I discovered that Picasso's model is his 24 year old mistress, and he wanted to depict her in an erotic nature. I felt as though Picasso's perception of his model in this painting was reflective of society's perception of women, and I wanted to point out the objectifying nature of the male gaze. To do this, I created a collage of instances of the sexualization of women in popular culture throughout the past few decades. I included images of old playboy magazines and female superheroes displaying an impractical wardrobe to show the tendency to use female nudity to attract male viewers. I also added references to movies that do not pass the Bechdel test, many of which are children's movies. Scattered throughout these images, I included headlines portraying the consequences women face in society today as a result of this objectification and forced adherence to stereotypes. I wanted to keep the female figure about the same as Picasso's, because I wanted this work to be recognizable and I also thought it was a good portrayal of the impossible beauty standard set for girls. By keeping her perfect and dreamy, I highlight the paradox of femininity being represented in mainstream media as both sexualized and censored simultaneously.