

THE LIGHT WITHIN



HANNAH

(she/her)

I made this painting to share my mental health experience with the world and raise awareness to show that nobody's alone. I was motivated by attending magnify voices last year and hearing the inspiring stories of so many people, and how mental health played such an important role in their lives. Everyone had a light inside them that only could be shown through art, and what I saw that year was astounding. I want to keep this tradition alive and show everyone how beautiful life can be, and how only you can make it worthwhile.

My painting, the light within, depicts a self portrait of myself with light coming from a void within myself. The hole represents emptiness, an endless darkness, but the light emitting from this void is the realization that even someone's flaws can be beautiful and bright. The color of my portraits complexion is blue, because it represents how different I felt from my peers. Blue is on the opposite side of the color wheel from the everyday skin tones, which depicts how contrasting I felt from others. Overall, this painting is meant to show that everyone has a burning light within them, even if they can't feel it from the outside.

