

OUT OF REACH



This piece represents the struggle of constantly trying to obtain things but feeling like you can never quite reach them, and then still being unsatisfied even when you do somewhat achieve them. The artwork features two girls; one with blue skin and one with purple skin. The blue girl is desperately trying to reach out to the purple girl, but vines are holding her back. The purple girl is much more peaceful, and she is calmly holding a bouquet of flowers.

The purple girl and her tranquility represents the goals that the blue girl is trying to achieve; the blue girl wants to be happy, stable, and peaceful like the purple girl. However, the blue girl is being held back by vines. These vines represent all the emotional obstacles I face when trying to do things: doubt and fears, losing motivation, and overly stressing myself out. The purple girl is holding a bouquet of the flowers, symbolizing how she had managed to wrangle all these obstacles; the blue girl wants to be like her, but instead she is trapped by a physical manifestation of her anxiety and cannot move forward.

This parallels how I often really want to do things and have specific end results in mind, but I am never able to achieve them. I always stress myself out too much and lose motivation, or become unhappy when I can't perform at the skill level I want. These futile pursuits are always very stressful for me, and I constantly feel like I am chasing unattainable goals.

If you flip the image upside down so the purple girl is on the bottom though, the piece takes on a different meaning. While she seems happy, idyllic, and like she has everything she wants, vines are still wrapping around her; she still has doubts, fears, and other issues. She is trying to ignore the struggles of the blue girl and her own problems by closing her eyes, but ultimately they still exist.

This represents how, even when I do reach goals that I have struggled so hard to achieve, I don't feel secure. The stress I was trying to overcome doesn't ever go away, and ultimately I am still unsatisfied.

The blue girl and I both strive to reach idyllic endpoints, but are held back by our emotional issues. Even when we do achieve what we have worked so hard for though, me and the purple girl are both still insecure, and the anxiety and stress is still present no matter how much we try to ignore it.

ANNA

(she/her)

I created this piece of artwork to express how I have struggled with anxiety while trying to accomplish things in life. I constantly feel like I am unable to do what I really want, and then even when I do somewhat succeed, I still feel unsure and insecure. This piece was made to express this struggle and how it can really make me feel trapped.

I was motivated to participate in the Magnify Voices Expressive Art because I heard about it and it sounded fun. It seemed like it would be a good opportunity to share my artistic perspective, and I also enjoy art contests because they give me a chance to challenge myself with making more complex pieces. For this artwork specifically, I challenged myself with more complex lighting and a background. I also wanted to work at telling clearer stories with single images.

