

Ivy Rich

AP Art Portfolio 2019-2020

My focus for my art portfolio this year was to show common adolescent/teen events, struggles, and discoveries through self portraits. I am a teenager who has gone through a lot of the things I painted, so I thought I would make a good subject. A lot of the lessons you learn as a kid you teach yourself, and help you grow up.

I wanted to explore different styles, like realism (in Starburst) and abstract (in Absolutely Mental), and even combining them like in Wider Spectrum. I also wanted to explore different mediums I had never used, like clay (in Absolutely Mental) and stencils (in Dream and Focus). Making sure I was using new techniques and learning new skills was a big focus of the portfolio because it connects back to how it represents growth and experimenting to find yourself.

Wider Spectrum

Size: 24" by 30"

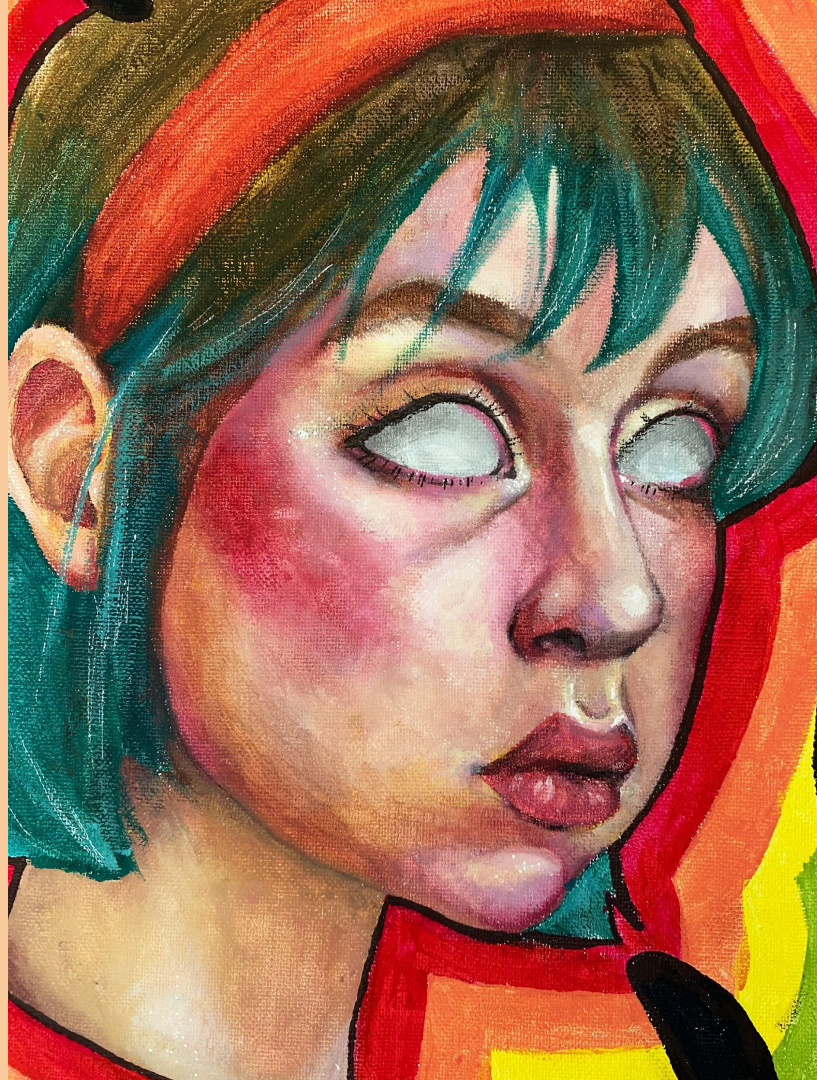
Medium: Acrylic

In this piece, I wanted to depict what it's like feeling completely different and confused in a black and white world. Specifically encountering struggles of sexuality or gender, which are things almost every teenager can remember questioning. I made it for myself so that I can remember I fight for a reason, and express myself freely so that others can too.

NFS



Wider
Spectrum
Closeup



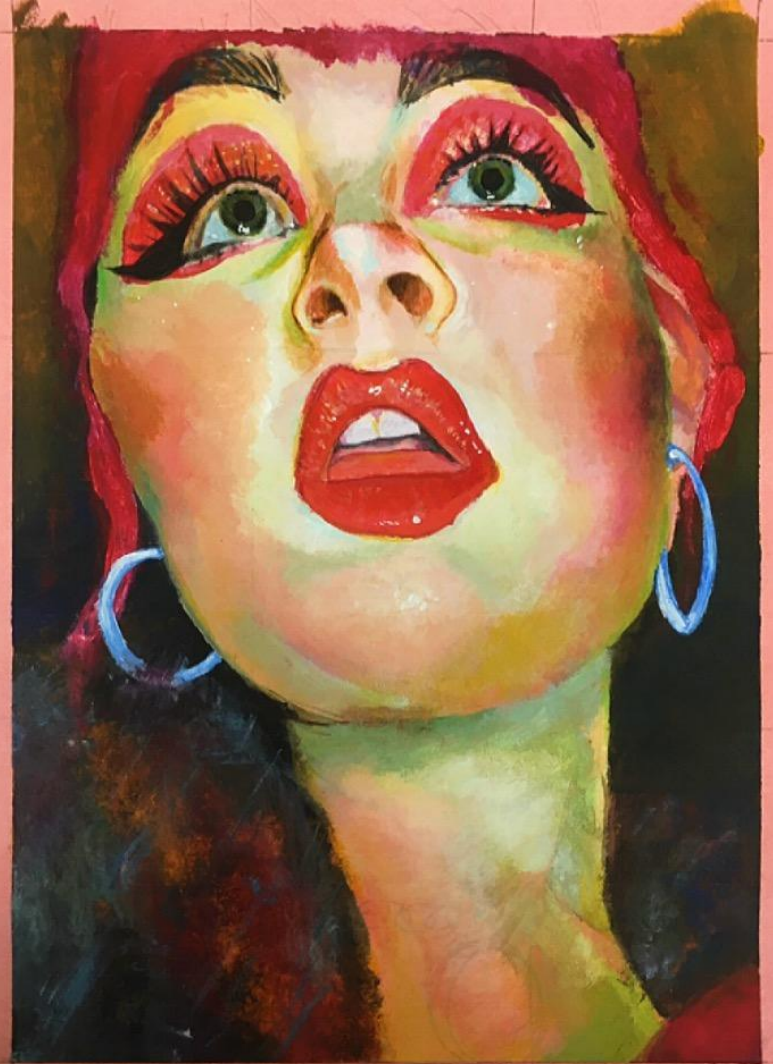
Starburst

Size: 8" by 10"

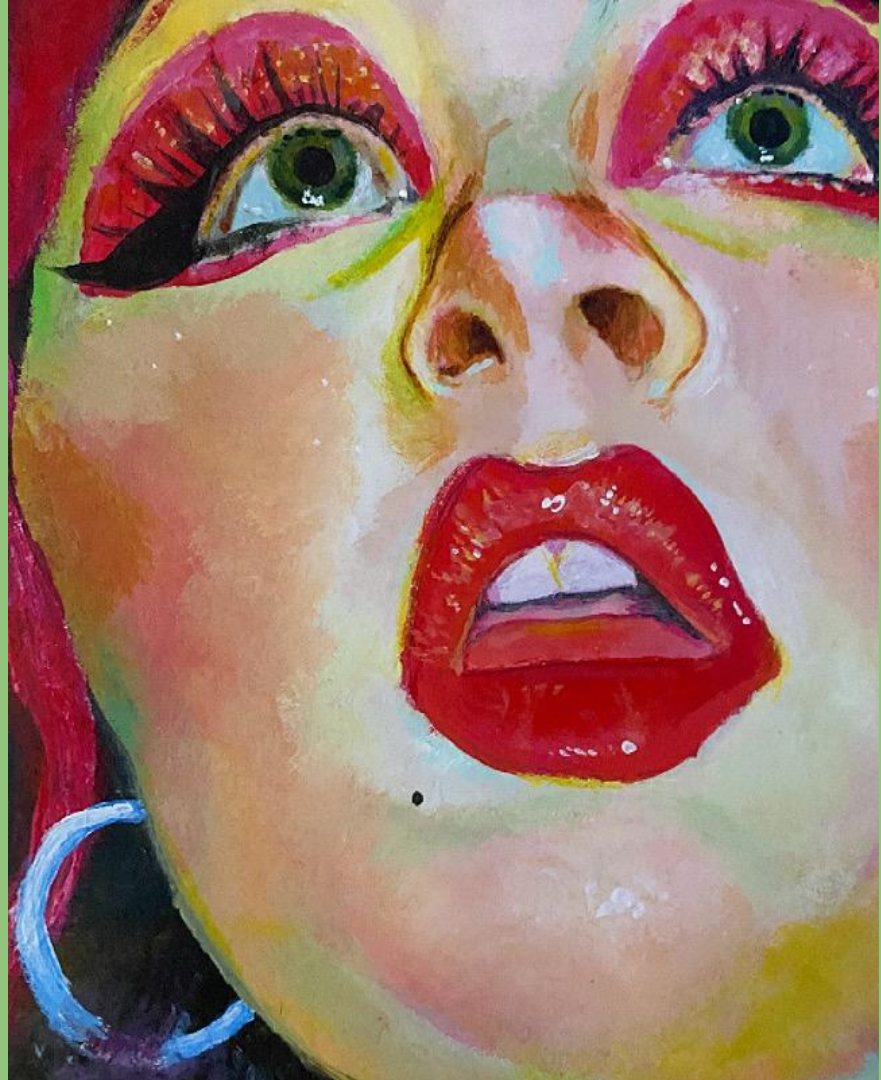
Medium: Acrylic

A big part of growing up is learning how you want to outwardly present yourself, whether that's, in hopes that people can understand you a little better, or if you want to fit in/stand out. Experimenting with how you want to outwardly express yourself shouldn't be shameful, and no one look is perfect for everyone.

NFS



Starburst Closeup



Passion Fruit

Size: 8" by 10"

Medium: Acrylic, Watercolor, Colored pencil, Gold leaf

For me, this piece represents the freeing feeling of finding a passion. I surrounded it with gold because these new ways of expression can be so important to a kid and stick with them forever. In my own life, learning to make art and write music helped me cope with emotions and express myself creatively and I know it's something I'll hold with me for life.

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Absolutely Mental

Size: 11" by 11"

Medium: Acrylic, Oil, Air dry clay,
Watercolor, vinyl, ink

Everyone, including kids and teenagers, struggle with something in their life. Whether that's mental illness, death or a loved one, addiction, struggling with money. But everyone has a capacity to heal, grow, and create. Systems like therapy, supporting friends and family, and people everywhere can help you flourish.

NFS



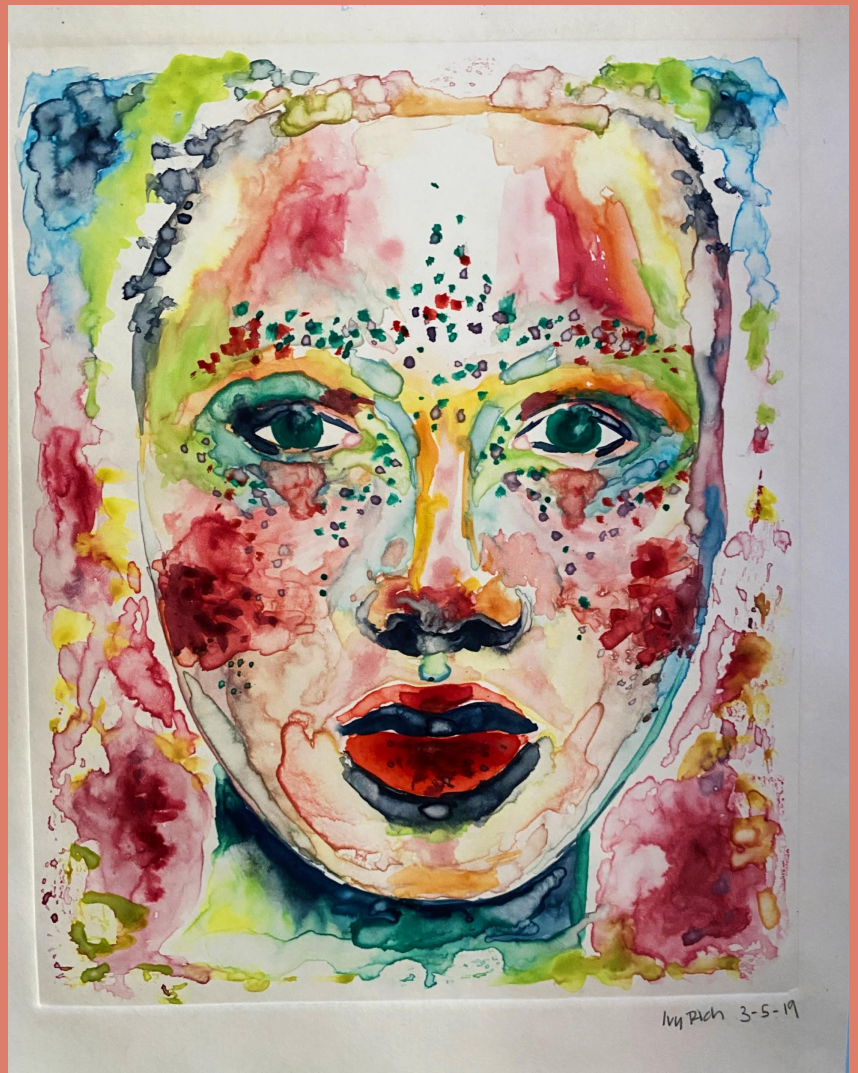
Chemically Ripe

Size: 9" by 12"

Medium: Watercolor

Every society has beauty expectations on both males and females. But since our society is based on making money and profiting off of as many people as possible, companies target younger and younger girls and feed off of their insecurities to make money. I wanted this piece to look like an acid spill of bacteria on an image, just like how the expectations put on young girls to be a certain mold is acidic and toxic.

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Fossilized

Size: 24" by 30"

Medium: Acrylic and watercolor

I made this piece to show that even in dark times or depressions where we feel stagnant, we can grow on that basis. Mushrooms grow even in the darkest, deepest caves. Appreciating the little improvements in yourself is important. You don't have to be as strong or big as an oak tree, but appreciate every new goal you reach and thing you learn.

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Dream and Focus

Size: 15" by 20"

Medium: Acrylic, Stencil

I made this piece to represent the high euphoric times that happen in our childhood. Every good moment is bittersweet because you know you're so young and soon it will just be a nostalgic memory. Learning to embrace and fully live in these moments with no regret is one of the best lessons to learn while growing up.

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Let it Go Sweet Ophelia

Size: 12" by 18"

Medium: Acrylic, Alcohol markers

I wanted to represent learning to live in the moment and appreciate the art of where you are. I was inspired by the painting "Ophelia" by John Everett Millais because when I saw that painting, she looked so peaceful, even though her end fate is going to be drowning in the river. My painting is more about learning to let go of the physical boundaries, distractions, or vices and taking in the world around you, like it's the last time you'll see it.

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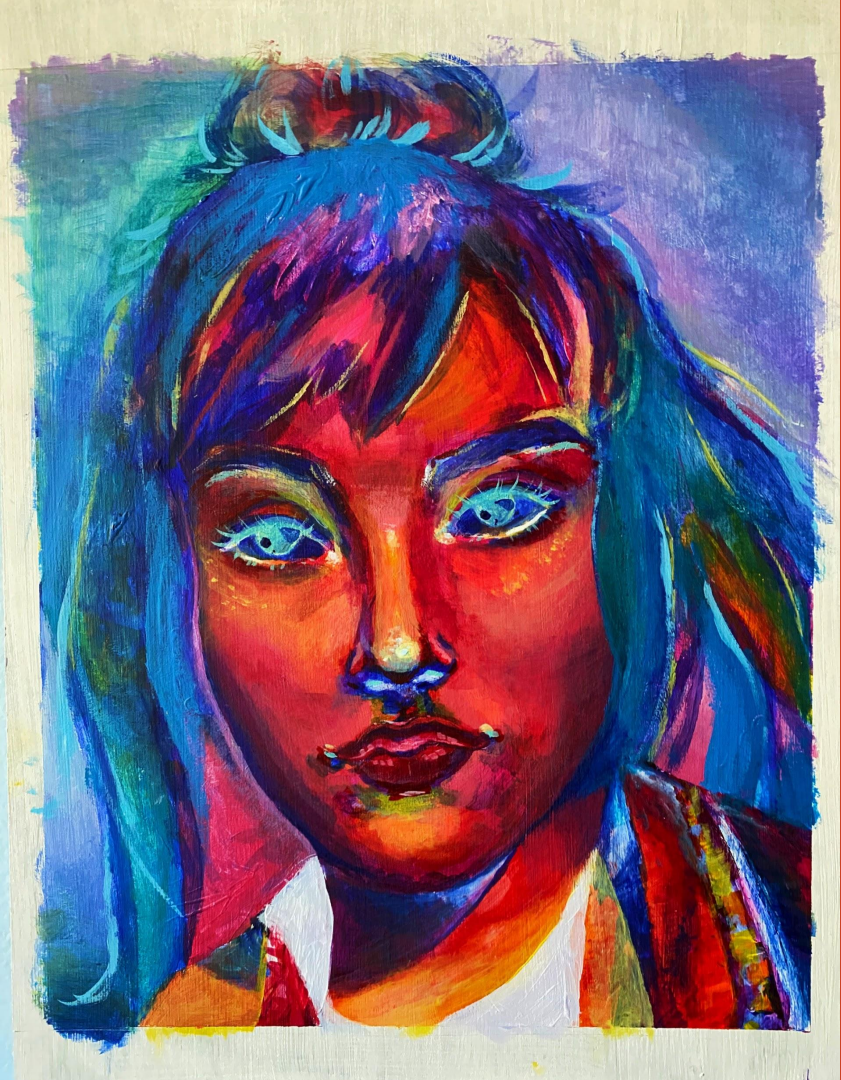
Hot Spot

Size: 12" by 16"

Medium: Acrylic

I made this piece to metaphorically represent that there's more to a person than just what we see. I think it's a big part of growing up to learn that Not only are there things in other people's head and lives you don't know about, there are perspectives and biases that everyone will see differently. We react differently in all different situations due to so many factors, and when you empathize with others it becomes easier not to judge them based on just what you see and know.

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Organism

Size: 8" by 10"

Medium: Acrylic

Feeling Alienated and out of place is common, but everyone you've ever met is a human, just like you. Finding the reasons we feel/are different and learning to embrace them is so much easier than trying to push those feeling away.

NFS

