

Practitioner's Statement

Twisted

Madyson Tunn

I began by working with an idea to do a practical depicting my past, present, and future. My subject was about my story of being diagnosed with scoliosis. At the time my spine was a sideways 46 degree angle to the right. At my recent check-up x-ray, I now have a 67 degree curvature. Because my spines curvature, I am in pain. Constant agony, pain that I cannot handle on my own.

I understand that a normal human beings function of the spine is to hold up and support their life. I am so aware of the normality, structure and function of a spine and that is not the structure of my body. My muscles are pulling each of my trembling vertebrates to the side and deforming the way my spine should function. This causes me to be in constant excruciating pain, discomfort and lack of flexibility.

My artwork has been developed from drawing my x-rays it is so emotionally charged and I become so absorbed and pulled into my drawing that I lose track of time. I am so attached to my artwork that as I look at the finished piece, I lose myself into thoughts and I slowly tremble.

I think about how many doctor appointments I have been to, how many drug prescriptions I've had, how many pain killers I have implanted into my body. I also think about and how many times I've tried to be strong for my friends and family.

I chose to use C.A grain drawing paper as it has a fine to medium tooth with good erasability. 2B and 4B graphite pencils were used so I could produce the range of tones I required. A putty eraser was a valuable tool I used during the drawing. I can put fine detail into drawing my spine, graphite is easy to control and a media I have always enjoyed using. Graphite pencils also resemble the restriction of movement with my spine and the way I move, especially when I dance.

The artists that inspired me to draw my x-rays with graphite pencils were Leonardo de Vinci with his highly skilled skeleton drawings produced with pen and ink. His artwork has also encouraged me to depict the vertebrates are being effected by my deformity. Gendron Jensen a contemporary artist, inspired me because he is a self-taught artist who draws bones of animals using graphite pencils. I am also a self-taught artist and using his images of bones has helped me with the small detail of my final.

Paul Schwarz also works with the human body using graphite pencils. He uses very small detail and soft tones in his drawings. These artists together have helped me to complete a graphite drawing of my deformed skeleton.