

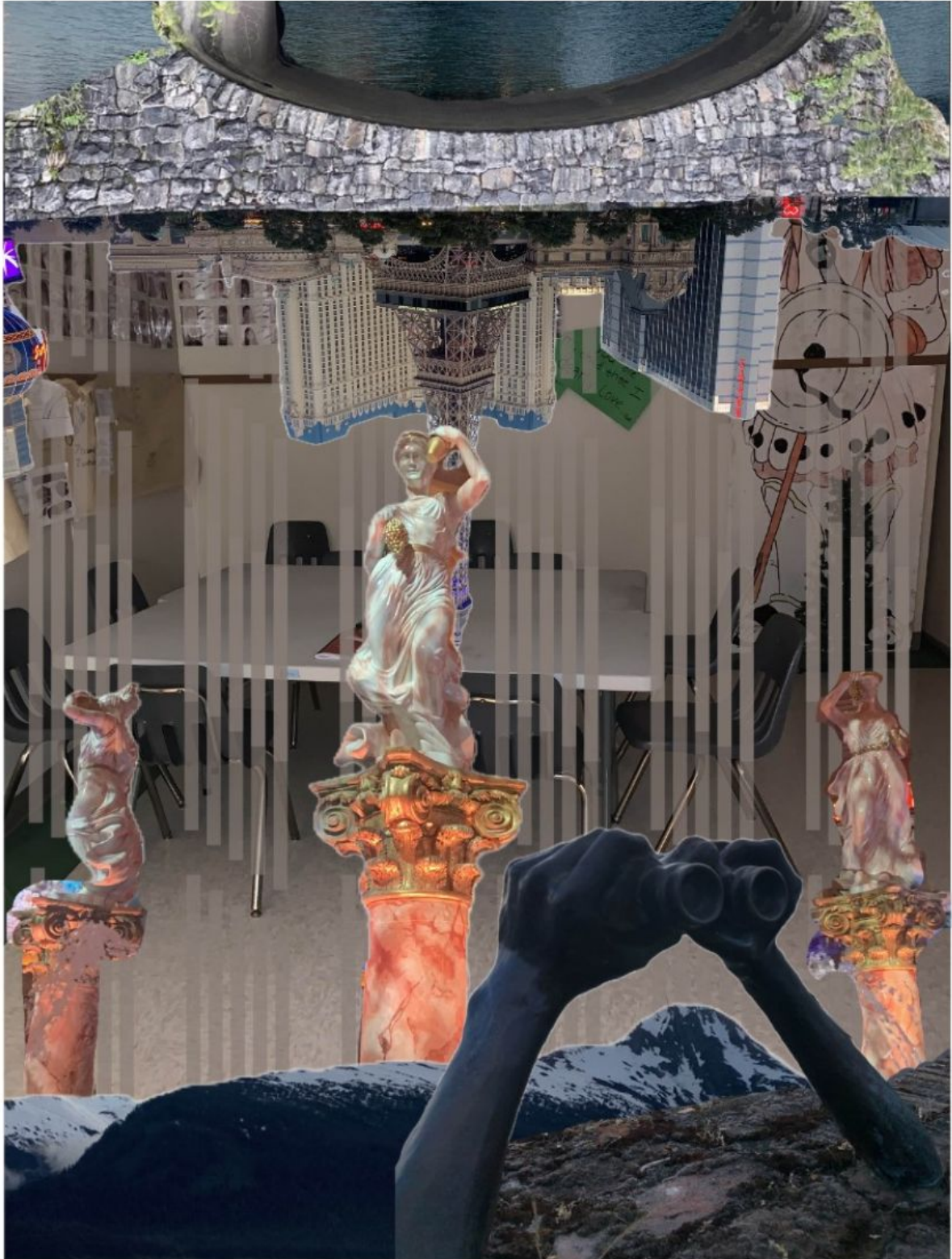
Caiden Cranfill

Title of the Piece: Hazy Days Gone By

A little context is needed to fully understand my position when creating this piece. I have hemophilia, a bleeding disorder that makes it difficult for my blood to clot effectively, which may lead to internal bleeding if untreated. Combine this with a few other inherited disorders that I have, I was often inside during my developmental years. These conditions made it difficult to go on vacation with my family, as simply walking through the grocery store would sometimes have me in tears due to the pain of walking. However, as time went on and scientific research regarding hemophilia has progressed, I now have access to new medications that have significantly improved my quality of life. This new medication in addition to a handful of reconstructive surgeries has put me in the best physical condition I have ever been in, which has opened new experiences and opportunities for me, such as the vacations that I mentioned previously.

For this piece, I wanted to capture a sense of reminiscing over one's youth, an action that becomes harder to do as years pass. For the base of the collage, I used a photo I had taken that heavily leans into the popular "liminal space" aesthetic, which has blown up online in recent years. Photos that are categorized as liminal spaces have a nostalgic and almost off-putting feeling to them, as they typically capture scenes that people my age associate with childhood. I then added some semi-transparent lines made up of colors that fit the picture to obscure the background, making it feel like a distant memory that you have a bit of trouble correctly remembering. Finally, I took a handful of photos that I took during the two major vacations I have been on within the last three years, that being to Las Vegas and Alaska. I used photos of landscape, architecture, as well as a few public art pieces that piqued my interest during my trip. I wanted these photos to fill in just enough space to further obscure the background, while also leaving enough empty space so that the "memory" is still visible.

Overall, I wanted this piece to convey the feeling of moving on from one major point in life to another. Although I said that I spent a lot of my time indoors, I still have very fond memories of the activities that I did get to take part in, and I do not wish to forget them. Regardless, as time passes, these memories get replaced with new ones, and we have little choice but to cherish what we can remember while still making the most of the present.



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