June Lee Portraits of Disability and Difference Kristin Lindgren 9 December 2024

Self-Portrait Reflection

I decided to use the medium of a photograph and other elements of graphic design to showcase my present self. This picture was taken when I went to South Korea, my mother country, over the summer for the very first time. The trip was very memorable and valuable to me because I was able to connect with my Korean culture and identity even closer. The photo was taken at a famous café called Rain Report, which had this area where water poured down to look like rain. There are many small water droplets, which represent small aspects of myself and my identity that build who I am. The bigger water droplets represent what is important to me in the present. In high school, I enjoyed singing as a pastime, but I was never able to pursue it through activities. Now, in college I am able to pursue singing by joining singing groups and being a part of a band. This passion is still growing, which is why it is still higher up and further from me and my umbrella. The weighing scale represents the decisions I am currently making as a college student, about multiple different things, such as academic, social, or personal decisions. The head showing the brain highlights the potential major I want to pursue and the passion I have/have had for psychology since high school. The droplet with my friends emphasizes the valuable and close friendships I have made since the beginning of college and the people who are a huge part of my life and who I am right now. Last but most definitely not least, are the droplets with the American and South Korean flag, which represents my Korean-American identity. My journey with my cultural identity has been a long one, but I feel closer than ever to my identity as I still continue to involve myself in affinity groups, like I did in high school, with my role as a board member of the Pan Asian Resource Center and a member of the Korean Cultural Club. Overall, I chose this medium because I enjoy taking photos and graphic design. I hoped to make my self-portrait resemble some type of magazine cover for the beginning of my journey of painting my identity in college. I look forward to the type of person I become in the upcoming years and what next year has in store for me.

