

They, Flourishing, & Marge
Mixed Media on Paper

“They” comes from the process of collage, using facial features from my friends and family of different sexes and gender identities. I felt the need to give this face a genderless name. The use of the leaves for hair is probably my favorite part because the texture truly gives the illusion of Black hair which was the intention. The way I drew and painted the face is reminiscent of how I started painting and drawing faces. I feel this is a full circle moment that includes what I learned from Leah Gonzalas in my Design 10A class. “Flourishing” includes photos from the areas that Black American’s ancestors were taken from in Africa. The wire layer represents a gate blocking the influence of others (especially white influence) from not only Black America but Africa. The title of this piece, “Flourishing”, comes from the foliage and flowers that are the last layer representing the idea that we, as African Americans and Africans in general, are flourishing without the addition of others. “Marge” is a recently drawn genderless being of mine, who represents the presentation of androgyny. Simply from the way Marge’s face is drawn, one would assume the presence of masculinity, even though the body’s shape, chest, and name include the possibility of femininity. These three pieces embody what I believe are human rights: peace in one's beauty, protection of past and future, and freedom through expression.