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Morgan Pennings, Senior Art Exhibition Portfolio

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I have a passion for both traditional art and digital art mediums. When I create art, I want it to be eye catching and invoke contemplative thought. I often use abstraction to tell a story. I use the human figure to explore concepts of identity.

I take other people’s portraits and try to creatively take my own, while experimenting with the settings on my camera. I consider my photography as a painterly. The lines are often blurred and a lot more work goes into it than just a click of a button. Stuck in an Oil Painting is a piece where I combined a portrait with an oil painting I made. The photo and painting were both pieces that could stand alone, but when the layers came together, they created something even more visually pleasing.

As my work changes, my questions about identity evolve. For me, identity has a lot to do with beauty, and recently, I have been less focused on outward beauty and more on inner beauty. My video, Self-Identity, explores how the simple act of cutting one’s hair can trigger a variety of emotions including confidence, clarity, and a sense of balance. By losing control of one thing, a person somehow gains control of something else entirely.

The photography series, Connections, is another example of this exploration in identity and beauty in the ordinary. This series was taken in 2017, when I lived in Florence, Italy. I would wander the city with my camera in tow and capture fleeting moments of human interaction.

As I continue to create, identity is still a big part of my work. I believe that our identities evolve and it is important for us to continually reflect on how we have changed and where we have room to grow.
Self Exploration
Video Performance
Stuck in an Oil Painting
Photography & Painting Collage
24 x 30 in
Connections (Part 1)
Photography Series
Florence, Italy
Connections (Part 2)
Photography Series
Florence, Italy