

Block Printing

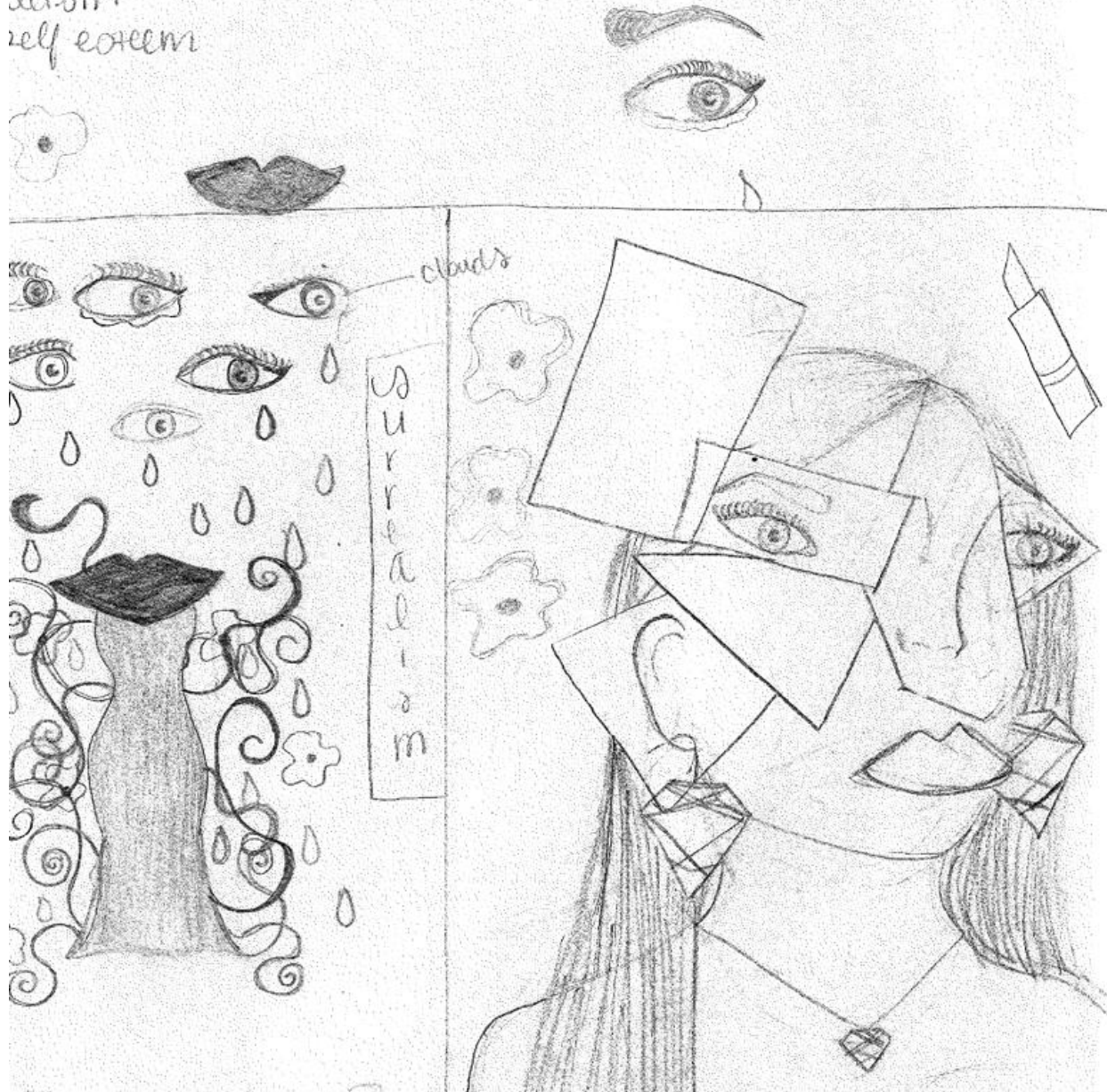
minimalism
identity

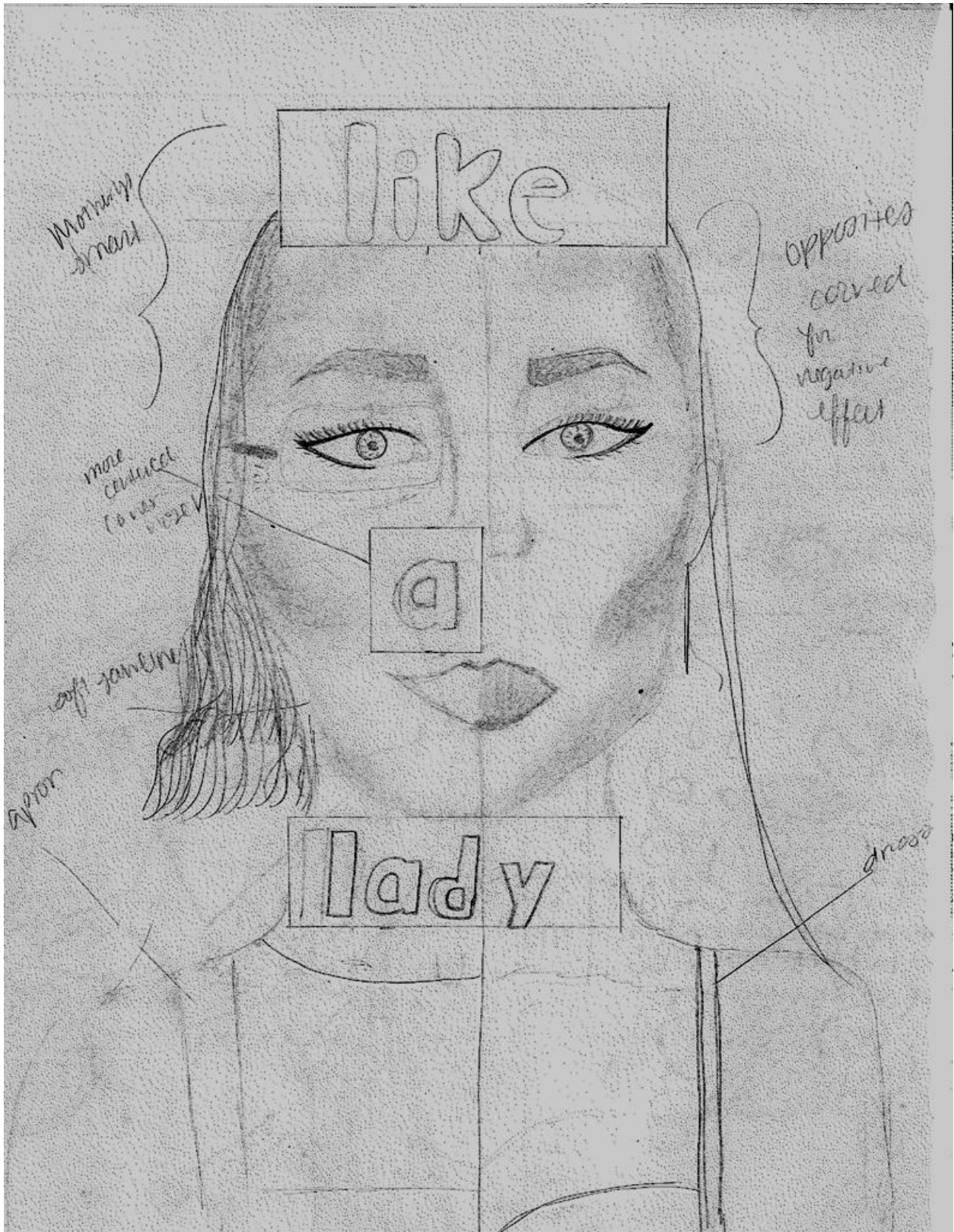
Wuwei - standard in sexuality

ecism
self esteem

- surrealism
- Frida Kahlo
- Dali

- Degas
- compare/contrast men & women
- Cubism - Picasso





like

Mortally smart

opposites correct for negative effect

more cerebral

soft jawline

eyebrows

a

lady

dress

Cubism

Cubists often broke objects down into a variety of pieces, not only being cubes. There are two phases of Cubism, Analytic Cubism, and Synthetic Cubism. Analytic Cubism analyzed form and shape of different objects by essentially breaking them down into pieces and spreading them around on the canvas. Both Picasso and Braque utilized a generally monochromatic palette. Using the colors brown, green, and gray allowed the piece to be analyzed more efficiently. Both Picasso and Braque introduced a new form of art called collage this played a role in "Synthetic Cubism". Forms that were added to the original, more organic idea of Cubism. I chose to create a piece for my block print illustrating Cubism, because I felt that Cubism had a good way to illustrate my message, because of the structure of Cubist pieces. I was very heavily influenced by Picasso.

Process

I had an idea of displaying femininity and self-esteem and appearance. I originally chose between exhibiting postmodernism and surrealism. After sketching out my ideas, I chose to go with cubism. I chose cubism over surrealism and post modernism because of the way that the broken pieces, fragments, and shapes and how they individually portray a message.

I had three sketches to begin with. After choosing the sketch that I liked most, I had to draw it on the print. After that, I had to trace it on to the plate by using the graphite method. Next, I had to use the carving tools to carve my piece. I had to go over the parts that I wanted to be white in the overall print. This part of the process was a bit frustrating, however.

It wasn't the hardest. This part of the process took a little bit longer than a week. But in terms of time, it was the longest.



Head of a woman by Braque



Les Femmes d'Alger by Picasso

at of time for me.

After coming my sketch, I had to start printing. I had to first get the plate. I then had to put ink on the plate and evenly roll it out to the roller. After that, I put my plate with the sketch on a piece of newspaper, used the roller to evenly roll ink on it. This part was frustrating, but didn't long. It was difficult to even out the ink. Next, I had to put a piece of the printing paper over the paper with the plate on it. I had to center the paper over the plate. Now I had to put another piece of newspaper over the plate with the sketch already had the piece of printing paper on it. Now I used another tool to push the newspaper down into the plate with the ink on it. I made sure to evenly press the papers together. I always spent a lot of time on this part of the process. Doing that, I had to take the papers off of the plate and now take the ink on the white sheet of paper and put it on the drying rack to dry. The ink was supposed to be even, and completely black on the parts that were not white. I did this part of the process first six times, until I got a good print. This was by far the most frustrating part of the process because it was very difficult to get a perfect print. It was really difficult for me and it was frustrating and took a very long time.

Meaning

The overall theme for my piece was identity. I wanted to connect that to feminism and physical appearance. I wanted my piece to show physical expectations of society on women. I chose to emulate cubism in the piece, because I feel that the fragmentation and structure of cubism would help the message of my piece to become more clear. I wanted each individual part to show something. I drew oversized lips and earrings, distant and uneven eyes. It was difficult to portray a message without using words. I thought that using words on the piece would make the message more clear. I definitely did not want the sketch of my piece, but perfect I wanted to show how the stereotypical physical traits of women are unrealistic and impossible to achieve. I also didn't want the character in my piece to seem happy. I really wanted everything to look a bit active, but at the same time very out of place and unrealistic.

I want my piece to show unrealistic expectations of physical appearance. That's what I really wanted to focus on. I didn't want to incorporate social and emotional expectations and just all of the general stereotypes and expectations. I chose to explore physical identity.



REFLECTION

It took me a while to get inspired for the project. I knew that I wanted to use the themes of identity and feminism. I had a lot of knowledge on lesbianism after studying, I chose to go with that art movement. I'm really glad that I chose to emulate lesbianism because the structure of lesbian pieces, I knew would help state my message.

I wasn't worried about the message and theme for my piece my main concern was that I was already behind and certain parts of the process for this project were more time consuming and difficult than others.

I spent more time with ideas for my piece which was a problem. Sketching and carving the piece were alright. Carving was a little bit difficult, at times. However, I had the most trouble with the ink. That part of the process took a lot of time and effort. It was so difficult to get at least a decent print. It took me about 7 tries just to get something that looked average. It did help that while I was waiting for a print to dry, that I could still work on more.

If I could go back and start this project all over again, I would try to do more research and brainstorming for ideas because that was a difficulty that took time in class and at home now that I know how and that outside of class then I would have had more time to work on the actual printing process, because that part of the process was the most time consuming.

I like the meaning of my piece. I really love the movement and artists that I was inspired by and how my ideas appeared in the print. Overall, everything did come out better than expected. The biggest thing for me, was the time that it took for me to come up with an exact idea. I know that if I would have managed my time better on that one step, I would have had more time in the actual printing.

This was the first time that I had ever done a screen print. I am proud of myself for finishing each step of the process. I am satisfied with the overall outcome of my piece, but the message especially.