

## Exploration of How Actions Inform Identity

Sophie Lipset, Class of 2024

During this summer research grant, I explored how actions and work express parts of identity through a series of portraits. An additional painting, “Under the Hood” (2021) is included in this body of work as it was part of the inspiration for the project. Inspired by the BCMA 2016 exhibit “This is A Portrait If I Say So,” which I was introduced to in Professor Mary Hart’s class, I sought to portray subjects in a candid setting while they were indifferent to the viewer. My compositions tease the idea of a traditional portrait where subjects are front and center, engaging the viewer. In my paintings, each subject is engrossed entirely in what they are doing. Throughout this project, I worked from photographic references for each painting and used digital tools such as Procreate to better analyze colors and values. I found myself gravitating to the same color palette for most paintings, with cool violet or blue shadows, pink or red midtones, and peach or yellow highlights, of course with some variations. When I modify this palette, I continue to use dramatized saturation and complementary colors. Color and brushstroke became essential means for me convey drama and emotions in each painting. Below are photographs two of the finished paintings. Although I did not meet my goal of at least six paintings, this opportunity allowed me to progress as an artist, developing a better eye for color and composition and solidifying confidence in my work. As a conclusion to this exploration, the work completed is hung in the Edwards Center for Art and Dance until late September.



*Cable Knit*, 2022, oil on canvas



*Open Mic*, 2022, oil on panel

**Faculty Mentor: Professor Mary Hart**

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