Artist Statement

The concurring theme in my artwork ties around the tree form. As my work has progressed, I have gone from portraying the organic, natural shape of the tree to having a more mechanical and industrial feel to it. I am interested in the contrast of the different forms a tree takes, from the natural textures it is born with, to the smooth, manmade features we give it.

There have been issues on the ecological status in our environments, with man essentially “taking over.” Many see it as progression, others see it as destruction. I tend to fall more in the destruction, but rather than leaving it at that note, I see the destruction as something beautiful and an opportunity to make something new.

My early works have focused more on portraying the naturality of the organic shapes of a tree, using medium such as watercolor as a way to have more natural marks. letting the water carry the paint where it wanted to. However I still maintained control by using the mingling technique and choosing where I wanted the paint to roam free. Later on I began portraying my idea of beautiful destruction by observing fallen trees and incorporating the broken wood from within the trees, into my pieces.

As I progressed I began to incorporate a more mechanical feel to the works. I thought of how man simplified the form of the tree and with inspiration by the artists John Baldessari and Andy Collins, I simplified the tree form by taking away the grooves and natural textures trees had in their trunks, and simplifying them to one whole shape, yet I kept the texture of the stemming wood from inside the tree trunk. This allowed more emphasis on the “brutal” destruction of the tree, contrasting with the bright, simplistic silhouette of the tree. For the stemming wood I decided to use charcoal due to how beautifully it was able to create a more organic feel when rubbed against the hard texture of the canvas.

Many of us have tragic events happen in our lives and we have to take life’s lemons and make some lemonade. I’ve dealt with much the past three years, but have managed to keep myself together and reconstruct my life with what I had. My works are meant to portray that idea, as in lightening the mood of something that can be thought of as tragic.