

## Curatorial Rationale

The overall theme of my work and the influence has been my culture. The aspects of both modernization and traditional concepts can be seen throughout all of my pieces. My main objective was to depict, within my artwork, the past traditions and how it is brought into modern times. The artworks intersect together to showcase the theme of traditional and modern values within my culture. My goal for the exhibition was to portray the in depth experience of what it feels like being Somali American to others. How it feels personally to always be amazed at the traditional aspects of my culture and how it was brought into modern times. For each piece I made, I depicted how this feels through their individual meanings in hope that together they reveal this intention.

During the planning process of creating a piece, while contemplating and experimenting with different ideas. I always kept in mind how the pieces would connect together overall and what story they would tell. From my cultural experience, I have found that people are always eager to learn about different cultures, especially through objects and clothing. For example, the piece "*Essence- light the fire*" my intention was to have culturally significant objects as the main focus of the piece that have been used for generations. This piece was influenced by a Baroque still life because I am aware of how people react to it. They focus on the objects because of the dark background. Each artwork within my exhibition connects to each other through the intention of depicting the past and present within Somali Culture. Some artworks depict objects or patterns from the past, while others have modern aspects to them. In "*Far Away*", the intention of the piece was to focus on an object that has been modernized. In "*Homeland*" the invention of the piece was to depict an act done by many women in the past. In the piece "*Maintaining the past*", the intention here was to describe what it would look like in a home of someone who is Somali today. The cultural aspects that are in homes and what has been modernized or kept traditional. The examples of the pieces that I used showcase different aspects of the theme. How they contribute to the meaning all together and also have independent meanings as well.

From my current work, it can be seen how I have developed more of a connection to the past significance of my culture. I made more pieces such as "*Overflow*" and "*Golden*" relating to the cultural context of understanding and reliving the past. In the past, I was not as adequate with my technique and skills as I am now with my current work. This is because I have developed an understanding of how different mediums work, leading to why I use various mediums repeatedly because I find them interesting in their own ways. I determine which medium will best illustrate the vision I have for a piece by its color, texture, and how it looks when dried. For example in the piece "*Overflow*" I used chalk pastel because I knew it would be vibrant and colorful as such the patterns I was inspired by. Overall, when people view my artwork. I believe it will be extremely evident that they connect through culture. However, I want them to see more than that. I want the viewer to take in the different pieces such as "*Golden*", "*Homeland*", and "*Far Away*" and be able to see that they are traditional. Something that has been done for decades and how the culture looks from my own perspective. As someone that has a different perspective than most of the people that view my work. I am aware of the interpretations they will have of the individual's works and however it might change when they view the entire exhibition together. Through my time in IB Visual Arts, I will say that I am most pleased and fulfilled with the end result. I can say that I have developed skills in this course that will be extremely beneficial to apply in other places. Such as critical thinking and through research skills as well as techniques.