

Maura Lindsey - *Dawn*

Home is not physical, but a feeling of comfort to feel and express without fear. This piece aims to examine the struggle and beauty of finding comfort within the emotions of oneself. Often coming of age requires facing emotions that one cannot yet fathom - these have the power to truly overwhelm. Since humans find no consolation by attempting to numb emotion, they must face them to find peace. This seems to be an impossible uphill battle, but once it is achieved only then can self love enter. The work depicts an individual overcome by their emotions - there is no head, as the heart prevails. From the chest protrudes a chaos that can no longer fit within the body. However, from this destruction there is a glimpse of growth, as blossoms erupt. Though they must endure the process of growth, they will soon be able to rest in the nest they created. And, like a bird who waits for the darkness of night to pass, they will find dawn.

The materials used for this project are: the body of a doll; a childhood toy of my mother's (circa 1964); a guardian angel pin given to me by my grandmother, thread, a single button, and artificially dyed flowers.

My choice in these materials was a very intimate process. The doll was an object of comfort for my mother, and also a representation of the human body; a perfect piece to implement my work's chaos. Seeing that the doll is an infant, it conveys the vulnerability one is toward their emotions in youth. The wire, rough and nimble, was the most ideal durability for bending into a nest-like form and a decrepit aesthetic. The flowers depict the natural growth one endures through this process. I found the juxtaposition between the rough wire and serene flowers to ideally portray the bitter-sweet process of growth. The button, thread, and angel pin were late decisions, as I was finding ways to make the piece seem more nest-like. While the

button and thread are very much inspired by common objects found in nests, yarn is known to entangle newborn birds; the fear of complications with growing pains. The pin delivers the idea that birds are attracted to shiny objects, but I find it's angelic form to convey trust in growth, much like how one depends on their guardian angel to assist in trying times.