

Project: The Department of Exhibitions

“In Our Time: Eleven Artists + W.E.B. Du Bois” In This Moment: Pratt Students Respond

Centered on the exhibition, In Our Time: Eleven Artists + W.E.B. Du Bois, curated by Loretta Yarlow at the Pratt Manhattan Gallery. Students were invited to create and submit new artwork in response to the exhibition or to W.E.B. Du Bois’s writings, or related archival materials—including the Du Bois archive or those of other artists, activists, and visionary thinkers.

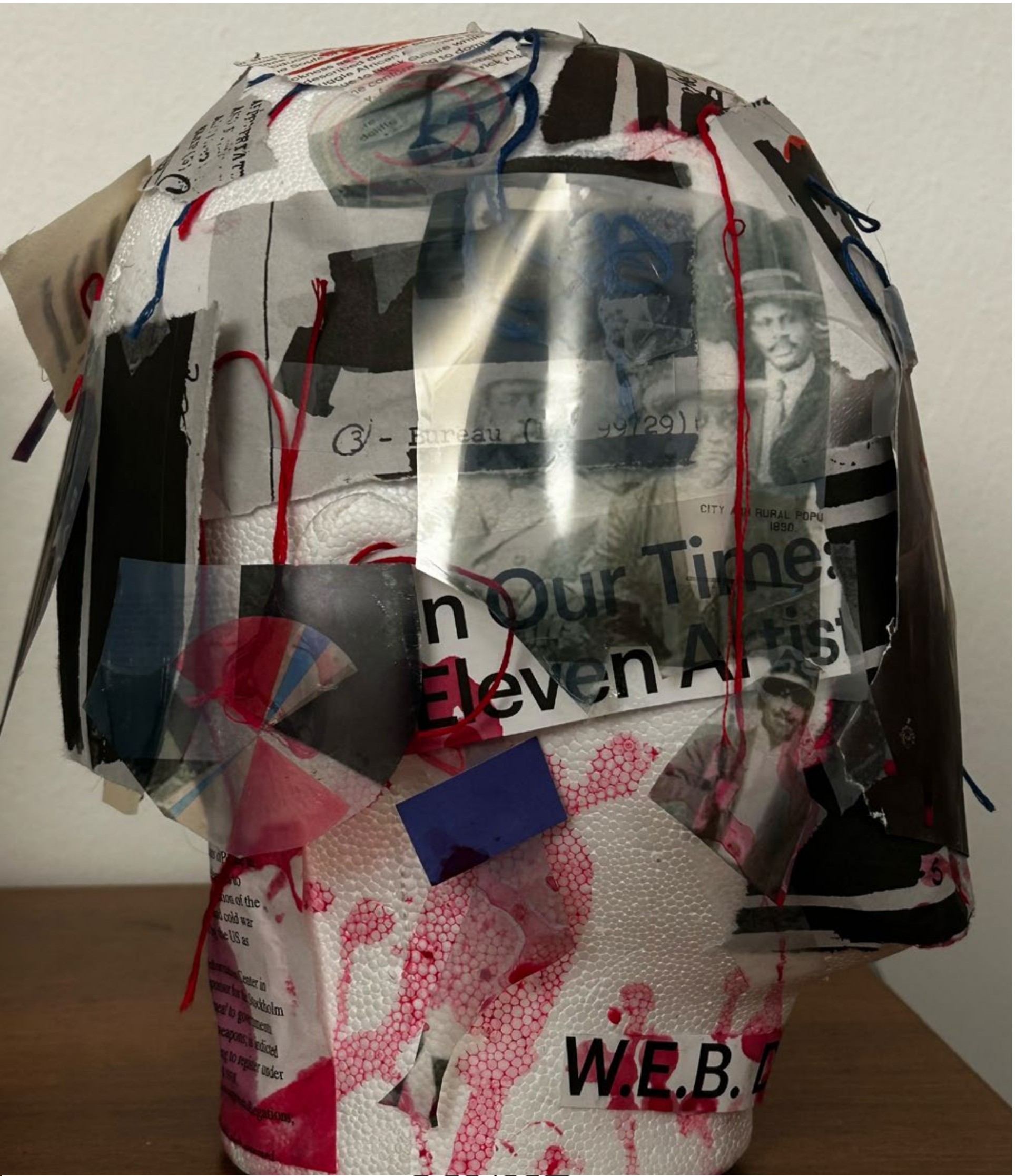
Student work will be on display at the Rubelle and Norman Schafner Gallery on the Brooklyn Campus from February 12th to March 14th, 2026.



Nic Kaplan

Du Bois' concept of the double consciousness describes the perspective of oneself through the eyes of dominant white culture in comparison to one's own identity with themselves.

Using figures that resemble each other in structure and positioning alone to then connect them through rendering styles. Each bleeds and disappears from the other. The transparent motif is a reference to Du Bois' writing of veils. The veil is a barrier of segregation, where those who see from behind the veil are seen as distorted projections but not as individuals.



Navya Shroff
Masked - Mixed Media

Growing out of W. E. B. Du Bois's articulations of double consciousness the sense of living with two selves, two worlds this piece juxtaposes archival self-image from his era with a contemporaneous portrait today.

II



This work echoes W.E.B. Du Bois's idea of double consciousness by presenting a figure whose identity is split and obscured, suggesting the tension between how one sees one-self and how one is seen by others. The stark "II" and the ghostly, duplicated forms imply a haunted second self constantly present in the background, visualising Du Bois's notion of living with two simultaneous, conflicting perspectives within a single body.

Vicky De Leon Palacios

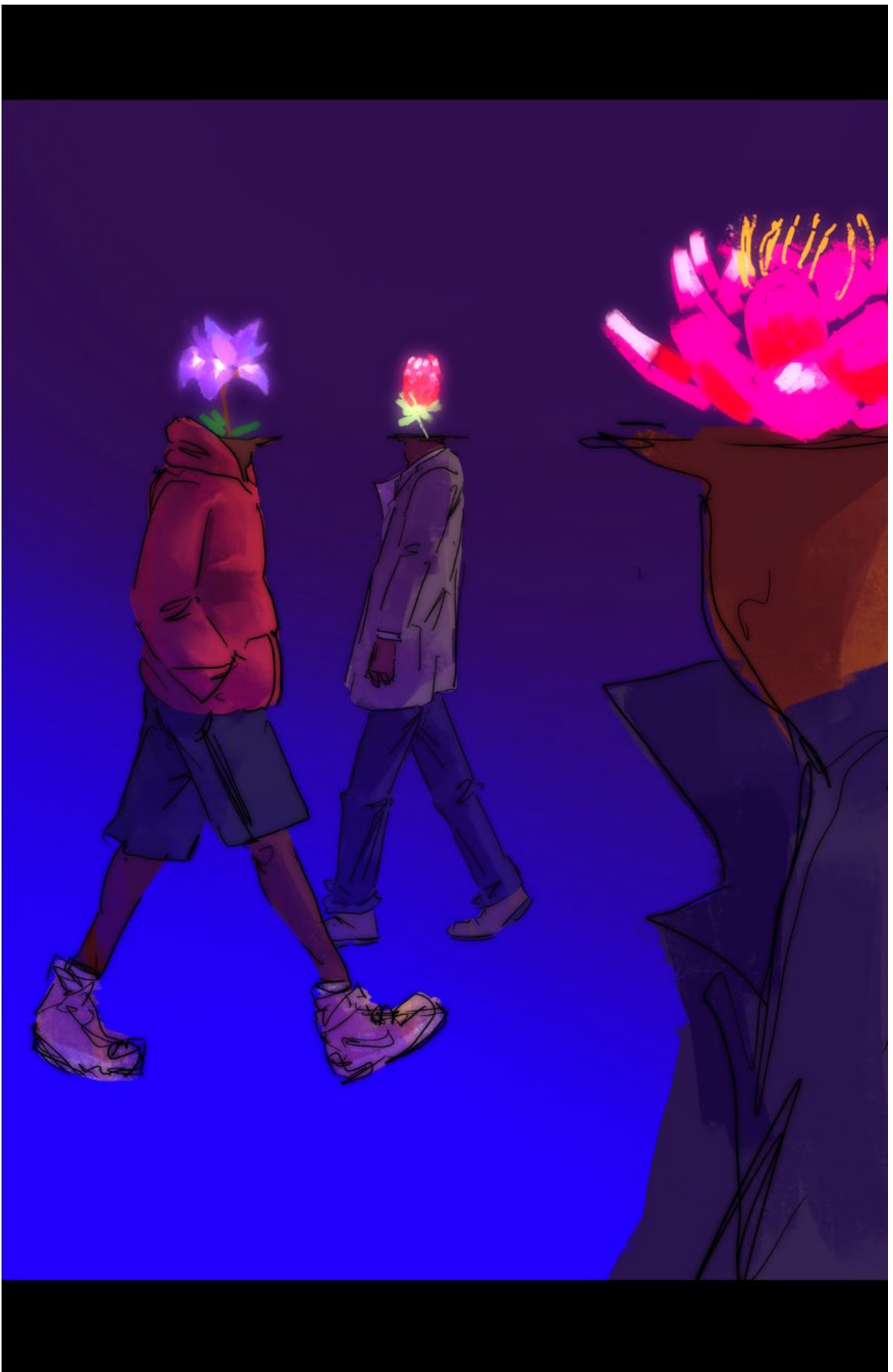
My piece "Branching out" interprets Du Bois Poem 'Hymn to the Peoples' as a message of identity & self-interpretation. I wanted to express how there's more than meets the eye, and by using my crochet piece on top of the painting is to express holding my identity together- facing both Hispanic and American Identities at once. Using different mediums was to show my interest in different areas of creativity, whether it be artistic and crafty, or more technical like writing and design.





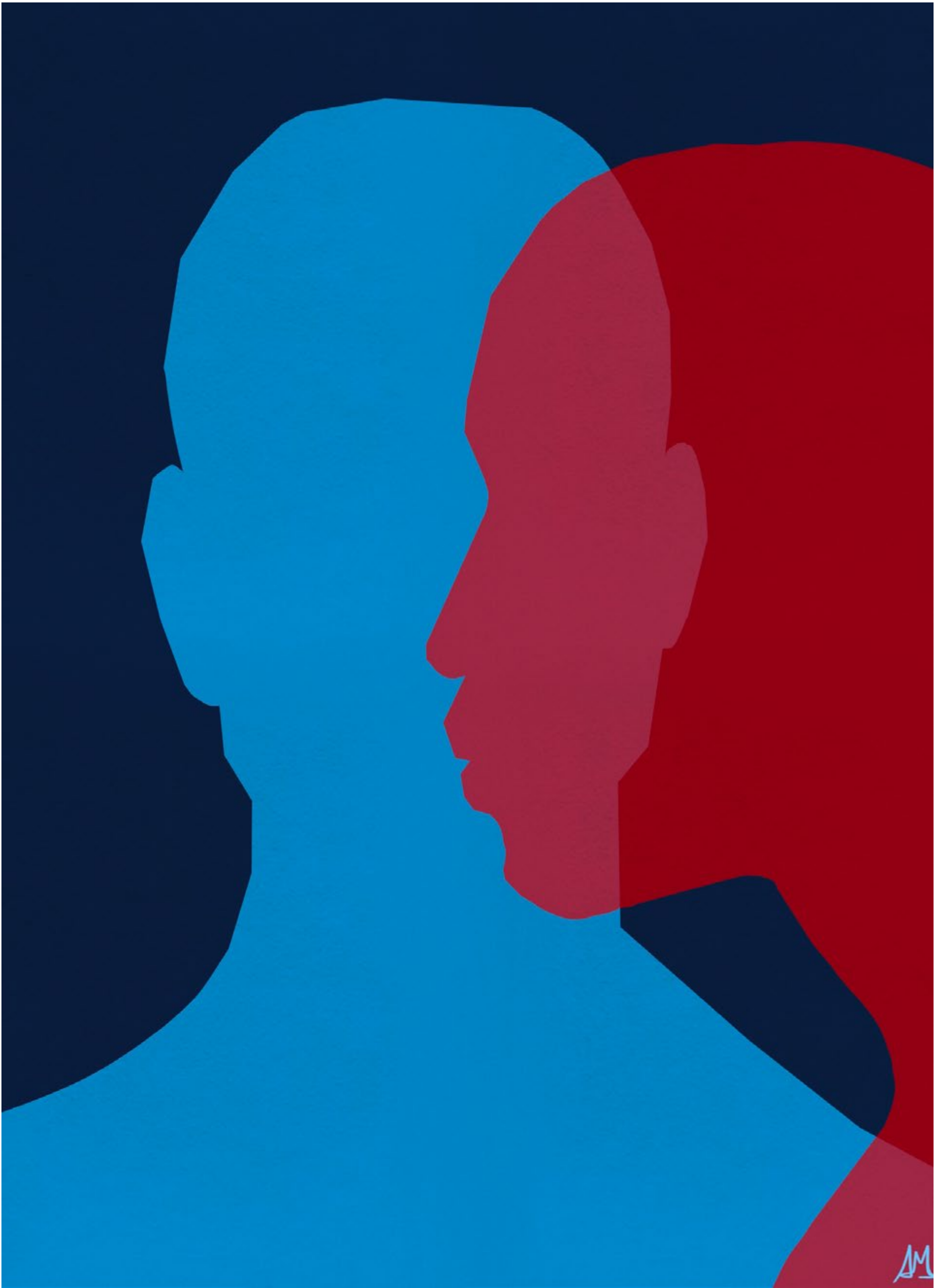
Amaanat Dhindsa
Translucency

The staircase stands in for the idea of climbing and striving, but the uneven steps show that progress is not smooth or linear. The hand covering the face shows erasure, linking to Du Bois's idea of double consciousness and how people are seen and mis-seen at the same time, and it's contradiction. Du Bois showed his sitters with pride and clarity, so covering the face flips that, asking who is allowed to be visible. The blurred background shows how history can be distorted. Overall, the piece is about being both seen and hidden, using the staircase and the face-covering as the main symbolism.



William Shin

Although DuBois created this idea in a time with relevance in mind from an incredibly overtly prejudiced and discriminatory country against black folk, I believe if you peel back another layer, this principle can be related to any individual. Regardless, it's an interesting idea that explores identity and the human condition relative to its environment, which I am most engaged with. The headless individuals dressed in different outfits create a vacuum where one's identity should be, but as opposed to seeing oneself as a victim of circumstance, can rise above it; the various flowers depicted as sprouting on the neck of the figures all symbolize self overcoming and identity.



Arturo Moya Osorio

This piece connect to Dubois’s idea of double consciousness because they show two versions of the same person overlapping, like living with two identities at once. They relate by expressing that inner split and how someone can be seen in different ways



Asriel Lehman

My painting focuses on DuBois' concept of double consciousness by depicting two isolated heads; one looking to the viewer and the other looking back on the previous head. It explores double consciousness by comparing the public identity of a person to the private identity, both equally blended together as a part of a self. The perception of oneself is looking to the other head, or identity, which stares back upon the society that perceives it.