

## **Savannah Fleming**

### Artist Statement

In my work I primarily explore aspects of Queer identity, historical reflection, and acceptance through painting, printmaking, and collage. Through the process of collage, I intend to reclaim art history and alter it to include those excluded from its canon. Within this work, I aim to create art that I searched for, when I began to question my sexuality, as well as my identity. I intend to build a body of artwork that offers acceptance by reintroducing excluded groups back into the history and textbooks that dominate academia.

My work reflects upon art from Greek, Roman, Italian, and French history because it is work that I am familiar with enough to criticize, claim, and alter. These areas of art are not only works that I grew up around and inspired my aspirations, but they are the works of art that the historical canon chooses to focus upon, almost exclusively. Despite my alterations, I still consider the previous narrative of the work, as I seek to transfer its historical recognition/power to my messages of accepting personal identity.

Through the use of collage and paint, I create works that address the bias of art history, while tackling contemporary problems of identity and acceptance. The process of collage is a significant aspect of my work because it is a process of search, research, discovery, and problem-solving as I fuse and alter pieces from art history to develop a new narrative. These references and alterations are my way of addressing the erasure of Queer and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) from the art historical canon, while battling with modern-day confines on individuality.