

Art Honorable Mention

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In this self-portrait, a girl's hair intertwines wildly. Her tangles are so knotted that her face is almost encased in twisting curls. Her hair acts as a metaphor for the chaos, uncertainty, and fear in her life. Yet, you do not see a terrified scream across her face nor a tear glistening down her cheek. You see a calm, relaxed, almost euphoric state. In the most uncertain, chaotic periods of my life, I close my eyes and reflect upon myself. I imagine a future where the chaos that troubles me has disappeared. I imagine a future where I have strength to prevail. I imagine a future where I am certain of my happiness. I imagine HOPE.

Writers before me interpreted hope in different ways, but all share the same idea that my portrait entails: hope is reflecting upon oneself, imagining a better future. For instance, in Emily Dickinson's quote she personifies hope as a singing bird in your soul; this metaphor discusses how hope is a carefree, never-ending happiness within yourself. Dalai Lama describes hope as an alternative to unhappiness; it is finding strength to continue within yourself. My portrait describes hope as an inner strength and happiness, that detangles my life's problems and helps me peer through to a better future.