Duality

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My artistic name is Ava Meraki. Meraki is a Greek word that means to do something with such love that you leave a piece of yourself in it. As a spiritual being having a human experience, I want to positively impact this world and those around me in the limited time that I have. Love is what I want my art and life's work to represent.

Love is an emotion that is essential to life. We as humans need it like we need oxygen and water. Is there a time period that we can go without these elements? I suppose. Extended deprivation of love however, withers one's soul as lack water withers a rose.

The feelings I derive from art are joy, excitement, and wonderment. As a creative, I want to evoke in others, the very emotions I have consuming art. I want this portfolio to inspire you to choose a brighter way of looking at circumstances and provide hope to anyone in situations that may have them in despair.

The series of collections I have for this presentation are inspired by the Yin Yang principle. Yin yang, is defined by Dictionary.com as “an ancient Chinese philosophy where opposite forces are seen as interconnected and counterbalancing.” My interpretation of the yin yang theorem is that there is duality in the world, life, people and experiences. With every negative experience (whatever it may be) there is a positive element to be derived or experienced within it. The reverse can be said about positive situations. As humans, it is up to us to decide what to focus on in our life experiences. The art presented within this presentation uses contrast in color and texture to represent the dualism of life. The intent is to inspire the viewer to see the beauty and optimism in everything and find the beauty in our human similarities and differences.
• **Duality** – A poem from the Tao Te Ching that speaks to the underlying theme of this portfolio.

• **Two Face Drawing Collection** – Is a demonstration that the view that is presented to the world is often not a true representation of what really is.

• **Photography Collection** – This collection of photographs is edited to show a combination of color, black and white. Many of the photographs are taken in the Bahamas. A country known for its tropical beauty, the images shows this expected vantage point as well as scenes not usually thought of by outsiders. These images display the contrast within the country – the industrial elements and tropical appeal.

• **Natural Empress Collection** – This collection is an expression of self love. It celebrates the regality of women of color, the grace of her figure, the strength of her character, and the soft wool of her hair. Often overlooked and unappreciated, she remains powerful and resilient.

• **Defiant Dreamer Video** – Defiant Dreamer is a blog that my Digital Storytelling assignments were based on. This video helps creatives overcome creative block. The blog intent is to help motivate people with big dreamers to pursue their passions defiantly.
GVC 580 A – Animation and Motion Graphics

Duality – a poem from the Tao Te Ching
GVC 535 B – Drawing & Design Theory & Practice

Two Faces Drawing Series
GVC 530 A – Aesthetics of Digital Photography
GVC 575 B – Imagemaking As Expression
GVC 570 A – Digital Storytelling

A Vlog for an inspirational site named Defiant Dreamer. The sites purpose is to encourage others to follow their dreams and help them along the way.
https://youtu.be/jnX3QNjiaC-U
Thank You