

Q. Can you introduce yourself and tell us a little about who you are?

A. My name is Jimin Song and I am 15 years old. I started drawing when I was 5, and I enjoy painting with acrylic more than any other medium, but I am very open to using oil paint. I also play guitar for the praise team in my church, and I am part of the demonstration team in my taekwondo class.

Q. How did it feel when you found out you were a winner?

A. I got the news during the water break in my taekwondo class. I originally thought that it was just a participation email, so I was so shocked to find out I got 2nd in the competition. I was really surprised and I had to read it 3 times just to make sure. After that it was pure adrenaline and I was really happy.

Q. What was the biggest challenge you faced?

A. The biggest challenge I faced was that the painting took a while to paint, so I constantly got bored of the painting. I kept on adding tiny details, so it looked the same every single time, which made me not really like the painting even more because it took so long.

Q. What are you most proud of in your piece?

A. I am the most proud of the nose ring and the teeth grills as I feel like it's pretty realistic and I learned a lot about color theory when I was painting it. I am also proud of the meaning behind it and I hope that people who might be dealing with that, know that they should just be themselves.

Q. What was your creative process like?

A. My creative process consisted of me going to the art studio every Monday with a Starbucks drink, looking at 4 different reference pictures at the same time, and playing the same playlist for 3 hours while trying to get the most done as quickly as possible, but it took 2 months.