



Jona Mae Mutuc

What I think "belonging" means to me is to feel accepted by others in a community regardless of how they look. Most people would be introverted, yes, but almost all of the time it is better to have someone to guide those who are lonely or feel something that hurts their feelings. I tend to get that feeling of loneliness, and sometimes I just need to be happy and to put myself out there for people. Without the sense of community, I feel as if depression is rolled upon like the clouds that become grey, making the work feel dull.

Tylor Wu





Bahareh Kosari

To me, belonging means not having to pretend. It's being exactly who you are without feeling the need to perform or hide parts of yourself. If you're sad, you don't have to force a smile. If you're broken, you don't have to act strong. Belonging is feeling accepted in your raw, imperfect state, where you're allowed to just be – not polished, not put together, not anything other than yourself. It carries a sense of ease and calmness, a feeling of safety, and maybe even the quiet comfort of being chosen exactly as you are.

Ash Formoso

To me, belonging means having hope. It's seeing a brighter future for yourself and being accepted by those around you. I spent so many years surrounded by people who made me feel like I could never belong, no matter how hard I tried to change myself, and it hurt me for so long. That is, until I met my new friends near the end of last year, who show they love me for who I am and inspire me every day to put my best foot forward. When I opened up to them, I felt as though the pain that had tormented me for so long had vanished. I now see endless possibilities for my life thanks to the support and love of those who truly care about me. I feel like belonging comes from the love of those we choose to surround ourselves with, and that love sparks hope for a beautiful future.



CALIFORNIA

Leyes laborales

Departamento de Relaciones Industriales - División de Compensación de Trabajadores
Aviso a los Empleados - Lesiones Causadas por el Trabajo

PROTECCIÓN DE SEGURIDAD Y SALUD EN EL TRABAJO

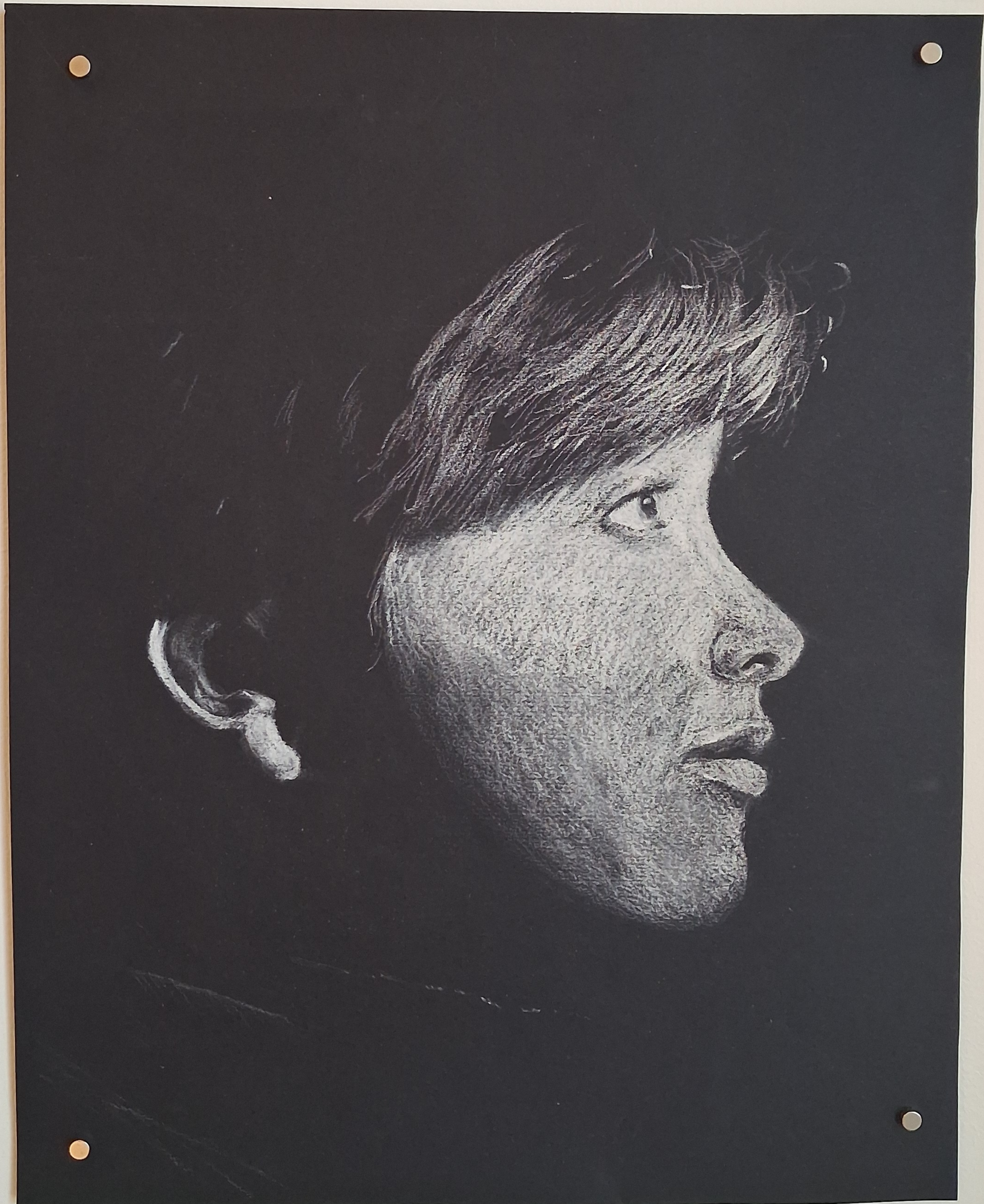
La Oficina de la Comisionada Laboral propone un salario de \$22,999 (Cap. 105, Estatutos 2024), en vigor el 1 de julio de 2024, para cumplir el requisito legal de que la letra sea igual o superior a la del Código Laboral para las personas que no superen a la del A... a fin de...

Juliette Leyva

Belonging to me means being given the space and time to be truly heard. I've been in many spaces where I have been welcomed with the condition that I give up parts of myself. I do not belong in these spaces. To belong is to be known and welcomed as you are. It is to see others as an extension of yourself and treating them as such.

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Grace Morton



Morgan Saso



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America by Junhyeok P
 Democracy is a mosaic of broken
 where every shard reflects a diffi

 Belonging is the 280 freeway at
 it looks different depending on w

 I am a letter that crossed an oce
 to tell you the border is just a lin
 I stopped knocking because I'm
 My voice is the compass and th
 Welcome to the garden.
 Welcome to the now.

Donya Azimi
 I came from Iran almost ten years ago, and learning English was the hardest challenge I faced. I remember feeling lost at times, unable to express myself the way I wanted, and struggling to understand others. Even now, I still help my mom with her paperwork because she does not speak English, and I have become her bridge to the world around us. Belonging in a country that once felt so unfamiliar was overwhelming and, at times, frightening. In the beginning, I thought that fitting in meant copying what everyone else did—following trends, speaking like those around me, and hiding parts of myself just to feel accepted. But with time, I began to understand that belonging is not about pretending or forcing yourself into a mold. It is about feeling comfortable in your own skin, embracing your identity, and recognizing that you have a rightful place in the world. True belonging comes when you can carry your culture, your experiences, and your voice with pride, and still feel connected to the community around you.



Seojean Park

This is a drawing of my grandpa when he was young. He's not with me now and this photo is only one I got. It is about the belonging in my family in Korean society. The reason I draw my grandpa is he was one of the most important person of the start of my family. He went through Korean war when he was around 14. Since North Korea is keep coming down, he had to decide which way to go, North or South, because his family was living in the center of the Korean Peninsula (now near the DMZ) He decided to keep going down to South. His decision was a huge success and now we're living in a better place.

even those left in shadows,
even those pushed aside.

Freedom is not quiet.
It lives in voices
that refuse to be ignored,
and dreams that stretch
under the same wide sky.

Natathalie Vides

Belonging means fitting into a space where I feel safe and accepted. It is knowing that I can be myself without fear of being pushed out or excluded easily. When I belong somewhere, I feel secure and valued as a person. This sense of safety makes it easier to trust others and feel confident. Belonging is important because it gives people stability and a sense of comfort. Being able to feel I belong is very important to me because for a long time I felt like I didn't belong in any friend group or community. I often felt excluded and unsafe being myself. Now, I finally feel like I truly belong with my friends and in the communities I'm part of, especially the furry community. Being accepted there makes me feel secure and confident. It shows me how important belonging is for me as it makes me feel very happy with my life.





Katya Chen

Belonging to me means to be with the people that truly get me without judging, where I don't have to worry about my accent or saying something that doesn't make a lot of sense. It's an environment that makes the weight of daily burdens feel lighter and where I feel like I can accomplish anything.



Jimmy Pham

To me, belonging means true acceptance despite the differences people have with each other. Belonging means being able to engage in a conversation and not getting the feeling the person you are conversing with views you as an other. Growing up in 80s/90s being an other was a feeling that was felt often, aside from being with my family or my Viet friends. There was always some type of passive racism disguised as a joke or some other sort of micro aggression that I would encounter throughout the day. Overall, even though it doesn't feel like it at this moment in history, I feel like times are significantly better, as the younger generations have been mindful of how things affect others around them. Although, I feel like it will be quite some time before most of the population feels a true sense of belonging, if ever.



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UKRAINE

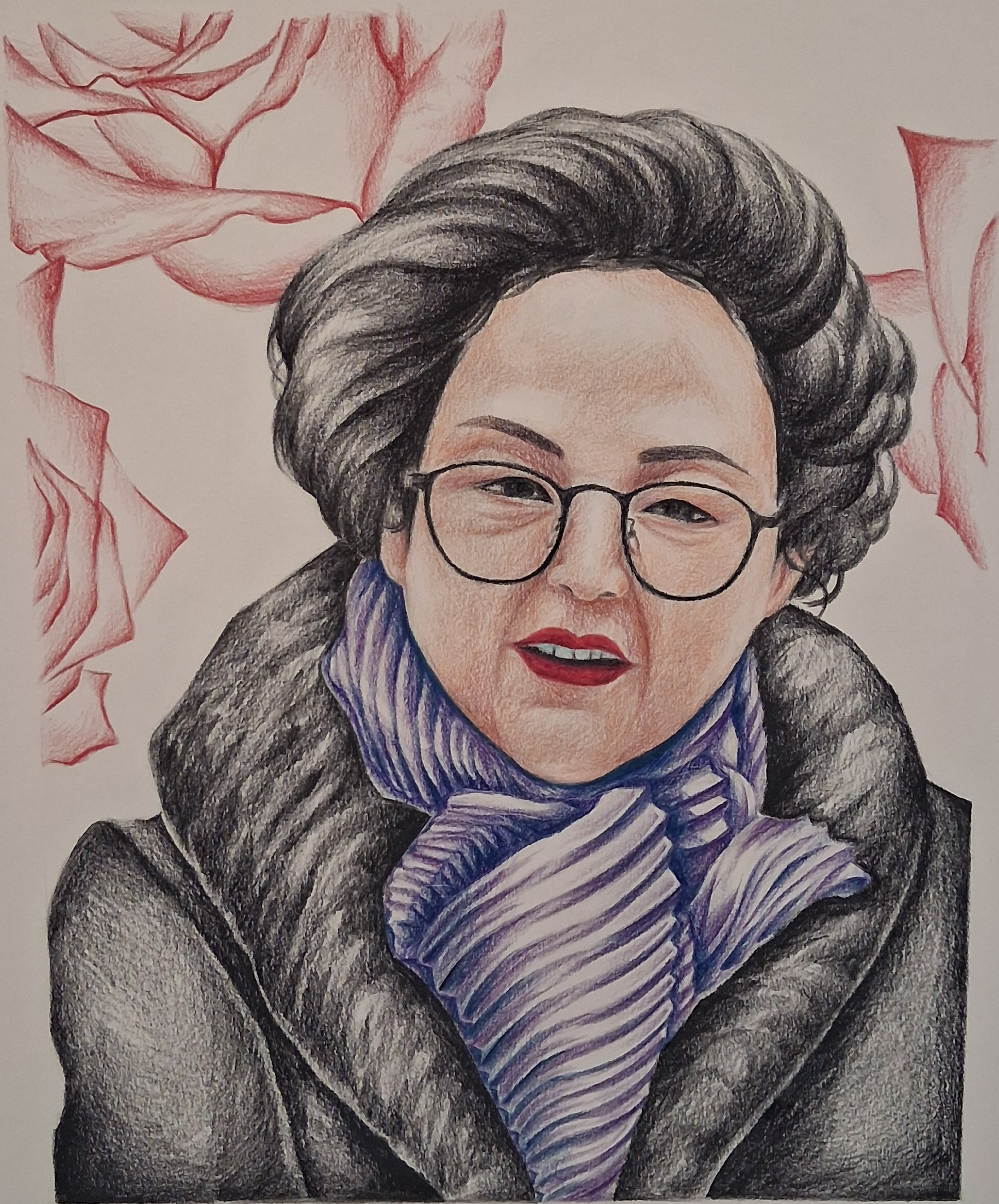
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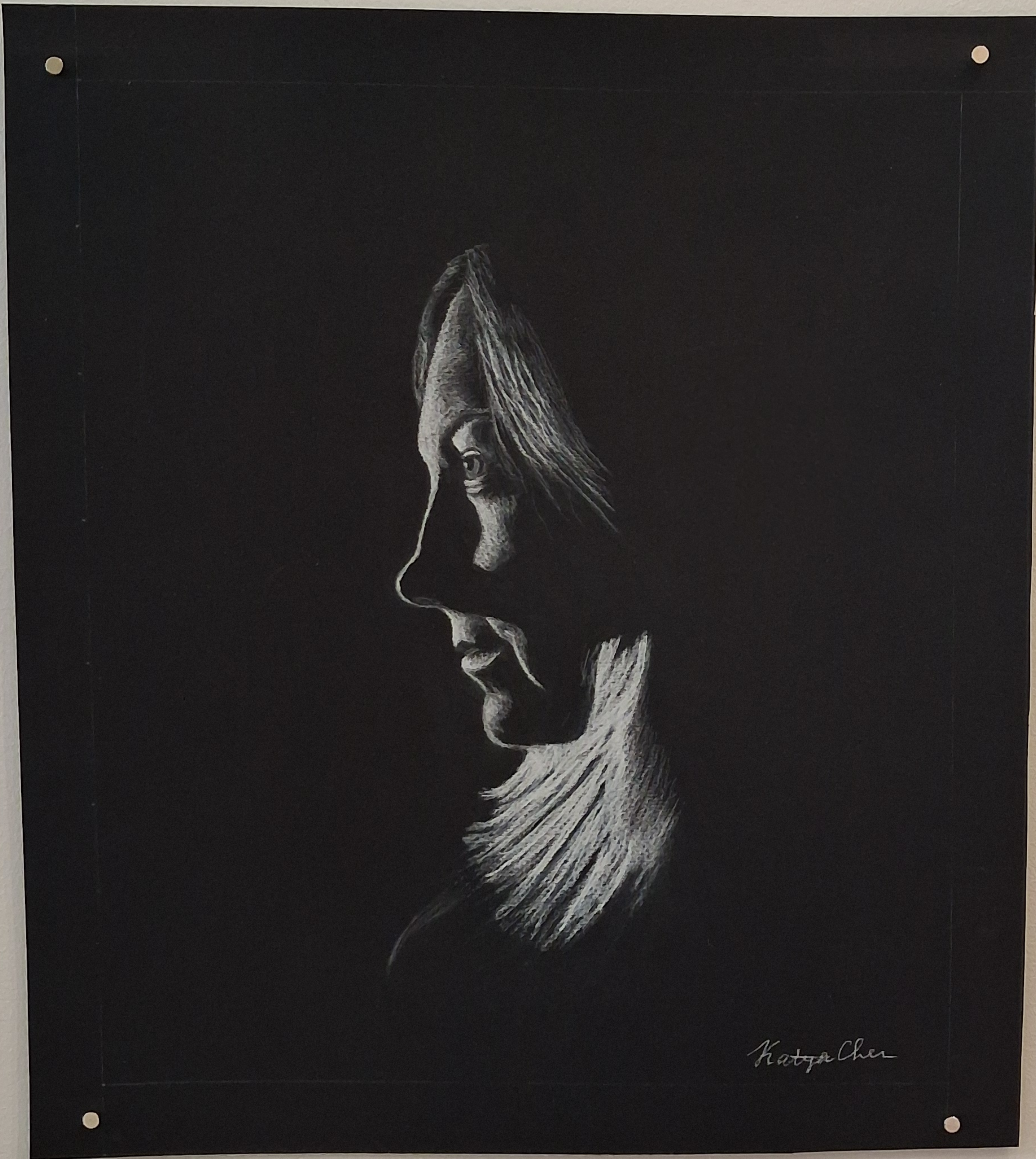
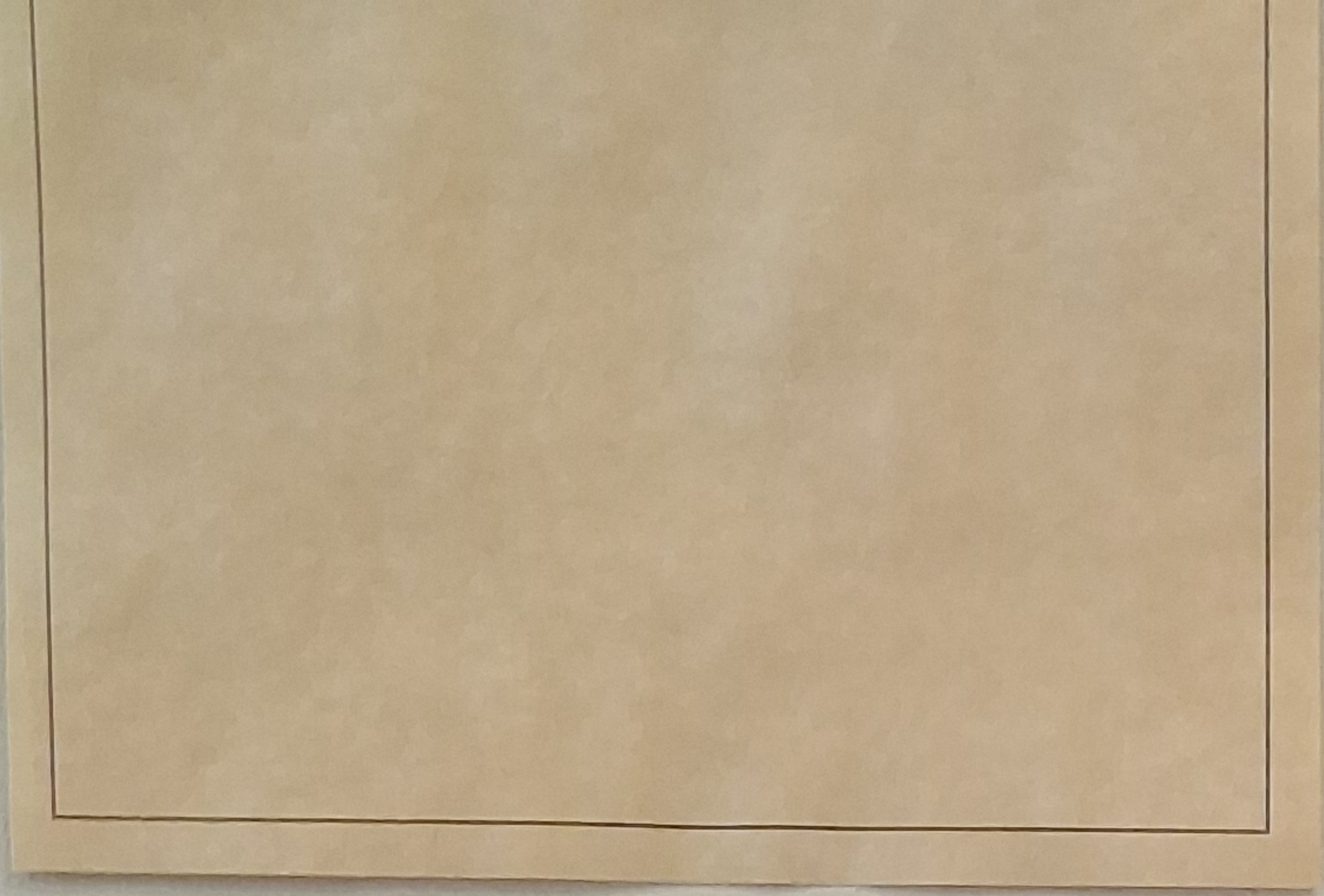
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Derya Senyurt El Zein

What 'Belonging' means to me: Belonging means not missing your home when you are away from your home. If I feel I am not in the right place at all and feel like my body is here but my mind and heart somewhere, it means I do not belong here. Belonging brings a sense of security, connection to society, recognition of your beliefs, values, and ethnicity. If I belonged, these concepts would not be a concern at all; my mind would not even linger on them for a second. Belonging encourages me to create community cohesion for everyone's benefit. If I belong, I will feel I am part of society's intertwined relationship structure, like neuro cells; I would be an inevitable connection to others in the system, and vice versa. It is hard to feel 'belonging' when you carry hope and worry at the same time in your heart. If I am worried that I might lose control over my actions, how can I feel I belong here?

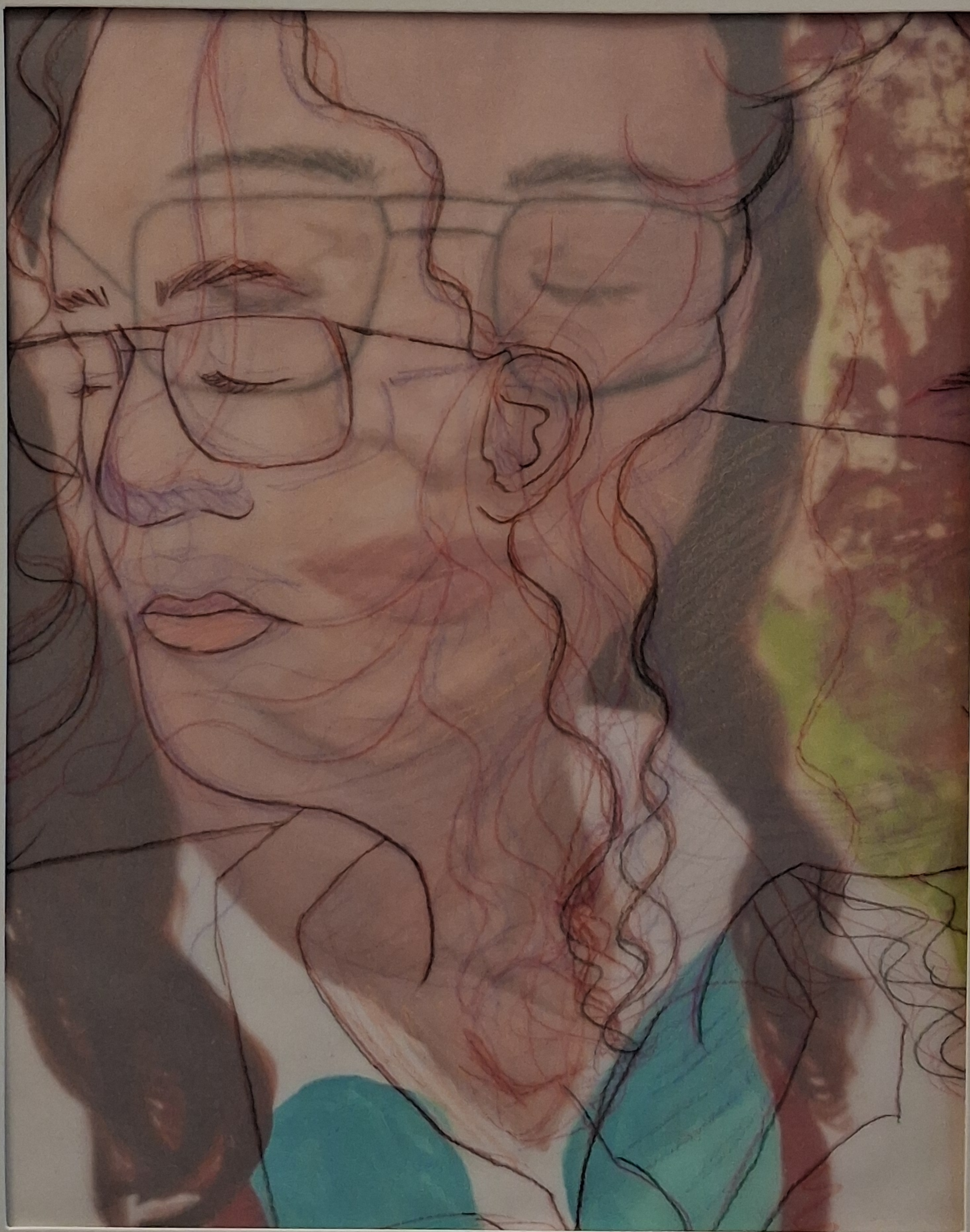


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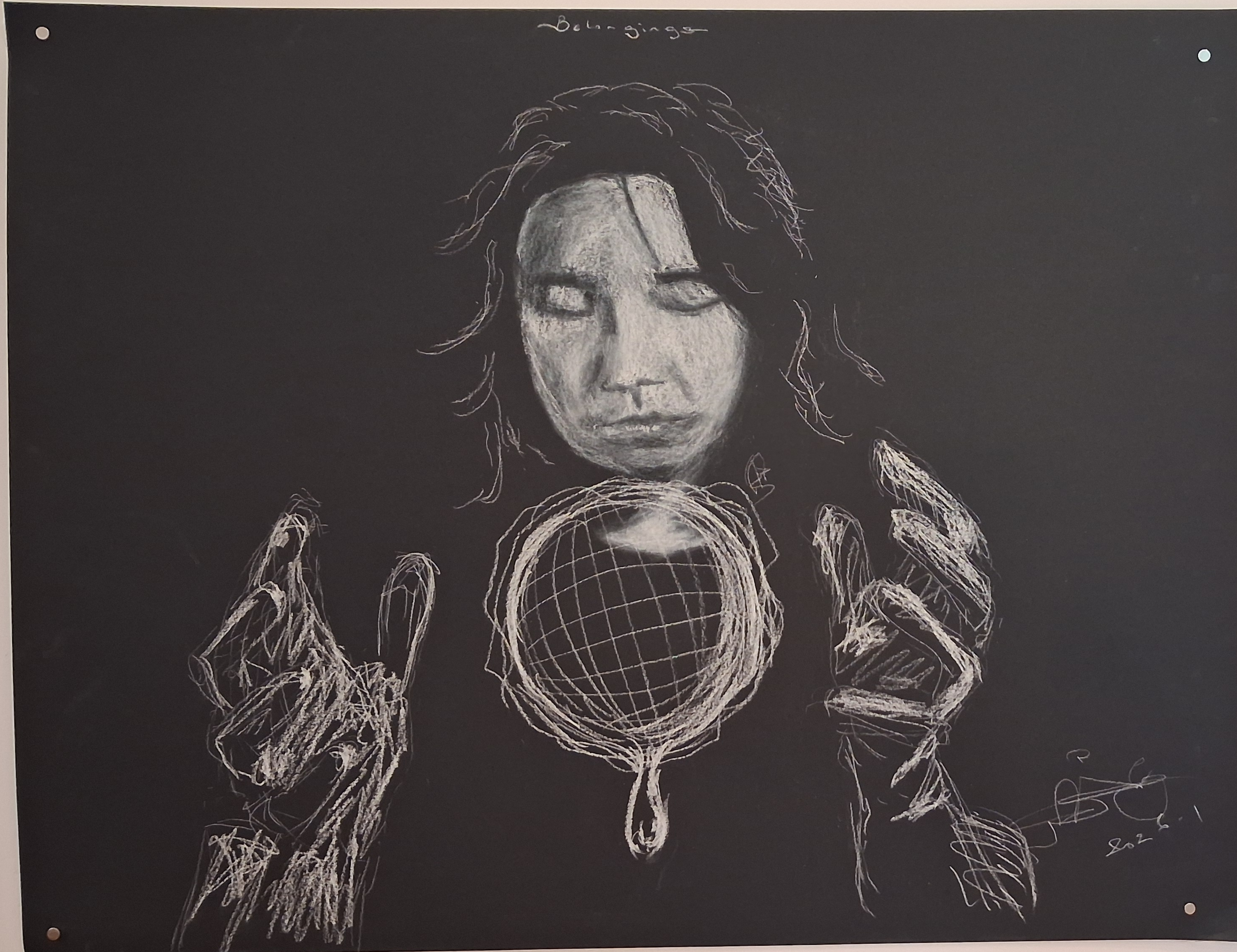
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Chantz Perez

For me "belonging" or what it means to belong, is being in a place where you are comfortable to be yourself. Without having to worry about being judged and criticized. And to be confident and true to yourself self, surrounded by likeminded people.



Yufeng Xing

Despite our diverse cultures and backgrounds, the one 'belonging' we all share is the earth beneath our feet. Although we have lived in relative peace for a long time, the systems we rely on—our environments, communities, and economies—have become incredibly vulnerable. Do we truly belong, or is this sense of security just an illusion before it all crumbles?

Derek Luu

Belonging means to want happiness regardless of the current circumstances. There will always be forces outside of our control that want to put us down, but we don't need to stay sad about it. Most of these are just a period of time; things will change for the better. The downward gaze and strong shadows in my portrait may imply unhappiness, but the small smile shows a willingness to power through and create joy.

