

Artist statement -- Cheshire McWicked

Cheshire vs. Madness

Understanding the link between creativity and madness has been a feat tackled by many before me. All I can do is speak to my own experiences. Being diagnosed with a mental illness came as a shock - I was an artist long before I acquired the fancy label Bipolar Type 1.

I would describe the symptoms of a mood disorder as involuntarily enduring a roller coaster of emotions on a daily basis. Sometimes I suffer a complete and utter loss of control over moods so seemingly stronger than myself where perspective can be drastically tainted, impaired and distorted. I become elated by the most euphoric of moods only to have them quickly contrasted by the depths of despair. To funnel this restless energy and create is a powerful process.

I sit and crop each individual magazine clipping and my mind drifts. Seemingly more subconscious than conscious it drifts away from negative self talk, away from the chaos of worries and slips into a deep meditative relaxed zone. When I enter into this creative head space I separate myself from the power and impact potentially overpowering emotions can have. I let the images speak to me and choose intuitively what would look aesthetically pleasing. They have a great acceptance for that which would logically not make sense. When everything else seems chaotic and disorganized in my life, what better way to make sense of things than to create aesthetic sense out of the seemingly nonsense of otherwise illogical assortment of magazine clippings?

Alleviation from an abnormally emotionally skewed perspective comes from this form of abstract release. Release brings relief. My end product results in an artistic contribution that aims to inspire others. To demonstrate what is possible despite seemingly incapacitating barriers.