Neurodiversity Gallery



Original Artwork by Emily Humphrey.

ID: A collection of mementos that represent the artist's connections to language, and specifically the French language. The mementos include a Wrigley's spearmint gum wrapper, a library check-out card, papers taken from old books and the wrapper of a chocolate bar. Pieces of pastel colored wallpaper and neutral colored wallpaper are visible throughout the artwork, along with brown leaves. Lyrics from the song "Heirloom" by Bjork are at the top right corner - the lyrics are as follows: "We have a recurrent dream Every time we lose our voices We dream we swallow little lights Our mothers...bake for us During the night They do a little trapeze walk Until they're in the sky Right above our heads While we're asleep our mother...pours into us Warm glowing oil."

Embodied "Data" Collection Emilee Baker- Student Format: Writing

Hi my name is Emilee. I am a Phd candidate at Syracuse in Inclusive Education, specialty in gender/ disability. I research and teach. I would say I identify as a writer (a lot of my data collection becomes prose/ poetic). Also, I would consider myself creative. I like to mess around, be creative, some may call this arts n crafts, for me sometimes the crafts turn into ways I process what I am learning. I am interested in anything in nature, especially mushrooms and rocks. I enjoy moving my body and being mindful.

I have always loved learning, school on the other hand not so much. This was an experience which was one driving factor behind the design for my dissertation. Kids should love to learn. But how can they love to learn, when they "hate" school? My dissertation research centers around multiply marginalized kids learning outside, in nature, learning where they can find a sense of belonging–at summer camp.

Some (a lot) of my data this summer was based on sensation and embodied affect of the space. But how do I explain this to a neurotypical audience? Or someone in my own department who claims research methods as replicable?

Introduction

05/2021

I choose not to share my experience. What does this mean? Why do I hide this memory? *Mental illness*.

03/2022

I was alone, He was alone within the four walls of the classroom, we were both alone. "You're doing all you can" I was told.

I was tolu.

All that I was doing was not enough, was not good enough.

Repeatedly asking for help and none was received.

We were surviving, barely.

Within the walls of a forgotten classroom,

on the third floor,

air locked in,

no escape to the outside world.

There was no escape to feel the air around us and the sun on our bodies.

Our skin, our bodies were contained.

Our skin could not heal,

could not be nourished by the sun.

They were ashamed of us.

wanted their problems to remain hidden

Methods and "Data"

04/2022

I am moving through space, but who and what is moving through with me? What am I touching and disrupting? *Embodied ways of knowing and documentation,* meandering through, and along with an embodied way of knowing as you move through the space.



ID: Two giant white post its covered in taped pieces of paper answering, what does learning look or feel like in this space? The pieces of paper are covered with additionally mini colorful post its with words such as create, feeling, examples, home, etc. These smaller post its are an example of embodied coding

06/30/2023 *Our why (re)enchanted*

We are on the porch writing letters and watching the fog roll in across the field. I hear the morning birds. Feel the great brook running, establishing a common and natural rhythm for [the space]. So many bird chirps, all different, forming a chorus together--*a chorus of beautifully divergent sounds*. The fog blankets the trees this morning. The fog containing the distance but protecting nature with a blanket of mist. Everything is moist; the air, the ground dampens between every step. The frogs share the air time, calling deeply through the air, connecting land to water, air to soil.

07/27/2023 *Stream Walk*

I got lost and stuck in the water.

We walked past the barn, snacking on bright red raspberries. we walked through muddy puddles, he did by the sun. We walked up the widened path with the moist forest ground on either side. We walked on the soft squishy muddy land, still holding on to all the rain water. We walked over flattened grass, flattened by the strength of water rushing over grass, making a new path. We walked into the cold brisk water; water which makes your skin prickle. We walked through the quick flowing stream looking for smooth rocks that caught our eye. We walked and crouched under a rotten bridge that could not withstand the weight of one step. We walked under the canopy of trees that barely let the sunlight through as the clouds shifted their position in the sky. We walked around exposed roots and giant riverbed stones of unknown formations, some sturdy and some that easily cracked as we walked. We walked back through the same stream,

but across different rocks and through new flowing water making the journey through the stream.

07/18/2023

Self-Care

The balance of doing ethnographic work and taking care of myself, emotionally and holistically is a real struggle right now. I need someone to tell me its okay to be *tired*. My work will not stop after the summer. Camp ends, and I continue through data analysis. The summer ends but the work continues. I may hold the ethnographic work in my body and in my mind for many years to come.

"As we gather information from rocks, trees, raindrops, spiritual truths, heart truths, and mind truths, we will weave the tools we need in order to practice self-care," (Naomi Ortiz, 2018).

07/21/2023 *Highs and Lows*

"I have been caring for myself and finding support and ease from the peacefulness of nature."

The trees, all the unique ridges (they have).

The water and all waters' forms;

Lakes, rains, snowy cold mornings watching flakes fall as I sit by my window.

The ground;

soft, squishy ground held together by moss and roots.

Firm, dusty ground cracking from the dryness of prolonged sun exposure.

Forest grounds covered in rocks where I hope to find a bed of pine needles to soften the underneath.

I sit here writing and the weather goes through the highs and lows. The sun warmed my back and I needed to take off my sweatshirt. The blanket protects me from the moist ground, (moist) from the morning rains. So much humidity filled the air as the heat touched the damp earth. But now the wind comes behind me and I feel its coolness. Clouds of all different shades are rolling above me, allowing the sun to make its dominating heat and presence known again as the wind moves the steam (the fog) through the mountains (and trees). Thunder now cracking in the distance. The sky cleared up this evening just after enough rain had fallen to make the water run through, run through the exact pathway it traveled when the brook overfilled and the land flooded. The sun brought warmth and slowed the water that was flowing, (re)forming the river through space.

No Date

I am at a place in my fieldwork where I need this [book]. I entered the space burnt out, exhausted. My meds were changing. I was questioning, *am I taking on too much with a dissertation founded upon social justice, and addressing social injustices?* The pressure to simply produce a "done" dissertation, not a dissertation which gives back, one which is healing. One which intentionally centers social justice, attempting to do the "work." Social justice work can be exhausting and messy. Being near nature, in nature with one focus--*data collection*--has felt equal parts rejuvenating and mentally draining

I care about the trees around me. What do they feel like? Laying under them. Last night was the first time we stopped, looked up and I could see a full sky. The grass has been long and itchy. The air thick. The sun is finally appearing in full force, shinning and burning strong. Take a deep breath and find the peace around you.

Conclusion

07/24/2023

The [space] is also filled with a lot of distracting noises. Screaming outside. Metal screeching chairs. Tapping feet of various unmatched rhythms. Communicating walkies. Vibrating chimes (ring the bell). Shuffling feet. Explaining directions and expectations.

07/28/2023

I might need more "down" time after participant observation because of where my bodymind is...

The struggle to collect data in a space that overwhelms my bodymind.

After being in [this space] my mind slows, slows from being on overdrive, trying to take in every word, after hearing every sound, trying to find the deeper meaning (or rather) the *learning* that happens in this space.

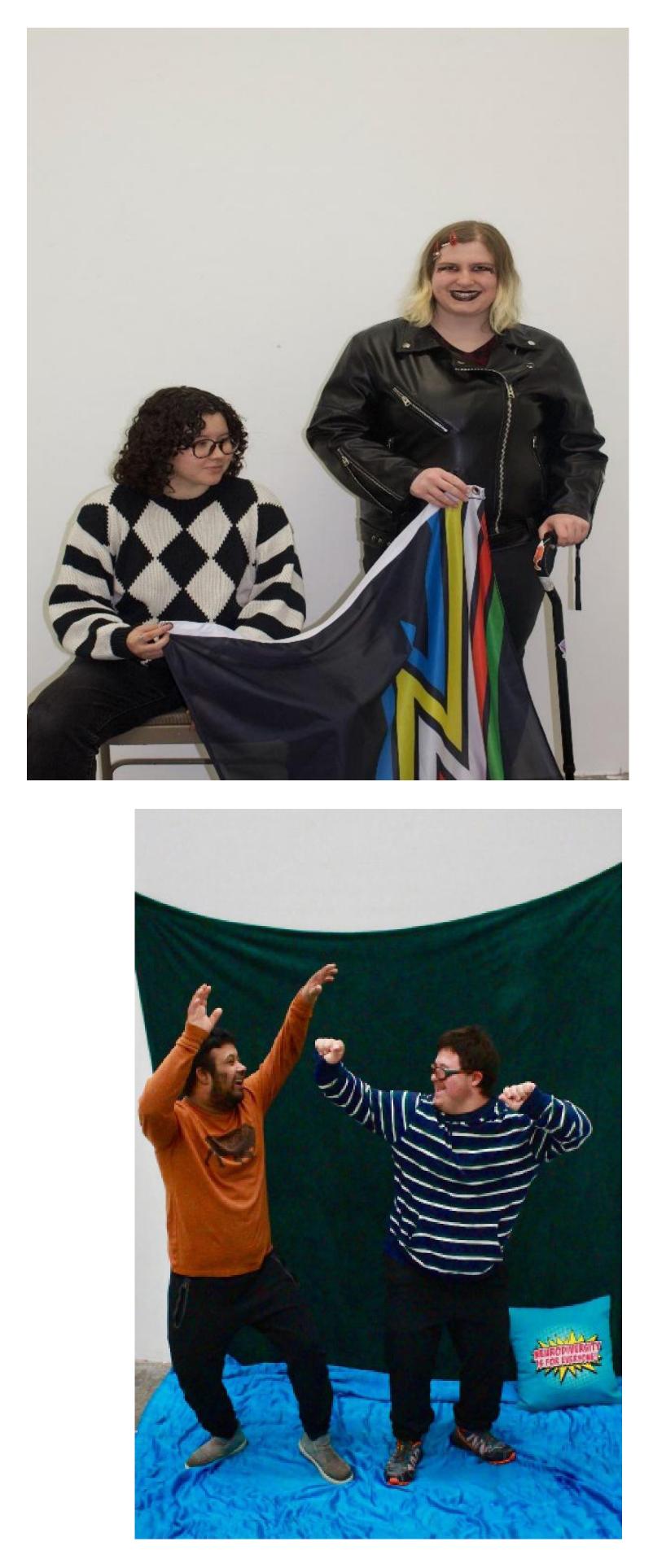
Disabled Empowerment: Clothing, Wearables, and Aids Cassia Soodak- Student Format: Fashion Design

In a world where disabled people are silenced and pushed to the side, fashion can be a medium of self-expression and joy. This series photographs disabled people, whether it be someone with Down Syndrome, mobility disabilities, or learning disabilities, and asks them what outfits (with aids!) make them feel good, themselves, and ultimately whole – that's what clothes are supposed to do!

As a disabled creative, I have always loved personal style as an act of protest and reclamation of wholeness. When your identity is constantly invalidated, putting on outfits that honor who you are is a simple way to say "fuck you." I transferred and restarted my academic life (from junior to freshman) to become a fashion design student to create outfits for disabled folks, including adaptive wear. I have severe ADHD and a plethora of language disabilities. I have been in special education for many years, yet community was never something I experienced in regard to disabled people. This photo project is intended to showcase the clothing and items we, the disabled people, carry, to look and feel our best.

This article and its photoshoot was created for Jerk Magazine, a student publication at Syracuse University. The shoot was directed and the article was written by Cassia Soodak (featured disabled creative) and the photographs were taken by Grace Hayden and Lily Brooks (nondisabled allies from Jerk Magazine). Models: Kate Allyh, Alex Shaffer, Vineet Narayan, Carolyn Fernandes, Virginia Wade, Cooper Self, Jane Goldman, Troy Providenti, Valerye Hidalgo Garcia, Olivia Baist

Disabled Empowerment: Clothing, Wearables, and Aids- Cassia Soodak



Alex (on right) wore a goth outfit: a leather jacket, black leather boots, and pants with black lipstick and red clips. They also brought their cane. "I chose [the outfit] specifically because it brings about the concept of something that's supposed to be hypermasculine, but in a non binary or feminine way," they said. "It makes me feel better about myself when I am able to wear stuff like this." Pictured with Valerye Hidalgo Garcia (left).

ID: Student on left is wearing a black and white patterned sweater and sitting. Student on right is wearing a black leather jacket and using a cane, standing. Both are holding up a vintage disability pride flag.

Vineet (left) wore his old navy shirt and sweats. He said "everything" is his favorite part. His outfit makes him feel great and happy. He disclosed being part of the community and has Down syndrome.

Troy (right) wore his famous glasses, a Spider-man mask, a Syracuse shirt, and waterproof sneakers. He identifies with the disability community and says his outfit makes him feel "proud because I like my outfit when I put it on every morning, and I love my outfits and I look cool during the day."

ID: Student on left in an orange shirt and black sweatpants, student on right with a blue and white striped shirt and sweatpants, looking at each other and dancing. Pillow on floor on background with print that says "Neurodiversity is for everyone."

Disabled Empowerment: Clothing, Wearables, and Aids- Cassia Soodak



Virginia, who brought her pink shirt, flower jeans, Harry Potter scarf, with her snow boots and her black apple socks. In addition, she wore her special necklace and her Vampire Diaries rings. She identifies with the larger disability community. Her outfit makes her feel "inspired." She is one artsy lady!

ID: Student wrapped in a yellow and red scarf and a pink shirt, with flowers on her jeans, dancing .

Jane, who brought docs and tap shoes (that may or may not have blood in them from dancing in them), her DIY grunge ripped tights, a black bodysuit, and her mother's and aunt's school girl skirt (she likes that it is "tweed and all itchy"), as well as her ballet skirt and a black skirt. She also brought matching jewelry she bought off an Instagram targeted ad, joking that she is a good American for participating in consumerism. She also mentioned her hair was just long enough to braid, something she did as a kid. She loved Dorothy and the "camp of Wizard of Oz" and it influences how she views her look. Ultimately she feels really good about her outfit, as if she "could be mean but am not." She identifies with the community and also has Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and ADHD.

ID: Student in a bright pink jacket, black ballet skirt and ripped black tights on her tip toes, dancing and smiling. Student is wearing a disability pride week pin with a vintage disability pride flag in the background.

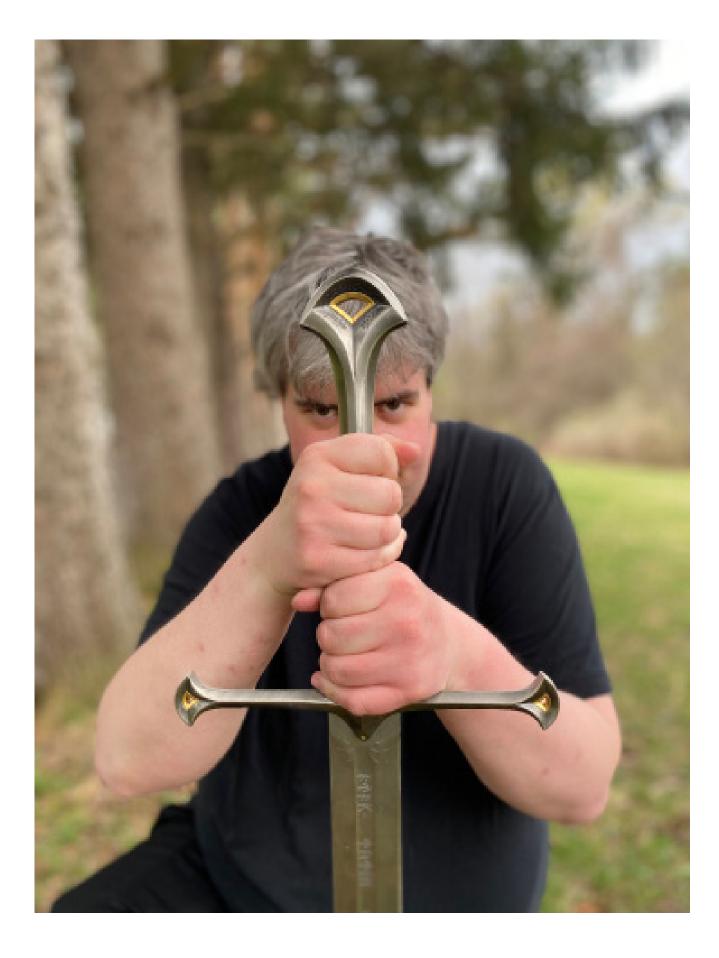
King Arthur and the Book of Corbenic Chris Cattropa- Student Format: Multimedia

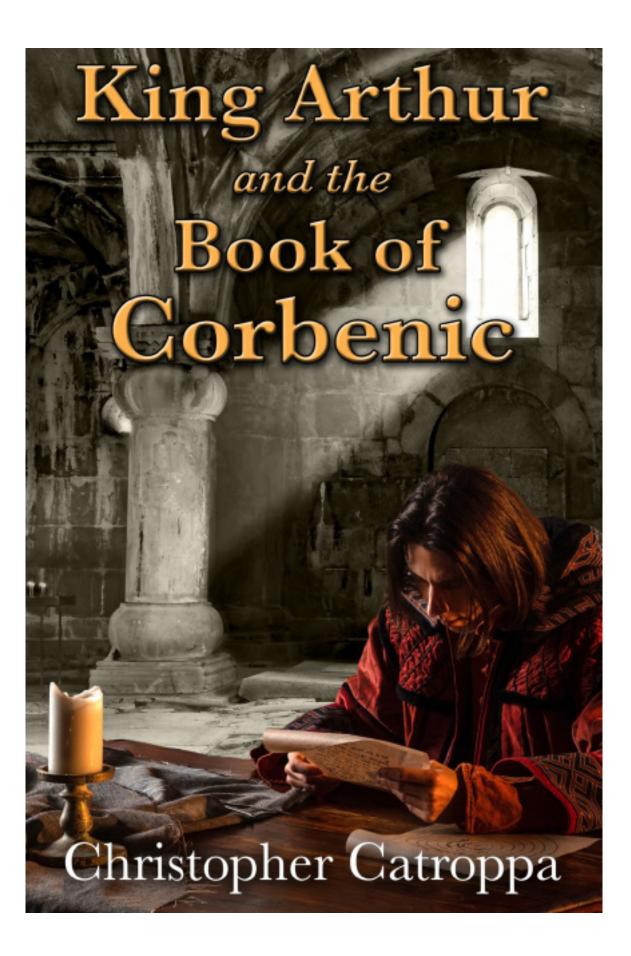
Syracuse University Libraries' Sound Beat: Access Audio recently released the audio book "King Arthur and the Book of Corbenic." written by Christopher Catroppa '22 on its website SoundBeat.org. This retelling of the king's tale portrays Arthur as a young man gazing into his own future toward a quest that will change everything he know about life and love. The audio book production was the result of the author's yearlong internship. Catroppa graduated from the InclusiveU Program at the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education.

The audio book was read by Price Waldman and produced by Brett Barry, Christopher Catroppa and Jim O'Connor. The music score was written by John Vallely with creative consultation by Patrick Doyle. Doyle, nominated for two Academy Awards and two Golden Globe Awards, has composed numerous film scores including Henry V, Hamlet and Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, to name a few. He was commissioned by Buckingham Palace to compose the Coronation March for Their Majesties, the King and Queen of Consort, to take place on May 6, 2023.

To access the audio book, visit <u>https://soundbeat.org/sound-beat-access-audio/king-arthur-and-the-book-of-corbenic/</u>. Catroppa is planning to write a follow-up book.

King Arthur and the Book of Corbenic-Chris Cattropa





ID: Image of a man holding a sword vertically in front of his face

ID: Illustrated book cover of a medieval man in a stone castle with light streaming through a window. He looks down at a paper. The text reads: King Arthur and the Book of Corbenic, and Christopher Catroppa

Access the audio book here:



A Recurring Dream Emily Humphrey- Student Format: Collage

"Inspired by the Bjork song "Heirloom," this collage describes my relationship to language. I didn't start talking until I was 4 due to a speech problem. Even though my speech was delayed I've always had a special connection with words. I loved reading ever since I can remember, and I've always held a fascination for other languages such as French. In 7th grade I took French and I felt that I rediscovered my voice again. I had a do-over; while everyone else was struggling to learn a foreign language I felt that I was discovering my own. I thrived speaking and learning French; what once had been my biggest struggle was now my strength. I was able to overcome my own stigma with foreign words. The lyrics to this Bjork song always reminds me of the relationship that I hold with French."

Emily Humphrey is an MLIS student in the iSchool and can be found working at the Bird circulation desk.

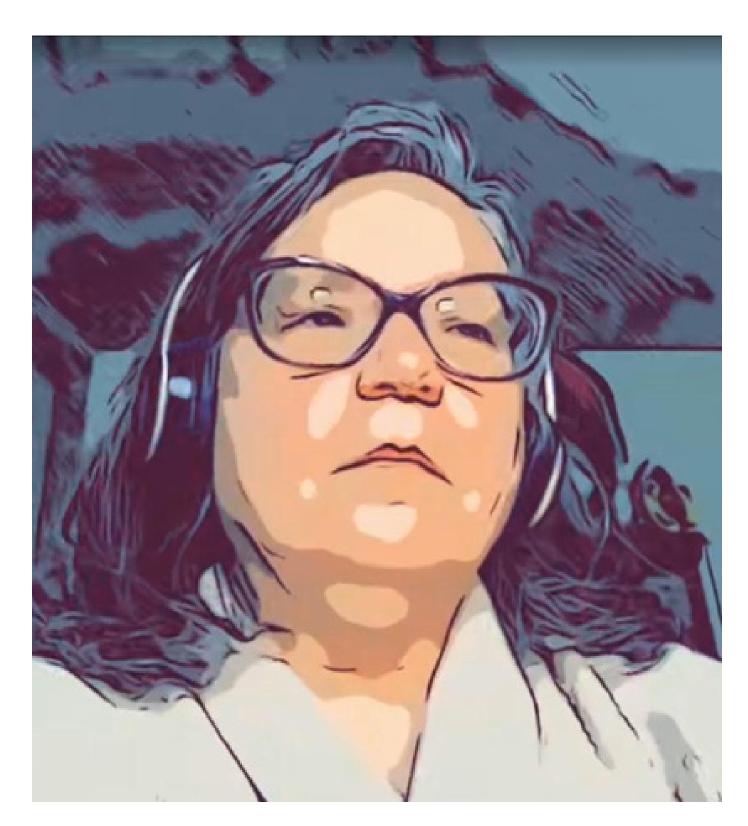
A Recurring Dream- Emily Humphrey



ID: A collection of mementos that represent the artist's connections to language, and specifically the French language. The mementos include a Wrigley's spearmint gum wrapper, a library check-out card, papers taken from old books and the wrapper of a chocolate bar. Pieces of pastel colored wallpaper and neutral colored wallpaper are visible throughout the artwork, along with brown leaves. Lyrics from the song "Heirloom" by Bjork are at the top right corner - the lyrics are as follows: "We have a recurrent dream Every time we lose our voices We dream we swallow little lights Our mothers...bake for us During the night They do a little trapeze walk Until they're in the sky Right above our heads While we're asleep our mother...pours into us Warm glowing oil."

Entries from the Micro Mutant Postcard Project Rachael Zubal-Ruggieri- Staff Format: Micro-Poems

Rachael A. Zubal-Ruggieri (she/her/hers, they/them/theirs) is a long-time employee of Syracuse University. She is also co-creator (with Diane R. Wiener) of "Cripping" the Comic Con, the first of its kind interdisciplinary and international symposium on disability and popular culture, previously held at SU. At conferences and as a guest lecturer, she has for many years presented on the X-Men comic books, popular culture, and disability rights and identities from her perspective as a Mad Queer Crip. Other entries in this project have been published in Wordgathering: A Journal of Disability Poetry and Literature and Stone of Madness Press. Their most recent work includes articles published in the Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies, co-authored with Diane R. Wiener.



Micro Mutant Postcard #1

Who am I? Mutant and proud. Odd, maybe queer? Quiet, yet I have a lot to tell you. I have powers that defy and stupefy. I am mysterious (but not Mystique). Where do I begin? I think I should start with my own origin story.

ID: Stylized filtered selfie of the author wearing glasses and headphones, featuring shades of teal and ivory. The author is looking to their left off screen and is not smiling.



Micro Mutant Postcard #78

Dear Mom, As I lay quietly gazing up at you, who did you find there? Neurodivergent fae child, left on your doorstep? Or unsmiling Mutant slip of a baby, who imagined the future, even if it scared her crooked. Did Dad ever even hold me?

ID: The author as a baby dated August 1966, an unsmiling infant gazing up at the picture taker. The baby is wearing a white sleeveless shirt with embroidered trim and an oversized pair of rubber pants over a cloth diaper. The baby is outdoors on grass, lying inside a bassinet with a blanket crumpled to the left of their feet.



Micro Mutant Postcard #106

I'm no Darth Vader, no Sith Lord. But I do lean to the (Mad) Dark Side, more than periodically. My precious elixir, my pretty dear deer soothes my Neurodiverse mind for another day. But I still keep my light saber nearby, the Force be damned.

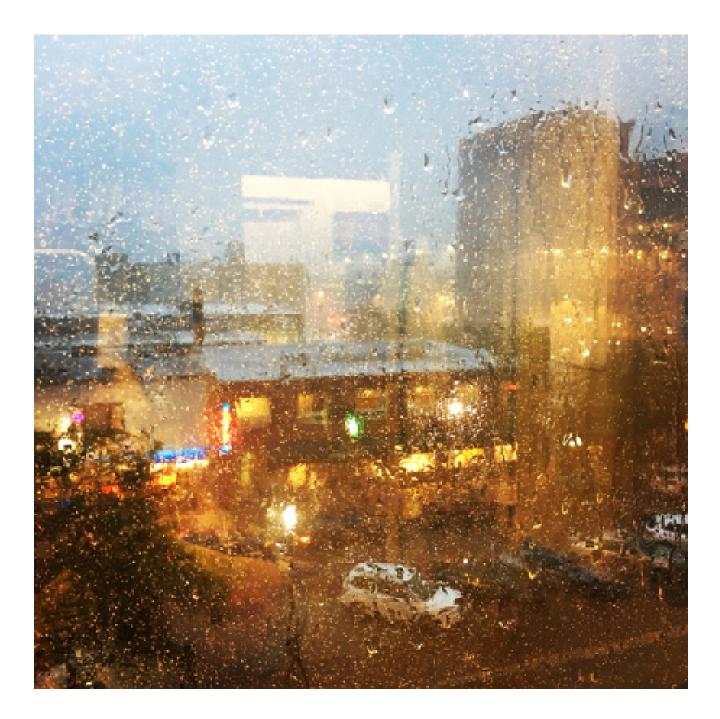
ID: A Spectrum Designz beige ceramic coffee mug decorated with a deer from the shoulders up. There are flowers, berries, and greenery draped around their ears.



Micro Mutant Postcard #114

I never realized I wore masks, but not once did I sense an alter ego trying to emerge, to make my life better. Not until Memories of my Mutant catharsis stunned me, since the clicking of my brain, seeking knowledge, both settled and enervated me.

ID: Artistically rendered screenshot of the author making a presentation on the X-Men via Zoom. On the wall behind her at the top left several bright decorations surround a clock. On the far lower left are a few X-Men collectible action figures partially on-screen. Directly behind where the author is a three paneled room screen with the words "Marvel Comics Group" in black text on a bright green band at the top and the title "The Uncanny X-Men" which is partially blocked by her head. The author is a middle-aged woman, smiling, wearing classes, with long shoulder length graying hair. In the lower right-hand corner is the author's name, Rachael A Zubal-Ruggieri, displayed backwards in white text on a black background.



Micro Mutant Postcard #131

Dear Blindfold, Sleek and slick, the reflective light from my Mutant cat-eyes tells a story. I'm jealous you lived through the Decimation. Pandemic survival is a misnomer. I hide beneath my sheets, peeking out at a world that has fundamentally left me in the lurch.

ID: A blurry street scene filtered through a rainy window during a thunderstorm. There is a tree on the bottom left. There is a line of cars in the foreground, and many nondescript buildings are in the middle background. At the top are a stormy gray sky, a reflection of a doorway, and several large raindrops dripping down the window pane. The water sticking to the window is reflecting multiple points of light



Micro Mutant Postcard #158

I find interdimensional Crip stories without even trying; definitely another Mutant power I can surely claim. All Neurodivergent people seek love, but the journey isn't the same for you and me. My Magik superhero mask never hides me, even if my prideful passions aren't fulfilling.

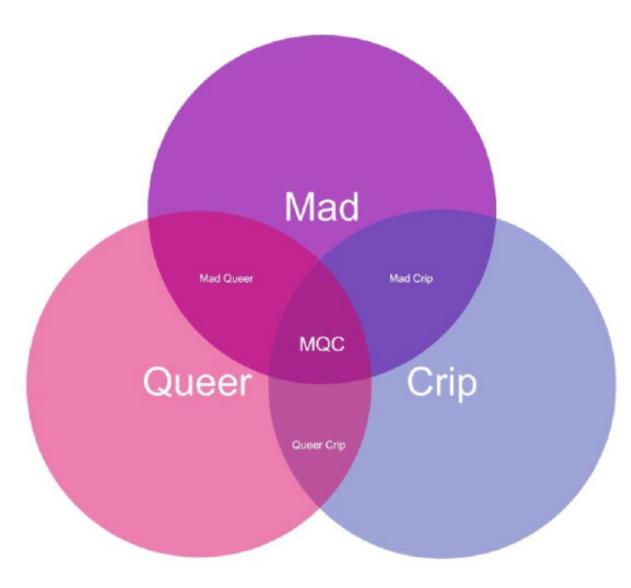
ID: Stylized selfie in sepia tones of the author, unsmiling looking off to their left and portions of the right side of their face is covered with cracks; the left side of the face is exploding into multiple chips and fragments. In the lower right hand corner is a semi-transparent watermark with #PHOTOLAB and photolab.me



Micro Mutant Postcard #179

Tick tock, Crip clock. My internal chronotope chirps and swirls, impatient as I bounce between the what-ifs and if-onlys. I realize, now, I simply took much, much longer to emerge from my Mad Queer Crip cocoon, Mutant and Proud, ready for my Neurodivergent pizza party.

ID: A red Bee Balm flower blossom in the foreground of a leafy, green garden. In the background on the left, there are several bright pink Astilbe blossoms, slightly out of focus. The red tubular petals of the Bee Balm blossom have emerged in such a way that makes this flower appear like a spider in red camouflage, peeking out from the plant's ovary, trying to lure unsuspecting bees and other insects into its unique web.



Micro Mutant Postcard #205

I am the Venn Diagram, the Diagnostic Criteria. I had to give up my place in the superhero Crip queue, so I could emerge Neurodivergent, claiming my Mad Mutant designation. Audacious analogies and analyses, be damned. Out, bright spots. Give me all your lines instead.

ID: A Venn Diagram illustrating overlapping categories of Mad (in a bright purple circle), Queer (in a rose pink circle), and Crip (in a lilac purple circle). The diagram produces overlapping categories of Mad Queer (in dark rose pink); Mad Crip (in dark concord purple); Queer Crip (dark rose pink); and, where all three categories overlap, MCQ (Mad Queer Crip, in a dark purplish-rose pink). This diagram is based on the work of Layla Dehaimin and the author who have written and presented on the subject of the Marvel comic book character, Deadpool, as Mad Queer Crip antihero.



Micro Mutant Postcard #243

My Neurodiverse nostrils harbor spinning constellations, tickling me; they must be expelled. Separate, ever expanding irregular galaxies escape into a sensory salad, eventually mutating into stellar dust. My own Mad energies spew such mass coronal ejections flavored in azure apostasy, the Consequences of Trenchant Transference.

ID: NGC 4414, a white brown and gold spiral galaxy, disc shaped celestial object. Per NASA, this "...picture shows that the central regions of this galaxy, as is typical of most spirals, contain primarily older, yellow and red stars, the outer spiral arms are considerably bluer due to ongoing formation of young, blue stars, the brightest of which can be seen individually [as white specks] at the high resolution provided by the Hubble camera. The arms are also very rich in clouds of interstellar dust, seen as dark patches and streaks silhouetted against the starlight." This image is in the public domain because it was created by NASA and ESA. NASA Hubble material (and ESA Hubble material prior to 2009) is copyright-free and may be freely used as in the public domain without fee, on the condition that only NASA, STScl, and/or ESA is credited as the source of the material.



Micro Mutant Postcard #265

Is it distance or retrospection making me much too emotional? I think I misunderstood for far too long. What I think is a smirk probably isn't the same for you, right? Word vomits, memes, and a Mad mind that never quits. Trigon, take me away.

ID: Stylized filtered selfie of the author wearing glasses; they have twinkling purple hair and glowing lime green eyes, with an aura of purple and teal sparks floating around them. The author is looking skyward to the right off the screen and is slightly smirking.

Sticker Designs by @Teukmade Teukie Martin- Student Format: Stickers

Teukie Martin (they/them) is a chronically ill and neurodivergent nonbinary queer person transracially adopted from Korea. They are a scholar, artist, and maker working across themes of identity, justice, and futurity.

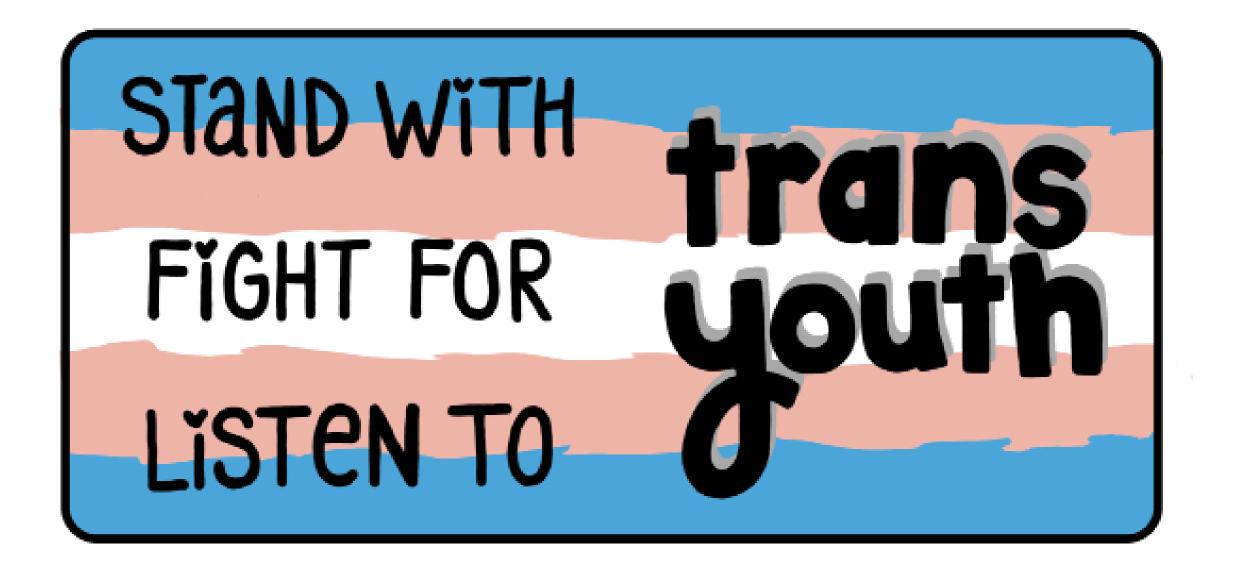
All Brains Are Good Brains combines the rainbow infinity sign symbol of the neurodiversity pride movement with a clear and direct message.

The Stand With Trans Youth design came about in response to the frequentlyseen "protect trans kids" slogan. Pushing back on the paternalistic language of "protection," this design emphasizes that trans youth are activists, advocates, and leaders in their own right.

Sticker Designs by @Teukmade-Teukie Martin



ID: Images of a purple brain against a rainbow background with a figure 8 ribbon across the front that reads "All brains are good brains"



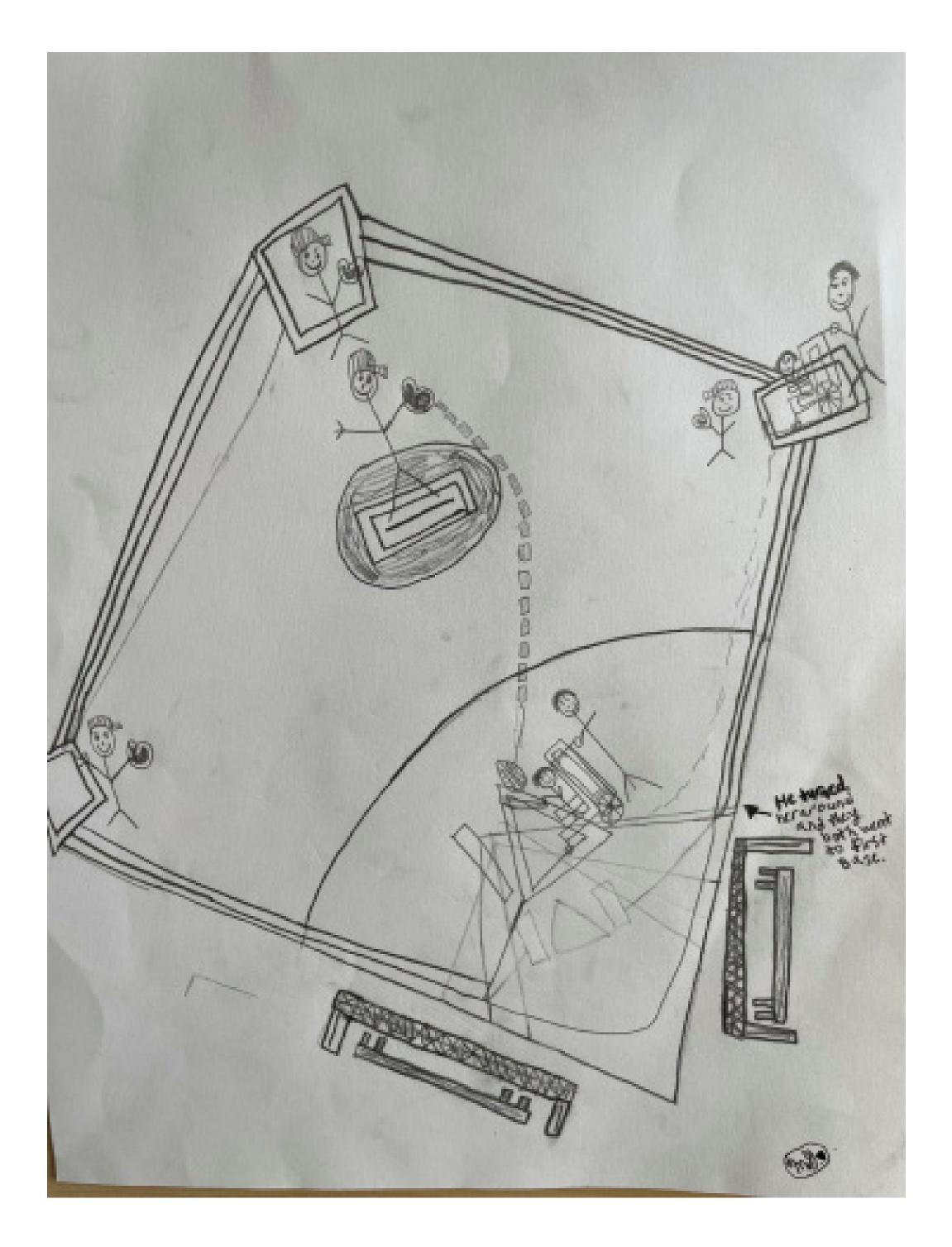
ID: Image of a pink, white, and blue trans flag that has the words "Stand with, fight for, listen to trans youth" across the front.

Untitled Mackenzie Gleason- Student Format: Drawing

Mackenzie Gleason '24 is an Autistic student at Syracuse University who is majoring in food studies. She has engaged in several opportunities for advocacy for students with disabilities at SU, such as through a student-led newspaper and through the Autism Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN). In October, Mackenzie will also be presenting at the Student Leadership Conference in Colorado Springs about her experiences with self-advocacy.

Mackenzie played lacrosse and volleyball when she was growing up and appreciated the inclusive nature of the teams that she was on. She is also presently interning for the women's lacrosse team at Syracuse and is greatly enjoying the experience, inspiring her to create this drawing. Mackenzie wants sports to be inclusive of anyone who wants to play, and this is the main message behind her work.

Untitled-Mackenzie Gleason

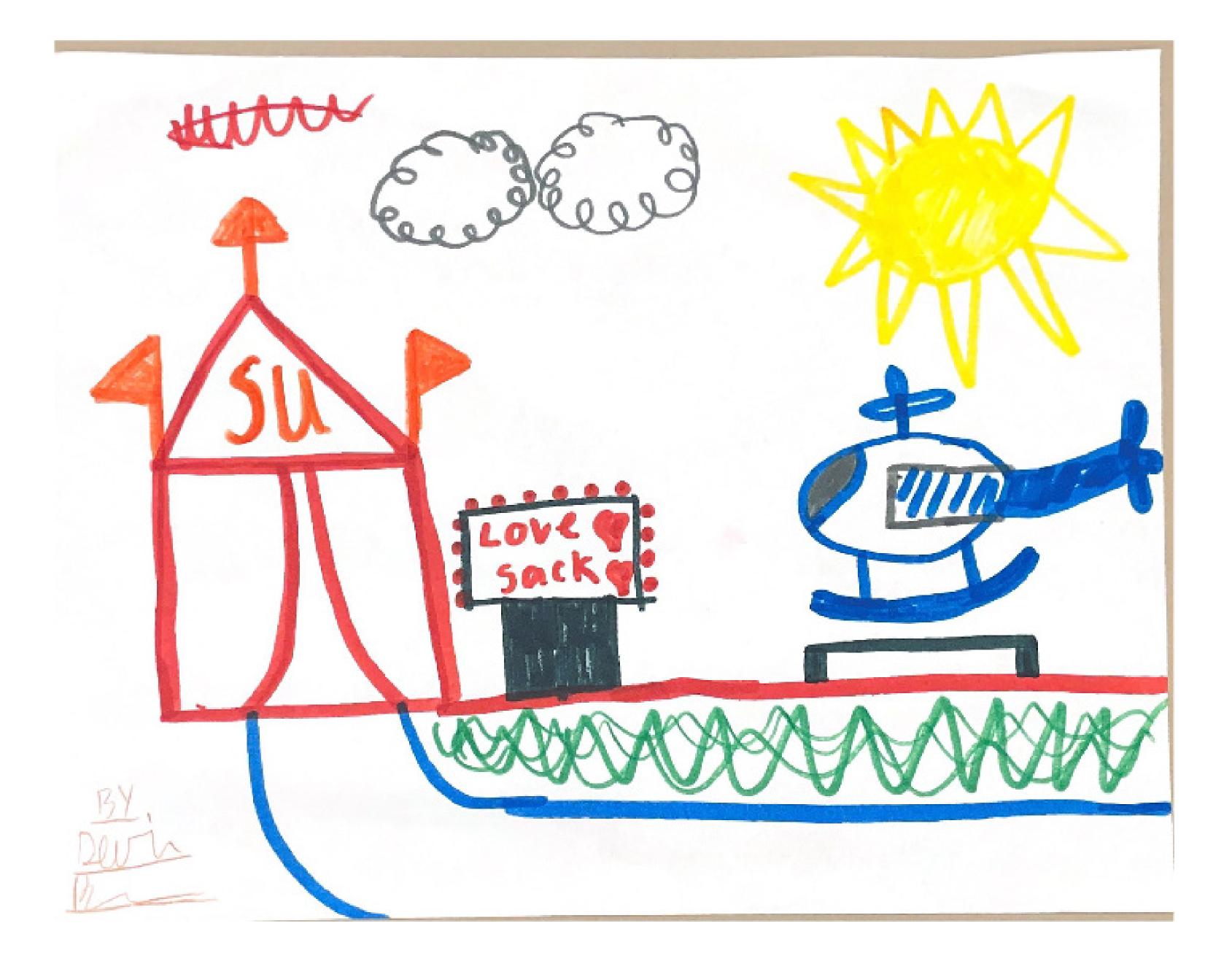


ID: The art piece is of a baseball field where a game is happening and that has players with and without disabilities on the field. The next person up to bat is a person who uses a wheelchair and their friend is helping them to run the bases. The members of the opposing team are also helping the player run the bases. The audience is cheering and watching the game and making sure everyone is having fun.

Love Sack Devin Braun- Student Format: Drawing

It's an ideal campus for transportation and to have a longer life. The love shack and helicopter are there for the students.

Love Sack - Devin Braun

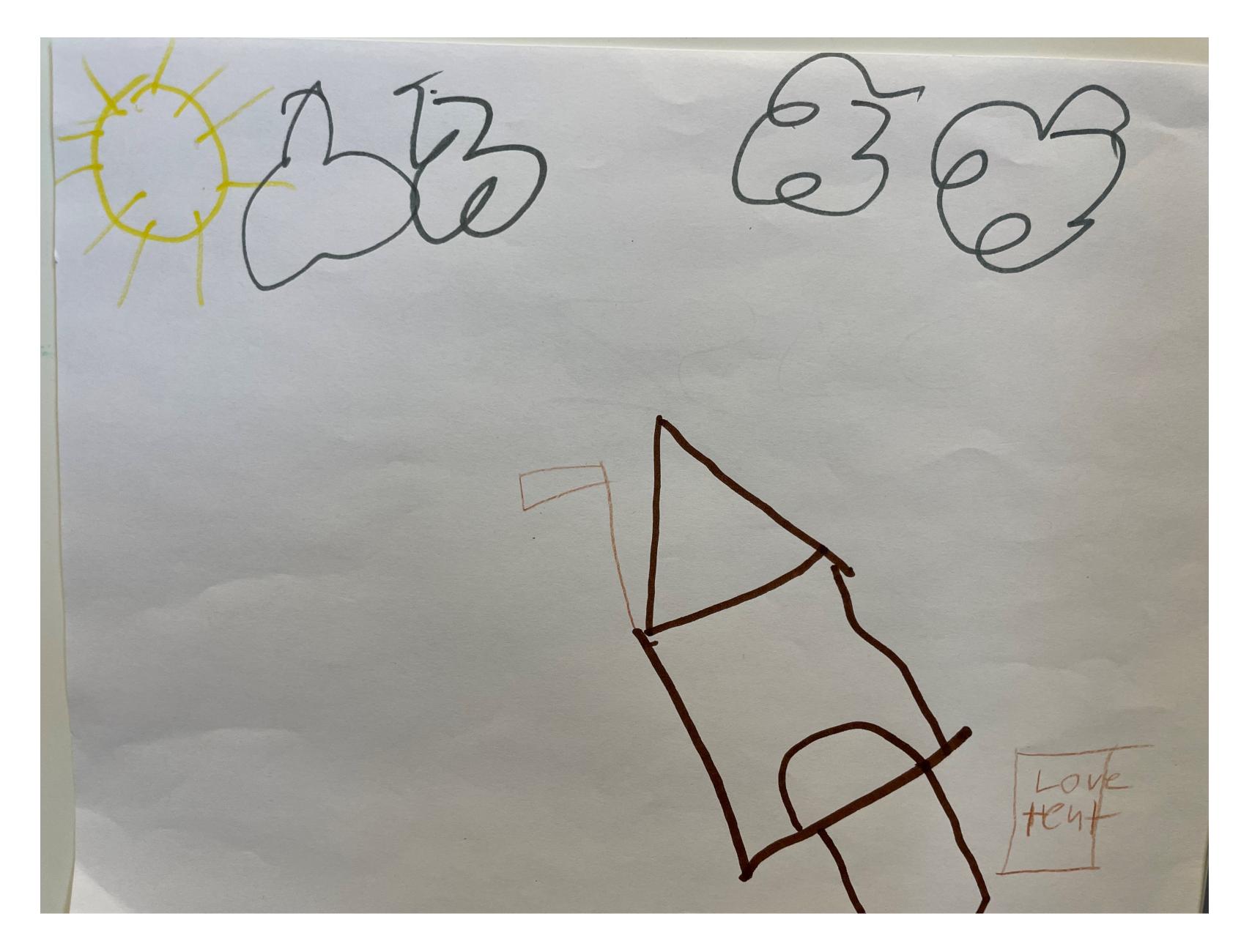


ID: Image in multi-colored marker of an orange tent-like structure with flags that says SU with a clouds, grass, and sun. On the right is a helicopter, and in between is a structure with a sign that says "Love sack"

Love Tent Sacha Soraci- Student Format: Drawing

When asked how she would draw a truly inclusive campus, Sasha presented the following, "People will confess their love and express themselves. This campus will give a place to believe in yourself and don't give up. Sasha is a first-year InclusiveU student at Syracuse University."

Love Tent - Sacha Soraci



ID: Clouds and sun, with a tent and a flag below. Box next to tent says "Love Tent".

The Neurodiversity Community at SU, as part of the Center on Disability and Inclusion, extends the work of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (D.E.I.A.) by offering events, professional development, accessibility initiatives, research projects, and other supports of critical importance to the success and well-being of neurodivergent students on campus. The identities of neurodivergent students, staff, and faculty encompass a wide range of intersections represented across all areas of campus. This presentation, part of the D.E.I.A. Symposium on October 3, 2023, outlines our community's activities and aims to normalize neurodivergent access needs all while envisioning an inclusive college future through a multimedia showcase that includes neurodivergent stakeholders' aspirations.

A digital version of this booklet, including image descriptions, can be found here: <u>https://go.syr.edu/soe/neurodiversityatSU</u>

Neurodiversity at SU is a project to support autistic and neurodivergent matriculated students at Syracuse University. This pilot program, supported through a gift from Karen Colapietro Seybold G'92, provides greater research opportunities and direct support for degree-seeking autistic students at Syracuse University.



Center on Disability & Inclusion