

Perseverance Through Words Transcript

A Tribute to Christy Nolan

1. Submission #1

How did the Christy Nolan quote you chose to use influence the direction or meaning of your work, and why did you feel it resonated with your personal experiences?

I was drawn to the quote, 'Though I speak in silence, my words echo with truth,' because it captures the tension between feeling unheard and knowing our experiences still carry weight. As someone who uses alternative communication methods, I've often felt that my voice isn't fully recognized. Yet, I believe that even the quiet or unconventional ways we express ourselves can resonate powerfully. Christy Nolan's words gave me the confidence to highlight this quiet strength in my piece—conveying how, despite the seeming 'silence,' our truths can create ripples of understanding and empathy in others.

What was your process for developing the piece, and did you encounter any particular challenges – whether artistic, technical, or related to accessibility – that shaped the final result?

I began by sketching out a rough concept inspired by the Christy Nolan quote I'd chosen, focusing on themes of resilience and self-discovery. From there, I experimented with different mediums—charcoal, watercolor, and digital tools—until I found the combination that best conveyed the idea of emerging strength. One significant challenge I faced was adapting my workspace to accommodate my physical limitations: I needed specialized tools with better grip and ergonomic design to reduce strain. This, in turn, led me to explore more tactile techniques and texture in my piece. Although it was time-consuming to test and refine these methods, the

experience ultimately helped me create a more layered, visually engaging artwork that truly represents my journey.

In exploring perseverance, identity, and creative expression, what core message or insight do you hope viewers, readers, or listeners will take away from your piece?

I hope that my piece reminds people that perseverance is not just about pushing through difficult circumstances—it's also about embracing your own story and identity in the process. By weaving together visuals and narration that reflect personal growth, I wanted to show how creative expression can transform our struggles into something powerful and unifying. Ultimately, my aim is for anyone experiencing the work to feel seen and encouraged to use their own voice, recognizing that every unique perspective adds depth and beauty to our shared human experience.

Submission #1 – Though I speak in silence, my words speak the truth

ALT Description: A mixed-media illustration of a male figure emerging from a swirl of layered textures, symbolizing resilience and self-discovery.