

I drew two self-portraits, each reflecting a different aspect of my personality.

The first one (graphite; background of bookshelf with mug and roses) reflects my outward-facing self. On the technical side, I was inspired by Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres's drawing style (*Portrait of a Seated Lady*). I used hatching for shading and tried to replicate Ingres's precise yet lively lines. My background was arranged to reflect the Neoclassical ideals of symmetry and simplicity. My well-lit environment, mug, and vase of flowers were chosen to parallel the symbols of power Ingres used in *Napoleon I on his Imperial Throne*. I use the mug and flowers as my symbols of "power," with the mug (a gift from my lab PI) being an academic symbol and the flowers (a gift to my partner) being a personal one. I chose graphite as a medium that is meant to communicate intention and exactness. In the portrait, I chose a facial expression of confidence with a casual outfit, which is how I think I present myself in public. I'm sitting at my desk in my room, a place where I feel in control. Overall, my facial expression, choice of medium, historical connections, and symbols reflect my perceived outward personality of confidence and purpose.

The second one (charcoal; flower crown with a large-eyed cat) is how I perceive myself internally. Here, I was inspired by surrealism and Lucian Freud's *Interior Scene*. In this one, I juxtapose my formal suit and somber background with messy hair, a flower crown, and a silly cat. Internally, I regard myself as self-contradictory and more in the dark. I chose charcoal as a medium for its more dream-like qualities. The cat is Jinx the cat, a popular cat on social media known for its large eyes and a favorite of my partner's. The flower crown is a gift from my partner. The cat and flower crown again are symbols for my partner and personal life, but chosen as more private symbols than the flowers in the first portrait. I drew the portrait shortly after a medical school interview, before I changed out of my suit but after messing up my hair. The suit represents my professional self and passion for medicine, something that I hide from many of my friends for personal reasons. I overall used this portrait to show my internal self, which is stranger, more serious, and less purposeful.