

Artist Statement

When I first came to the United States, I was asked several questions about my home country of Ukraine. What language do you speak? What types of food do you eat? And, how is your schooling different from the United States? I found it difficult to answer even the simplest of questions, when many people didn't even know where Ukraine was on the map. So I began to tell everyone I was from Russia, our neighboring country with very similar qualities; but this was not the right answer. I wanted to be able to explain the differences of the countries, their cultures and even the language we speak are different. Recently, I have been hearing the news of a war going on between Russia and Ukraine which concerned me, because I am closely tied to both countries. It pained me to think that the people of my country were fighting and dying because of a war brought on by another country I associate myself with. When brainstorming for my senior show I was inspired by my country, and thought it was fitting to pay respects to a place I love so dearly. This triptych allows the viewer to peer through a window into the daily lives of a Ukrainian. Incorporating illustrations of important landmarks, the colors of my country, and an infographic containing significant information regarding Ukraine.