

A Heart is a Home

Sofie Kupiec

American

Class of 2023

Acrylic on Canvas

The piece “A Heart is a Home” depicts blood flow through the body, and the shift of oxygen in the body. Looking into how the cardiovascular system maintains homeostasis within the body. All mammals operate on the shifting levels of Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide within the body. The heart is one of the most important organs in maintaining homeostasis as it directs blood throughout the body and to the lungs; Enabling the body to breath, think, and act. On a smaller scale, the painting uses vibrant reds and blues to show the difference between oxygenated and de-oxygenated blood. The de-oxygenated blood drips into the lungs, which are painted as cloud filled skies to represent how the body intakes oxygen through breathing and flow back into the heart as oxygenated blood flow. In the center of the painting the heart and its branching arteries are expressed in solid lines compared to the chaotic boarder they flow into. This contrasts the stability the cardiovascular system brings in tandem with the lungs and the entropic nature of the body and its environment. The consistency of the heart allows for the body to maintain a proper blood flow throughout the body; allowing us to walk around without having to carry defibrillators on our person.