

In my creative project, I painted a picture using watercolors. I painted a honeycomb in the background, with magnifying glasses highlighting different bees in the foreground. The bees magnified are worker bees and a queen bee. In this work I painted the words “a life of peace and safety”, which represent the guarantee of the right to live that Hobbes describes.

This painting represents Hobbes’ Leviathan, because it shows the Leviathan (represented by the queen bee) pictured above all other citizens (represented by the worker bees). In Hobbes’ Leviathan, there is a higher power that is above all other beings. Using the different bees to represent Hobbes’ Leviathan, there is a clear distinction of power between the higher power and all other beings. This power is used to maintain the society and to prevent the human instinct to kill one another. Using bees in this piece also represents power outside of humans, but in all nature. In this work, the queen bee represents the Leviathan and the power they have over the whole hive (or society). Below are all of the other citizens within the society. I intentionally placed the Leviathan above the other bees to represent the Leviathan’s power over all others. In this society, citizens agree to not slaughter one another to ensure peace, with their ruler being the Leviathan. In the Leviathan, it is thought that human’s nature is inherently violent, which is why Hobbes believes a higher source of power is necessary. The Leviathan (like a queen bee) can command citizens to do anything of request, but one citizen to another cannot. This demonstrates a power dynamic between the Leviathan and other citizens. In a beehive, the bees always follow the queen, and instinctually gravitate towards the queen's location. Although having a Leviathan does not follow the natural state of human behavior according to Hobbes, I find it interesting to view a state of nature outside of the human perspective.

To conclude, this painting represents Hobbes’ Leviathan because it shows a higher power among a society governing peacefully, in order to prevent savage behavior. Using a beehive as an

example, there is a clear distinction of power between the queen bee and the other bees, which is described in Hobbes' Leviathan.

