

1. Describe your artwork as if you were describing it to a person in another room. Use descriptive adjectives.

For my artwork, I recreated a miniature building of a small business called Evelyz Bridal Gift and Craft Shop which is a store that sells dresses for weddings, first communions, and quinceaneras, and provides tuxedo rentals. On the left side of the building, you can see dark burgundy brick. The right side is all white, and all the detail is in the front of the building. The front of the building is painted in blue, pink, and white colors. The inside of the building is dark and looks like no one is inside the building. However, it does not look completely abandoned because there are two dresses being displayed outside two big windows. The window on the left has a white dress that looks like it is meant for a little girl's first communion. Next to the dress, there are bright yellow flowers, probably placed there to draw attention to the dress. On the window on the right, there is a big yellow dress being displayed that is meant to be worn by a quinceanera. Although there are bright blue and pink signs that are advertising dresses and tuxedo rentals, the inside of the building is dark and the open sign is not turned on, meaning that the building is currently not being used or currently selling any merchandise.

2. What are you telling others about yourself with this artwork?

I chose to create this specific building because I have a really bad memory and even though I have lived in the same neighborhood in Aurora for about 16 years, I still do not have any street names memorized. When I was in high school I would always have to go to the community college for summer courses, and events, or to drop off my brother. Even though I went there often, I never memorized the street name of when I was supposed to turn left in order to get there. Instead, I would always look for this specific building, Evelyz Bridal Shop because it was brightly colored and hard to miss. Even though I never purchased anything from this store or even went inside, it is still important to me because, without it, I would have gotten lost. As I moved away from my hometown to come to college, I also realized I missed seeing buildings like these which were brightly colored, not always very modern, and advertising XV dresses. It is something that I never really see here in Normal and that reminds me of home.

3. How did you use design elements, cropping, and composition to make this statement to the audience?

In order to make this statement, I made sure to try and add as much detail as possible to the building I recreated. I made sure to add all of the signs that decorated the building, as well as all the stickers and the address number on the door. All of these details are important because, without them, the building would look different. I didn't want to change the building because the fact that it always remained the same is what made me remember it. I also used magazine cutouts to make the black windows instead of using regular construction paper because the magazine has a shiny texture, which creates a glare, just like a window would. When I drew the "open" sign, I also made sure to draw it faintly because whenever I passed by this store, it was closed. I wanted to make sure that through these details, the building looked adorned and lively from the outside, yet lonely on the inside.

4. How does your statement connect to the unit's big ideas of community and memories?

This statement connects to the big idea of community and memories because I recreated a building that I have memories attached to and is also a part of my community. The business is small and probably owned by people who also live in or near my community. Although I never went inside it, I was still able to form a connection to the building because it served as an important landmark that helped me navigate around my community due to how colorful it is. Being away from it made me realize that there are not many buildings nowadays that are adorned in this way. Now they are more modern, minimalistic, and do not always appear as bright and saturated as more buildings used to look.

5. How does your work reflect the work of the artists we studied?

The artwork I created reflects the artist Ana Serrano. Like Serrano, I created a building out of colorful construction paper and looked up an image of the building on Google Maps, like she usually does as well in order to pay close attention to the details of the building. In a lot of her works, Ana Serrano also speaks on the topic of socio-economic status. She mentions how brighter and more saturated colors are usually seen in neighborhoods of lower socio-economic status. In the building I recreated, you can see how the outside of the store is bright blue and pink. In a neighborhood with a higher socio-economic status, you would usually not see this. Other wedding stores I have seen that are considered more "high end" are painted in lighter and plain colors. Usually all white, or other neutral colors. The decorations are not brightly colored but rather more monotone in order to appear more elegant. Through this piece, the viewer could assume that this bridal boutique is not placed in a neighborhood of high economic status simply because of the colors and the way in which it is decorated.