

From the 1880s to World War One, the artistic style known as Art Nouveau bloomed in western Europe and the United States. It developed from the Arts and Crafts movement, which was an artistic movement emerging from the most industrialized city in the world at the time: Victorian era England. The period took lots of its inspiration from nature, pushing back against the industrial world of the time and returning to handcraftsmanship and traditional techniques. I created seven art pieces for my senior thesis: three paintings and four drawings. The drawings were four designs of decorative accessories. The decorative accessories—comb, hand mirror, brush, and brooch—were created to increase the confidence of women who used the items. The three paintings are each in a different style of an influential Art Nouveau artist: Aubrey Beardsley, Alphonse Mucha, and Gustav Klimt. Women in Art Nouveau art are typically only portrayed one way: white women with an hourglass figure. I chose to paint only women of color with different body types, to create representation for more women and show every woman they are beautiful as they are. The inspiration behind my senior thesis came from a personal place. The women in my life around me have all been insecure about their physical appearance at some point in their lives, even as young as eleven. I decided to create representation for myself and other women through my thesis, hoping the viewers will see themselves in my paintings and see the beauty in themselves.