



Abril Maranon

2022 Spring

Capstone - Drawing

Department of Art and Art History

Artist Statement:

My work as an undergraduate student has consistently explored sociopolitical issues and gradually shifted towards making politics less intimidating to the viewer. This has created a body of work that attempts to interact and open conversations about real problems in our community. Unfortunately, as the political environment stands now, what we consider true is so easily manipulated, and the distribution of information is not equal. When a hesitance to talk about politics with others is added to the issue and we use our stance to attack, this creates hostility and prolongs the problems we are trying to solve. Through optical effects and illusions, my works explore issues like human rights, censorship, and the current political environment. Using mixed media, watercolors, gel sheets, and other materials, this body of work aims to invite both sides of the political spectrum to talk to each other.

My current project is my Perspectives series, a watercolor series and installation that uses optical effects and illusions to explore politics. This is a two-part series, with each part exploring a different facet of American and international sociopolitical issues. The first part explores Either/or arguments concerning human life. It uses stereoscopic anaglyphs to explore how one political alignment is used to shut down another. Part two discusses censorship and international parallels concerning how we are allowed to talk about politics. The Ishihara color blindness test is applied to this part of the series, speaking to varying degrees of censorship in supposed democracies, including the US. In their base forms, these methods are fun and encourage interaction. However, the principle of these effects was also a source of inspiration for me. These methods can describe what is going on in politics right now without necessarily being intimidating to viewers. I am interested in exploring how we come to understand the truth and how this understanding can be blocked or distorted based on the information we consume. The way these works are installed is also meaningful in that it gives the viewer a sense of choice and responsibility. Throughout the series, the viewer is offered gel lenses from which they can view the works. These either enhance or delete details rendered on each canvas. Each piece always ties back to the presence of media and how that frames our opinion on the subject. The source images used for each project have been pulled from the news or articles with specific political views. The thought in mind that media creates the frame and forms public opinion. Whether you see your own beliefs or are open to receiving opposing viewpoints is entirely up to you. Ultimately, this body of work is meant to open conversation, one's own willingness to listen to others is a deciding factor in how this work impacts the viewer's perspective.

Title	Original Format
Figure 1: Democracy in Danger	Watercolor, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 2: Democracy in Danger (Blue)	Watercolor, Blue Gel Sheet, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 3: Democracy in Danger (Red)	Watercolor, Red Gel Sheet, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 4: January 6 th	Watercolor, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 5: January 6 th (Red)	Watercolor, Red Gel Sheet, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 6: January 6 th (Green)	Watercolor, Green Gel Sheet, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 7: January 6 th (Blue)	Watercolor, Blue Gel Sheet, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 8: January 6 th (Magenta)	Watercolor, Magenta Gel Sheet, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 9: Officers	Watercolor, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 10: Officers (Hero)	Watercolor, Blue Gel Sheet, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 11: Officers (Traitor)	Watercolor, Red Gel Sheet, 30 in x 21 in
Figure 12: Eugene Goodman	Watercolor, 17 in x 30 in
Figure 13: Ishihara Test 1	Watercolor, 41 in x 30 in



Figure 1: Democracy in Danger



Figure 2: Democracy in Danger (Blue)



Figure 3: Democracy in Danger (Red)



Figure 4: January 6th

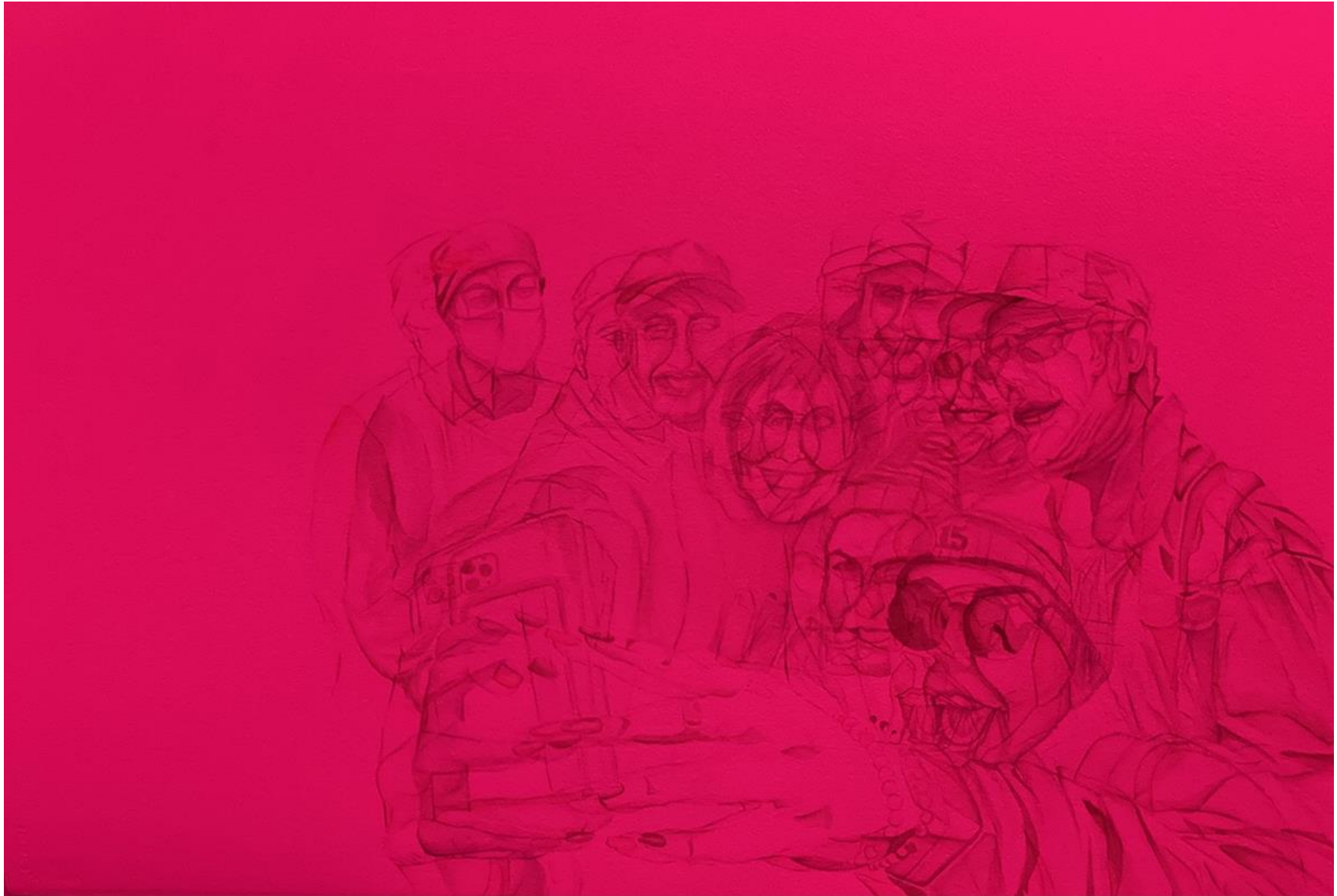


Figure 5: January 6th (Red)



Figure 6: January 6th (Green)



Figure 7: January 6th (Blue)

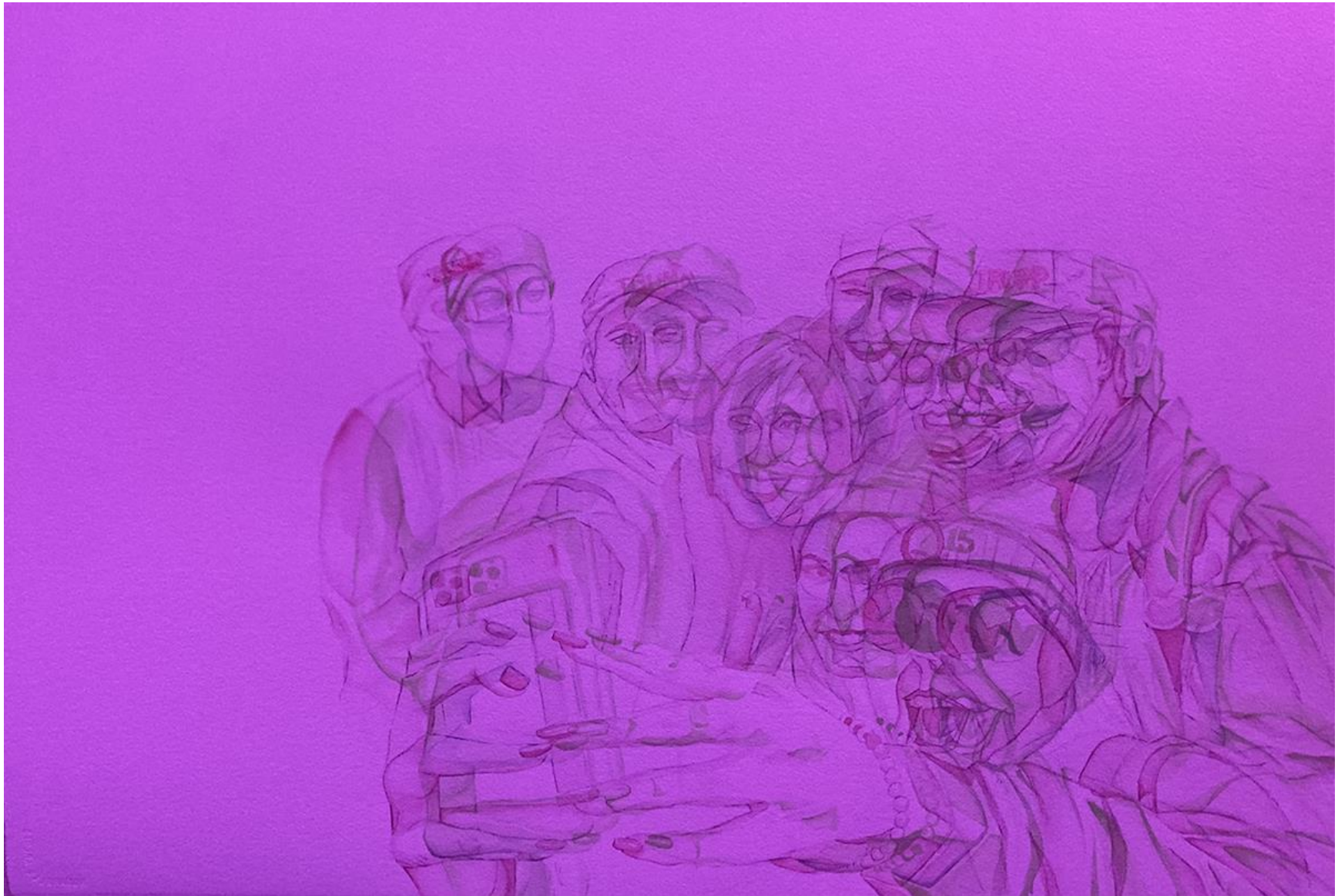


Figure 8: January 6th (Magenta)

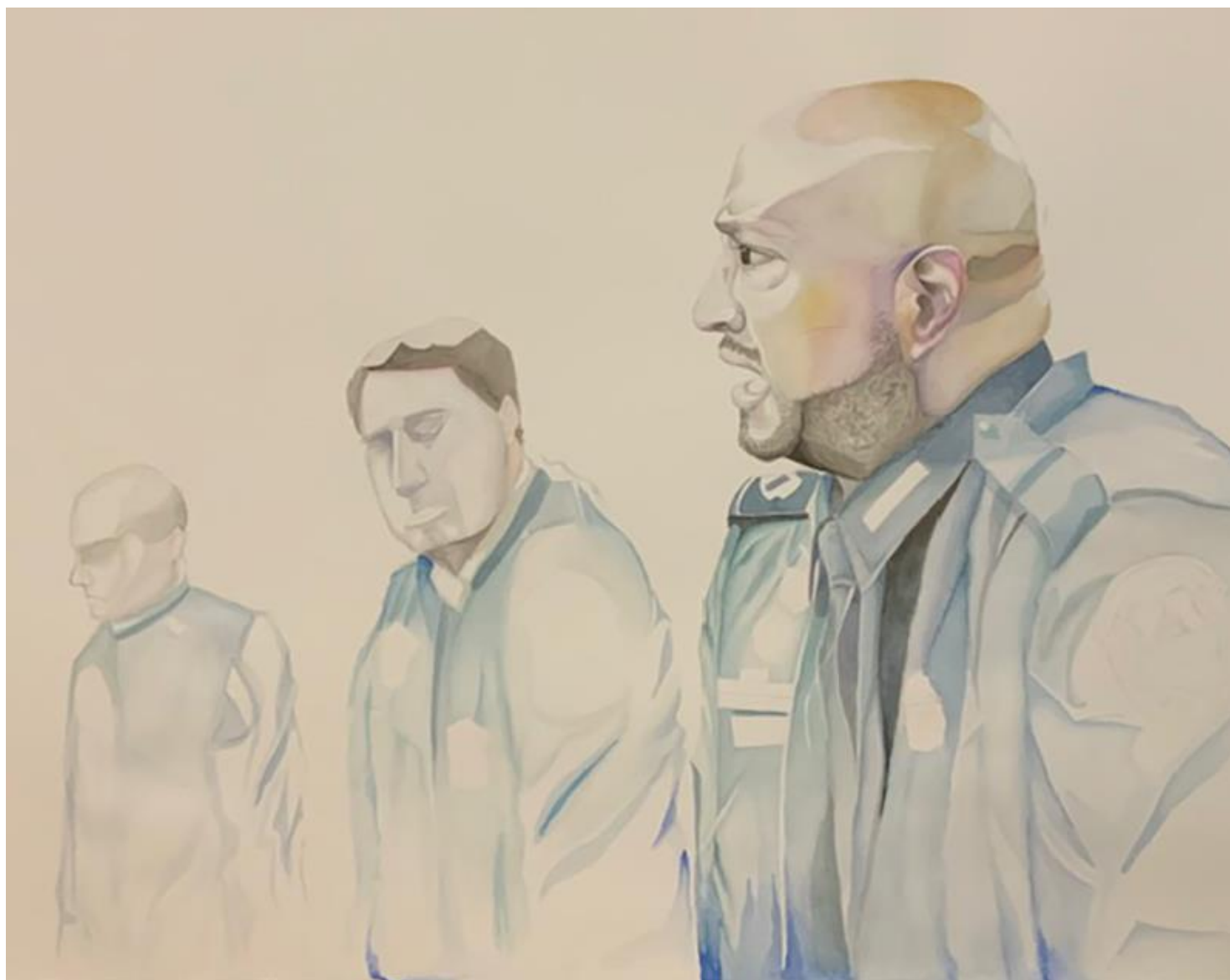


Figure 9: Officers



Figure 10: Officers (Hero)



Figure 11: Officers (Traitor)



Figure 12: Eugene Goodman



Figure 13: Ishihara Test 1