Adrienne Lee

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Davidson College '21
Studio Art Major and Neuroscience Minor

Current artistic medium: oil and acrylic

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Tell me where is fancy bred, Or in the heart or in the head?

Steel, 40 x 50 x 43 inches

We carry something miraculous within us that constructs our experiences as a human being. The brain, an organ that is finite in its materiality, is deceptively infinite in its existence. The types of extraordinary emotions we feel as otherworldly – such as those tethered to our history, human understanding, and our state of being – are supposedly contained within our brains. How difficult indeed to grasp our intellectual understanding of our complex organ. And how curious it seems to approach this paradox by an emotional entryway that we create with our heart.

Title of artwork is quoted from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice. "Fancy" refers to "love."

Neuroscience is my approach to art

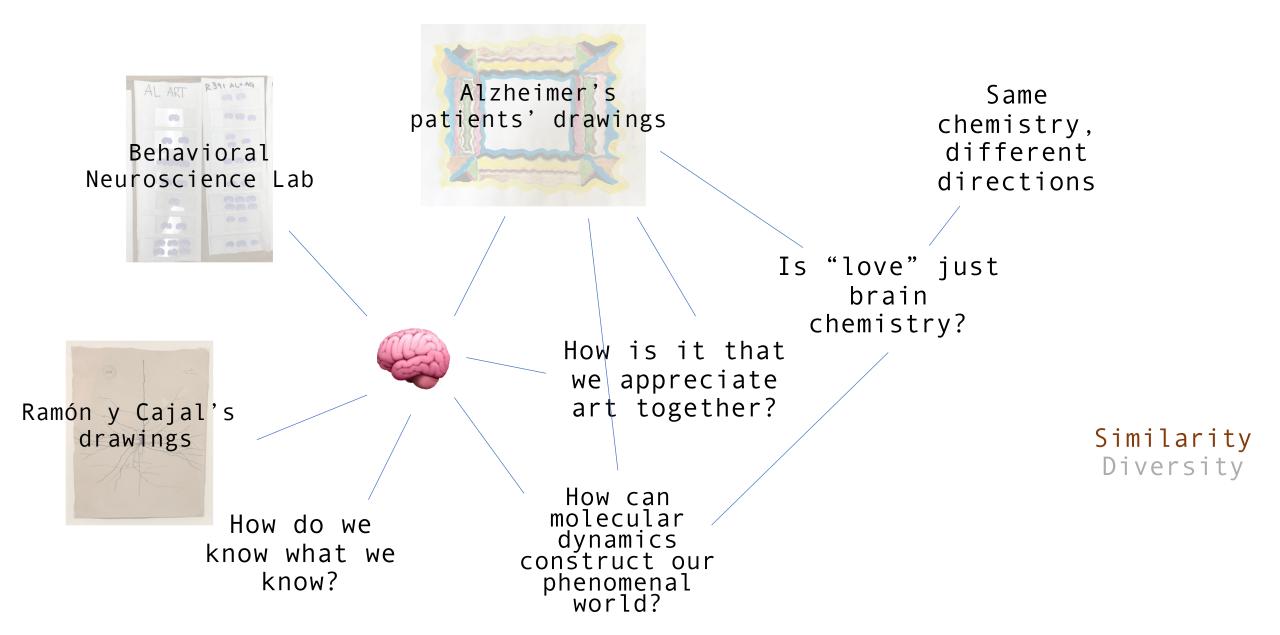


I encounter a question or a concept



I react and materialize my emotions

Process of the self-materialized project



In the richness of the arts, cultures, history, and people, there sits our brain.

This sculptural piece consists purely of multiply layered neuronal webs made out of steel plates. After the process of both machine and hand-held plasma cutting, as well as metal grinding, the "sheets" of neurons were curled and welded together. Strengthening the balance of the heavy artwork through numerous welding points is reminiscent of strengthened connections between neurons in our intricate cerebral nervous system.

I wanted to create a new kind of experience where people could empathize with one another.

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The artwork will be on display until next spring 2020 at E. Craig Wall Jr Academic Center – the sciences department of Davidson College. I am hoping that my art will spark new conversations within an academic environment that cherishes diversity, inclusion, and participation.

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