

Artist Statement - Flowers Bloom as Stories are Told
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When my grandmother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer over the summer, my mother was the first to hear. I still remember the painful shout that signified the beginning of the end. There is an unspoken pain that arises when you hear your parents, the people you look up to the most, sob without restraint. Then came the searching: googling data and statistics frantically, observing her behaviors, and analyzing every step she took. The constant texts, back and forth, asking how chemotherapy was going, asking whether her blood cell counts were optimal, asking about anything and everything that would reassure us that she would be okay. Pancreatic cancer is deadly-- it has the highest mortality rate regarding all major cancers. Deep down, we know that one day, my grandmother will go to a better place. But, while she is still here with us, we want to make the most of the time we have left. My piece, "flowers bloom as stories are told," originates from her love of books, readings, words in general. An intellectual woman, she never fails to teach me something new every time I visit her. The background of the work, and the majority of the pancreas, stem from her favorite novel, while the flowers are specific to her personality. Using the language of flowers, I researched each one and assigned her those which I believed to fit: an aster, a symbol of love and daintiness; a white carnation, innocence and pure love; a hibiscus, delicate beauty; and lastly the white hyacinth, which stands for loveliness and prayers for someone. The scarf around my grandmother's neck symbolizes the cancer ribbon, the color for pancreatic cancer being purple. I wished to convey my love and emotion for her through my artwork-- and I dearly hope that I succeeded in doing so.