

## **Bittersweet**

"Bittersweet" is a painting that explores the contrasts behind how the female body is perceived and how it feels to be excessively perceived in such a way. The monochromatic red theme displays the intense feeling of the painting, while the pomegranate itself represents multiple aspects of the painting. The pomegranate can be seen that a physical and mental representation of the body from different points of view. From the point of view of the female's body (represented by the pomegranate), the seeds are the physical manifestation of the curdling, anxious feeling a woman may feel as she is perceived by so many eyes. From a physical perspective, it symbolizes the fertility that many men associate with her body, and the way they feel as if they must crack through a hard peel in order to reap the benefits.

The painting is created through acrylics and charcoal. The charcoal around the paint represents the mental space of the woman. It's warping around her like a pest that won't leave. Like the seeds, it is a physical manifestation of fear and anxiety. Many people have said that anxiety feels like scribbles, so this painting leans into that notion. The eyes are also drawn with charcoal and represent the eyes and excessive attention put onto the woman to make her so uncomfortable. It is an image that depicts dread but the flowers surrounding the pomegranate represent the beauty within the "woman" no matter how the eyes around her perceive her. Even though she is filled with this dread, she can look within herself to find what she has always needed. The flowers show a sense of hope, even though the "dreadful scribbles" seem to make that feel lost.