

## Real Learning

This sculpture explores what it means to learn by living; it compares learning to survival, and how I feel that they are similar. As part of this journey, I reflected on moments of my life in which I learned something important through “real life” experience. What is interesting to me about this topic is that people tend to associate learning with formal schooling, but I find most pivotal learning comes from living and interactions with others. To understand authentic learning, it is only fitting that I reflect upon my own life experiences.

For this artwork, I cast my whole body and sewed it together using shoelaces which contain stories of learning I’ve acquired throughout my life. There are definitions to important words or phrases that I feel are relevant in relation to this idea. I used plaster, shoelaces, bits of cloth, and black ink to form a life-sized model of myself. I used these materials because, logically, they work the best, but the way they work together helps to support my ideas of how the learning helps one survive and, in some ways, holds you together.

This sculpture depicts my own survival through learning; learning through life experience helps us stay together and become wiser. I want viewers to look at learning differently. Instead of something we do at school, I want it to be seen as something that happens naturally, and helps us strengthen our minds and our actions throughout life. This may seem irrelevant to some, but I want people to understand that even if they have trouble learning in school and it makes them feel stupid, they aren’t, because in reality learning from real life is more important.

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