

I began researching how the mental health industry intersects with American society, education, and economy. I was struck by the corruption hidden in big pharmaceutical companies, and disgusted by their exploitation of the underprivileged and ill for financial gain. I saw how the commodification of mental health affects all of society, but especially youth. I reflected on my own experiences growing up neurodivergent and feeling insecure about my differences from those around me. The sculpture is inspired by feeling inadequate and intimidated by diagnoses and doctors. For this reason, I included symbols like crying babies and pills. I started by building the cage with wood and steel rods. I drew the baby faces and encased them in resin along with various ADHD medications. Lastly, I hung the glasses with thread. Their lenses are replaced with CBT worksheets, DSM-5 screenings, and information pamphlets about mental health. They represent feeling pressure to conform to the high standards of our society. I want the piece to expose the lunacy of our society's standards about conformity and perfection.

*DRY PILL*

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