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eCampus ART 1133 '08 Term 1

“Life on your lapel”

CULTURE

It has been said, not infrequently, that one wears many different hats throughout his life. We all adjust our personality to our social setting for one reason or another. As we examine our own cultures we realize that even that becomes a hodge-podge of likes and dislikes that we have either accepted or rejected in response to our human experience. I have tried to demonstrate a few elements of my culture through this watercolor painting, though the ‘hats’ in this case is a single blue coat.

MEDIUM

You will notice that the foundational element of this painting is a blue coat with a yellow lining hanging on a coat hanger, set against a brown background. Of course the blue coat would be nothing extraordinary were it not for the yellow lining. After all, who would wear a coat with a yellow lining!/? This is to demonstrate the internal brightness that I try to possess. You will also notice that this project is not entirely a two-dimensional project as I have pinned to the coat a few items that better represent who I am in more detail.

The initial idea for this addition was conceived while I was thinking about how often times people like to show that they have espoused a certain cultural tradition through an outward expression. For example--the guy with the big truck, mud tires, and real tree camo tee-shirt. Or what about the nearly rabid, full body paint, football fan? What about the zealous republican/democrat? These are a few very overt examples of this idea, but what if everyday we woke up and pinned our beliefs and traditions onto our lapels? What would that look like?

Would some of the pins on our coats contradict one another? Would we be ashamed to wear some of them? The questions are really innumerable. I decided to show a little of myself through this concept.

The first pin you may notice is a dried up rose. It was the corsage that I wore on my wedding day. This is significant because my first job above all others and the one closest to my heart is being a husband. Too often we get dissuaded by the trivial things in life and lose focus on what is really important. The next that I included was my Combat Infantryman's Badge, which I was awarded for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was 19 years old when I received that award and grew up awful fast in the process. I understand the importance of duty, honor, and country; and serving in combat as an infantryman I understand what sacrifice means, and have seen first-hand the reality of dying for one's country. The third and most trivial of them...but oddly enough the largest piece on the coat is a button that says 'We love Bobby!' My wife and I live in Tallahassee, FL, the home of the Florida State Seminoles and hall of fame football coach Bobby Bowden. Finally the smallest piece, but most crucial is a button that reads, 'I am loved.' Originally this button was used as a marketing tool by a diamond store, but as I have incorporated it into my daily life I understand that I am truly loved...by my family, and my God.

...ANYTHING ELSE?

I urge all to take an introspective look at their lives. What would it look like if everybody could see who you truly are by taking a glance at your lapel?

