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## SELF DISCOVERY THROUGH CHARACTER CREATION

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# Self Discovery through Character Creation

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## **ABSTRACT**

Many artists use their art as a way to understand and work through complex thoughts and emotions, allowing the creative process to become an outlet for and directly inspired by such thoughts. Often this idea is associated with fine art, where every brushstroke is assumed to have some grand meaning behind it, but the same can be said of any creation really. It's easy to overlook the thought put into something as seemingly simple as an original character, beyond that of its actual aesthetic ideas. Speaking personally, I have always gravitated towards character creation as my favorite creative outlet, and in looking back at my art over the years I realized a trend. My growth and development not only as an artist, but as a person as well, can be seen within my characters. My style changed overtime, my skills got better, but so too did my identity and how that's expressed. For me and others, creating characters serves as a way to experiment and explore different identities in a safe and controlled environment. It's almost a play of sorts, each character playing its own role but all serving the same story. Characters who are present for longer experience the most growth, but those who are only in a few scenes still serve to advance the story. In this sense, I owe a lot of how my identity has changed over the years to being able to create a wide variety of characters.

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