

ART AUTOBIOGRAPHY

**Art Autobiography**

Victoria Dillard

Adams State University, STEM Endeavor Project

SCED 550

Dr. Kathryn Arnone

January 25, 2023

## ART AUTOBIOGRAPHY

A person's experiences, whether real or perceived, often have a lasting effect on his or her outlook on a specific topic. In my undergraduate philosophy course, my professor called this an "inescapable horizon." This term has stuck with me as I have continued on the paths of my life. When considering my experiences with art, I have had both positive and negative experiences. I have also learned that my definition of art has changed over the years. The memories I will address in this essay include very early memories of my first attempts at drawing, arts and crafts at school and in church, and my experiences with performing arts through music.

My absolute oldest memory of art would be my art in my kindergarten year of school. I fear I may sound very petty as I recount this memory, but please bear with me! As a 5 year old, I felt like the pictures I created were pretty amazing pieces of work. Obviously, my teacher, bless her, did not think highly of my pictures as she did of the girl named Ashley's pictures. Every single time we did an art project, my sweet teacher would show Ashley's picture to the class as an example of how the work should look. Not one time did she ever brag about mine or show my work to the class. I began writing my name on my art papers very, very small on the back so nobody would know which one was mine. In fact, one time I wrote it so small that I had to stay in from recess for not putting my name on my paper. I was awarded my recess once I showed that my name was indeed on my paper. The biggest thing I remember feeling about Ashley, was that the ball ponytail holders she wore (it was the 80's) did not even match! One pigtail would have the green balls, the other red. How in the world could this girl make such lovely works of art when she could not even match the color of her ponytail holders? In retrospect, this was most likely the fault of her mother who did her hair each day, but in my 5 year old petty mind, it was a

## ART AUTOBIOGRAPHY

pretty big deal. I felt that the teacher should notice that something was off with her color coordinating abilities. To this day, I do not like to draw. If I do draw, I will usually make a joke about what my work will look like ahead of time.

Another of my earliest memories of art are those experiences with arts and crafts in both school and church. As a child, arts and crafts were my favorite! They always made me excited, even if my works were not the best ones. In my private elementary school, I remember completing a project every year called scratch art. We would spend several class periods coloring random spots of bright colors all over the cardstock until the entire paper was covered. During the next class, we would cover it with a special type of black paint. Finally, we would get pointy sticks and scratch out our underwater scenes. Whereas I still dread drawing, this type of art activity thrills me! Crafts are just fun!

As I grew older, I began to experience art through music. My mom and dad were always instrumentalists at our church, and I enjoyed singing in church choirs. Sadly, I remember my parents always saying I did not have the best voice, but they let me sing church specials anyway as a youngster. Music is a kind of art that really sticks with you, and these memories are very special to me. My parents put me in piano lessons and I became a decent piano player, until I quit lessons to focus on high school marching band. Our high school marching band was a very successful and competitive organization. We practiced most nights each week from June through November, so the piano lessons went. I also took choir and show choir in high school. While my parents always made me think my singing was not the best, I did make the All West Choir my junior year in high school. I only tried out because it was required, and I was quite shocked when I got the call early on a Sunday morning that I had made it! I believe I was the twelfth chair out of fifteen, but it did not matter to me. My experiences in music have been very rewarding.

## ART AUTOBIOGRAPHY

As I read my experiences and reflect, I feel comfortable admitting that my overall experiences with art are positive. With the exception of drawing, art has been enjoyable for me. I am guilty of often saying that I am not an artist. After reflecting on these experiences, however, I recognize that I have had plenty of positive experiences. Arts and crafts bring me joy, making music helps soothe and relax me, and unlike most teachers, I love glitter! I have been successful in the arts through music. Drawing is definitely a turn off for me still. I feel like it is admissible to like some forms of art and not all. While I do not sit around and do art for fun, perhaps someday when my life slows down and my responsibilities shift, I will.

In conclusion, I define art as being creative. This creativity might be expressed through drawing, through writing poetry, building projects, coloring, painting or creating music. I view art as a way of expressing oneself and being engaged in an endeavor. My past experiences have allowed me to have an overall positive outlook on art, although they have also helped reinforce the fact that I do not like to draw. It is ok for me to like some forms of art but not all. I know that anytime I incorporate art in my classroom, students are more actively engaged. I look forward to learning more exciting ways to incorporate different forms of art so that my students can have positive art memories.