

BERNIE BUZZ

News from Senator Bernie Sanders

AZURE WOOD

Sophomore, Fair Haven, VT

“Rest”

For those readers who don't know you, could you tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm Azure Wood. I'm 16 years old and originally from the Kansas City, Missouri area, but I also lived in Colorado for some of my childhood before relocating to Vermont last year! I live in Fair Haven Vermont and go to FHUHMS.

What interested/inspired you to become an artist? What does being an artist mean to you?

I've always had an immense amount of curiosity and wonder in my life. Growing up the world around me was so fascinating and art came as naturally as breathing. It was my form of self-expression and my family encouraged me in all my crazy creating! Being an artist is like extending your soul into something you can physically grasp. Putting your mind, thoughts, and feelings into a righteous act of humanity.

Do you have any advice for other students and/or people of all ages who are thinking about getting involved in art?

There's so much you could be creating and working on whilst you're thinking about starting. Starting can be the most difficult part. Don't think, just create.

Can you tell us a bit about your piece and its meaning? What inspired you to create this work?

My piece “Rest” is about finding peace with love for myself through times in which that was difficult. I always used to love slugs as a child and play with them despite general disgust/disinterest from most people. They symbolize reminders to take life slowly, stay in the moment, and the endless cycle of growth and moving forward. They fascinated me and I considered them to be my friends. Later in my life it was important I remember how dear they are to me and recognize the lessons I needed to relearn.

Why do you think art is important? For our communities, for individuals, for society etc.

I don't think I need to speak to why my personal art is important because I think all art is important. The act of expressing our selves creatively can be lost as we travel through struggles and responsibilities in adult life. Creating art is important for our selves and our world. It is claiming space in the world and having a voice. Plus, it would be a lot less cool of a world if nice people didn't make beautiful things.

Art aside, what is one other way you like to spend your time?

In my free time I enjoy playing ukulele and spending time with my parrot, dog, and fish. I like being close to lovely humans, like my mother, who love and support me and make life much more magical. I like watching films and walking around.