

BERNIE BUZZ

News from Senator Bernie Sanders

ZOE MAXWELL

Senior, Burlington, VT

“Life on Repeat”

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

I was born and raised in Burlington, Vermont. I went to Burlington High School and Burlington Technical Center, for the Design and Illustration program. I am an 18-year-old art student who just started college at the Rhode Island School of Design and plan to pursue a career in the arts.

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

My family inspired my first interest in becoming an artist. I went to art camps every summer growing up and since then I've been hooked. I think the individuality and freedom of being an artist has always kept me creating. Being an artist, to me, means being able to express yourself through a creative process. Making art is when I feel most like my true authentic self.

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

Surround yourself with people who support your creativity. Experiment and don't be afraid to make mistakes or take risks. Some of my favorite pieces have come from experimenting and having fun with my materials and ideas.

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

I created this painting titled, Life on Repeat, to represent the chaos and order of my life. It's a self-portrait that depicts struggles with feeling constantly overwhelmed by the repetition of life. This painting reflects the way I felt in my life during the pandemic, school, and college applications. I wanted to create a sense of order using snippets of repeated acts throughout a common day in my life. As well as, incorporate vibrant colors and patterns to form feelings of disarray and stress.

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

Art is important because it brings people together. It is a language that helps express topics visually which encourages communication and discussion.

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

Outside of creating art, I enjoy cooking. My dad first introduced me to cooking at a young age and since then we have shared a love of being in the kitchen together.