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Senior Studio

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## Art Statement

When I was thirteen years old, I got my period for the first time while rock climbing in the mountains of North Carolina. I was moderately terrified, mostly for fear of bleeding onto somebody below. But as I peered into my red-stained leopard print underwear, I was both happy and excited. However, the continuing process of “dealing” with my period was a whole new issue. Staring down the female hygiene aisle at Target, I was amazed at the selection of sizes, absorbencies, and discretion. However, I could not make a choice for the life of me; it was as though every company in the world had decided to market the female reproductive system.

I had always been a bit was becoming self-conscious about my appearance, and now I had a whole store telling me how to clean up after myself. I became quite interested in how all of these excellent products had come to be made available to me. Learning a bit about the struggle for access to information, I noticed the continuous trend of white male dominance over the female body. The way the female body and biology, and the male body at that, is perceived has been skewed by white male doctors and men who want women to be passive and domestic. From medical texts and merchandise from the 1900s to modern day clothes and brutal surgeries, power and control from a dominant source have affected the understanding of the female body.

I present a new story to the audience by clashing traditional female roles with familiar monumental images and narrative. Not only playing with the female gender roles, I question the strict regulations of society on gender. Creating drawings of androgynous and untraditional imagery, I force the viewer to be more comfortable with this obscurity. Using references from history, art, and myth, I recreate a narrative of familiar characters that offer a new perspective on gender and the functions of the human body.