

“Look to the King”

This piece is done to mimic a piece of street art as if it had been cut from the very wall it had been applied to.

In the graffiti culture, a “King” is someone who is the best at what they do. Often, they signify their status through the use of a painted crown. One such graffiti king was Artist Jean-Michael Basquiat. Basquiat used the crown symbol for himself as well as a symbol of respect and admiration for other figures he refers to in his work. The use of the crown symbol in this piece is a “nod” to Basquiat. Other symbols/figures used are also a “nod” to other artists whose work I follow.

Basquiat’s art often focused on “suggestive dichotomies,” such as wealth versus poverty, integration versus segregation, and inner versus outer experience.

I feel that this piece shares the inner versus outer experience; In that, the boy is looking up toward the crown, where his aspirations can take him wherever he wants to go, however, his hands are held to his chest as if something is weighing heavy on his heart.