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Visions

Senior Project Submitted to The Division of the Arts of Bard College

> by Ella Menees

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York May 2022

## Artist's Statement

*Visions*, by Ella Menees, comprises four diptychs. While the paintings serve as a true exploration and celebration of color, each pair also has a distinct focus on the psychological and the unexpected. Littered with bright colors and surreal landscapes, these paintings cause the viewer to ponder all that is not shown. Each diptych presents the same subject in two different moments. The strange lighting washed over each face acts as a mask, whereas the background depicts each subject's state of mind. Instead of "landscapes," I consider them to be "mindscapes."

Each subject has a distinct, yet similar, experience with trauma. This connects them to one another and showcases that one never knows what is running through someone else's head, or the past experiences that someone else carries around with them. Purposefully, no distinct statement about trauma is being dictated through these paintings, but instead, they are an exploration of inner versus outward visuals.











