

**Student Information:**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

Hawthorne Middle High School

**Artwork Information:**

Title: Brave Enough to Be It

Medium used: Multimedia on Canvas (field of black, Paynes gray, pencil, wax, chalk and titanium white)

Description:

New York City, New York, The Big Apple, my piece is inspired by the architecture and history behind this city. Parts of my family history entered this country through Ellis Island making this city personal to me. The last line of Amanda Gorman's Poem: *The Hill We Climb*, "If only we're brave enough to be it," struck me as the description of how life began in the U.S and how it has to continue to be. I have been described as brave for standing up to my abusers. I use the word Brave in my art signature and everything creative that I do. Her poem resonates with me and inspires this piece.

In this painting, you will find the shadow of the twin towers with a teardrop from the apple's leaf above. New Yorkers were brave and stood together then and our country does now. The buildings' reflections are not in the water.

The heart of New York hovering in recognition of the National Park African Burial Ground where in 1991 it was discovered due to construction in Manhattan. Both free and enslaved Africans were buried at this site during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and nearly half of the 419 graves were children. The symbol they chose to use roughly means to learn from the past. The bravery of the African people who now are our brothers and sisters in this country and what they have endured we must all learn from and be brave enough to carry forward the best of who we all are as one people.

Thanks to my Mentor of Take stock in Children, Nancy Hardt, for pointing out the poem *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Goreman to me and to my grandmother for the art supplies.