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Dr. Stubblefield

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Artist Statement

For my creative project, I created a book cover for the novel *I Tituba, Black Witch of Salem* by Maryse Conde. I have always been interested in the history surrounding the witch trials, and Conde’s historical novel following what she believed Tituba’s life was like really meant a lot on how I view events in history now, knowing that one side of the story is always missing. In my cover I also wanted to accentuate the duality that Tituba’s character exhibits.

Tituba’s story has a lot of duality in it, and even more so in Conde’s novel, and I really wanted to reflect that in my cover. It’s not just Tituba, however, who has duality. There exists a duality in all of us. Every single person has the ability to be both good and evil in them, as advocated by many throughout history, it’s what we do with our lives that defines us as good or evil. Tituba is neither good nor evil, but tries to make the right choices in her life, some of which become misinterpreted and misleading, which makes others, believe her a witch.

Tituba being a very dualistic character in her own novel made me really want to incorporate that duality into the cover of the book. It really made me think about how I wanted to do my cover and how I wanted people to see my cover. I tried to make this duality more obvious to the average person through the differences in the color value of the piece. Duality brings with it a loose line to follow, and one that I feel like I followed well with my cover art for Conde’s novel.