

A Living Document

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The triptych I created is a representation of why I believe the Constitution remains relevant today. It is an imperfect document, as represented by the left panel and its pair of wounded hands. It has held our country up for 235 years, and over that time has been proven faulty countless times. But the democracy that it put in place has, each time, tended to the imperfections with amendments until the “wounds” have scarred and things go on. The bandages drawn over parts of the hands represent the more recent amendments, and how our country is still adjusting to the change.

The middle panel illustrates the essence of the Constitution’s system. Debate and disagreement at the Constitutional Convention were what brought the document into existence, but mutual respect and a desire to “form a more perfect union” is what led the founding fathers to agree on and sign the document. This is represented by the red and blue signatures at the bottom of the page. Today, the Constitution itself has outlined a system based on disagreement, keeping the government in check so that every opinion gets a voice. But all this controversy is still kept balanced by the bipartisan effort to make our country a better place. In my drawing, the red and blue figures' handshake is what keeps the balance scale even.

The right panel portrays a heart, inscribed with the Preamble to the Constitution, suspended above Congress. I drew this to represent how the heart behind the Constitution, to as a people “establish justice,” is still at play in every decision made by modern people in charge. To me, the Constitution is living proof of how far our country has come, and the core values that define us as a nation.