

Impact Statement

Chloe Hu, Grade 8.

Genius Inventor Behind Beauty, 2023.

Digital art, 10 x 14 inches.

Jericho Middle School, Jericho, NY

Unsung Hero: Hedy Lamarr

I discovered Hedy Lamarr while perusing the list provided by the Lowell Milken Center. While there were many worthy unsung heroes on the list, I was immediately drawn to Hedy Lamarr. After doing more research on her background and career, I knew she would be the focus of my Unsung Hero project. As I learned more about her, several compositions for my artwork came to mind. Hedy Lamarr was one of the most significant pioneers in technology and her work formed the basis for WiFi, GPS, and Bluetooth. These systems are used so often in the present and without them, technology would not be as advanced as it is today. Even as an actress, Hedy Lamarr worked on technology off the camera and donated it to the U.S. military. As someone who is also interested in the fields of mathematics and science, I believe that she is definitely a strong role model for women working in STEM fields.

I started off by looking for basic information on Hedy Lamarr such as her career, what led to her career, and the general impacts of her accomplishments. I found it unfortunate that Hedy Lamarr's innovative mind was overshadowed by her beauty and she entered the acting industry. However, even as an actor, her mind continued to think and with co-worker George Anthell, they developed the extraordinary communication system which would help guide torpedoes to their targets. With the use of frequency hopping, Lamarr was able to patent her work and continue to explore science.

My artwork began with Hedy Lamarr's portrait and through tinting and different effects, I made her stand out. Also, I wanted to combine both an aspect of Hedy Lamarr's acting career and scientific works. For her actress role, I included a film strip and several photos of her work as an actress. To show her scientific innovations, I also included newspaper articles into part of the film strip. To represent her work with frequency hopping and torpedoes, I added waves and several torpedoes. The background of my artwork are Hedy Lamarr's sketches of her work. At the bottom is a faded image of a war scene, showing that Hedy Lamarr had developed her idea in an attempt to help in World War II. With all these different pieces, I wanted to express the different aspects of Hedy Lamarr's life and emphasize all the work she did to help the world. As an artist, creating this work further developed my technique regarding digital art. To make this project, I first drew several pieces traditionally and had to scan, arrange, and add touches digitally. Additionally, researching about Hedy Lamarr's work has made me more appreciative of all those heroes who do not receive the credit they deserve for their outstanding work. Hedy Lamarr has also made me realize that anything is possible. Even while being overlooked by her beauty and becoming an actress, she continued to expand her passion for innovating. Her works contributed greatly to today's technology, especially considering the constant use of WiFi, GPS, and Bluetooth. I have shared my artwork with classmates, teachers, and hope to have it shown on social media or in libraries. With a deeper understanding of Hedy Lamarr, my interest

toward STEM has also increased. Hedy Lamarr and her work are something that I would want to research even more, and I hope to make more projects revolving around her work.