

## Impact Statement

Sarah Pedersen, Grade 8.

***We Can Do It***, 2016.

Acrylic on canvas, 20 x 16 Inches.

Corbin Middle School, Corbin, KY

Unsung Hero: Hedy Lamarr

Hedy Lamarr is the definition of a bona fide star. She not only was an accomplished actress and inventor, but she was, and still is, a role model for girls everywhere. She is exceptionally inspiring to me, because I have always been afraid to not only be interested in the arts, but also in subjects such as science and math. When I was younger, I felt I couldn't do some activities because they were what "boys" do. After that I started excelling in math at a young age, my mindset started the change. I grasped the idea that gender should not tell you what you can and cannot do. Hedy Lamarr did the same thing. She was known as the "world's most beautiful woman", an actress beloved by all. However, this did not stop her interest in science and mathematics. She balanced her career while developing key technology during World War II. I wanted to convey her inspiration to me, how she didn't conform to society's "norms".

Hedy originally wanted to join the National Inventors Council for the war efforts, but was told by men that it would help more if she just used her celebrity status. She was talked out of being an inventor, but that did not stop her from eventually following her dream. With the knowledge she had gained about torpedoes she designed a frequency-hopping system that would continually change the radio signals sent to the torpedo. During WW2, there was also a common image of "Rosie the Riveter", who inspired women to work in jobs that were normally for men. These kept factories running while many women's' husbands were overseas. This image is now an inspiration to women everywhere representing equality. Hedy, to me, is of equal importance to that of this image. Rosie the Riveter was a symbol for women being on the same level as men for importance and significance outside of the home. My vision is that Hedy resembles Rosie as a person, and their contributions to women's' rights.

As I was brainstorming my idea for the artwork for this competition, I wanted to blend the ideas of Rosie and Hedy together. The original "We Can Do It!" poster was painted in acrylics, and I wanted to show that in my recreation. I kept the background of the poster to keep the setting of World War II, while showing Lamarr as the iconic figure. I also kept the pose of the original Rosie, but with clothes that Lamarr would have been comfortable in, such as a black dress from one of her old photoshoots. I didn't want to stray away from her feminine features, so I incorporated elements of makeup on her face, such as using eyeliner and lipstick for some of her features. This shows how she was still a stylish actress, but could do acts normally known for "men".

Hedy's efforts can still be seen today. Her technology from the frequency hopping is now used in modern day GPS, Bluetooth, cell phones, and Wi-Fi. Not only that, but she was one of the largest actresses of her age, and got her dream of being inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014. Hedy Lamarr might not be a "sung" hero, but today we have greatly been affected by her efforts.