



Impact Statement

Samantha Hu, Grade 12

Art that Tells a Story, 2026

Printmaking, marker, pen, acrylic on paper, 18 x 24 inches

La Salle College Preparatory, Pasadena, CA

Unsung Hero: Elizabeth Catlett

The Unsung Hero that I have chosen is Elizabeth Catlett. I chose her because I love how she used art to speak up for people who were often ignored, specifically Black women. What inspires me about Elizabeth is her bravery and her powerful presence in her art. Even though she faced discrimination and racism during her time, Elizabeth wasn't afraid to express herself through art. She believed that art is beautiful not just for how it looks, but also about sharing an important message. Elizabeth Catlett has made a very big impact on history through her art. Through her sculpting and printmaking works, she was able to show the strength and resilience of Black people, especially women. Her artworks helped bring attention to important issues, such as racism, discrimination, and freedom of speech. She wanted people to feel something when they saw her art and think about equality and justice. Her work helped people see that art is not just about how it looks, but it can also be a powerful way to share messages and can create change.

For my artwork, my goal was to show Elizabeth Catlett's identity as an artist and the strong messages in her work, especially how she used art to speak about equality and justice. To do this, I carved one of her sculptures and combined it with her line drawing style, then used printmaking techniques to transfer the image onto my own piece. I repeated this eight times, with four prints in black ink and four in gold ink. I chose these two colors to keep my artwork simple and not too colorful, so it matches the style of her work. I also chose these colors because they connect to her story black represents power, identity, and the struggles she faced, while gold represents value, importance, and strength. For each of the eight prints, I made a different background so each one could show a different part of her life or the issues she focused on. Some of the backgrounds show themes like freedom of speech and racism, which are issues she focused on in her art. Other backgrounds were inspired by her style, especially her use of bold lines for her own work's background. Overall, my goal was to make her story clear through my artwork and connect my design choices to her impact and the meaning behind her work.

This project really changed how I see art. Before I mostly focused on how art looks but now, I understand that art can carry a message and tell a story. Learning Elizabeth Catlett inspired me to be braver and speak up about my own opinions without being afraid. Elizabeth Catlett's story inspires me to be brave and express my opinions without being afraid. Her story showed me that even one person can make a difference by using their voice. Because of this, now I want to

use my own art to express ideas that matter to me, not just make something that looks nice. I also hope to share my artwork with others, especially at my school, so more people can learn about her and the impact she had on history and on other people's lives. I will be turning this into the ARTEFFECT competition, and my goal is for people to look at my artwork and start thinking about how powerful art can be when it is used to stand for equality and justice.