



Impact Statement

Ciel Ha, Grade 10

From Hate to Hope, 2026

Watercolor, pen, wire on paper, 24 x 18 inches

Studio S Fine Arts, Bellevue, WA

Unsung Hero: Dion Diamond

My artwork is about Dion Diamond, a significant civil rights activist who fought for equality through nonviolence and peace. He started doing sit-ins when he was only 15 years old, which I found was greatly inspiring and impressive that he had that much courage at an age similar to mine. Also, Dion Diamond was a part of Freedom Riders, which were groups of people who protested for equality in buses. However, Dion Diamond was arrested many times because of his protests. His activism led him to over 30 arrests, yet he never gave up and continued to fight for what is right. The reason I chose him is because I truly admired his nonviolent approach and how he even used humor to gain attention in his speeches. As it is stated in historyfortomorrow.org and research from Lowell Milken Center, it says that Dion Diamond was fearless and applied humor to things ever since he was young.

Because of his humorous and fearless nature, in my artwork, Dion Diamond is shown to be having a relaxed expression with a slight smile. In my artwork, I portrayed him in his real mugshot from his arrests. Below his portrait, the scenes of the Freedom Riders are painted with watercolor, and they are shown to be holding up signs of protest. In the mugshot, I purposely wrote multiple words like justice, nonviolence, and equality, indicating the things that Dion Diamond passionately fought for. As the lines of the mugshot go higher, the more positive the words get, and the lower the lines go, the words become negative and show the reasons Dion Diamond had to do what he did. For example, the bottom lines include words like segregation, hate, and terror. The words made from wire and marker are purposely written instead of the height numbers that are normally written next to the lines on a mugshot. Just like how the height gets greater the farther up the lines, the highest goal of humanity is written the farther up the lines. The materials used for this artwork is watercolor, wire, and marker. The watercolor was used to create Dion Diamond's face and the bus, and the overall background, to portray a unique vibe. Watercolor also reminded me of Dion Diamond, because of the soft, non-harsh expression, just like his calm and nonviolent approach. However, a more harshness is also included with wire, because he still fought and was determined to change the cruel times. Marker was also utilized to create details on the signs that the Freedom Riders held, and to illustrate his features.

Overall, Dion Diamond has ultimately inspired me to stand up for what's right and choose the right side of humanity, with peace. With great courage and determination, I believe that we can make great positive changes so the world can become better. My hope for this artwork is that by posting it online or it possibly being shown on ARTEFFECT that it will reach many people and enlighten them about Dion Diamond and his amazing story.