

ABSTRACT

Romantic relationships play a significant role in fulfilling an individual's psychological needs. This final project explores how romantic relationships can support the fulfillment of the three basic psychological needs described in Self-Determination Theory: autonomy, competence, and relatedness. These needs are interpreted through paintings that depict the everyday gestures of couples as symbolic expressions of relational dynamics that foster psychological development. Three paintings were created as visual interpretations of each aspect of Self-Determination Theory. The visualizations employ symbolic gestures, body expressions, composition, color, and figurative intimacy to convey emotional and reflective meaning. The creative process involved personal exploration and an expressive approach, aiming to invite viewers to feel the depth of love and emotional connection within romantic relationships. Through this body of work, the artist seeks not only to reflect personal experiences but also to inspire viewers to understand that love can be a powerful force that nurtures psychological growth, self-expression, and has a positive impact on both the individual and their surroundings.

Keywords: *Romantic relationship, Self-Determination Theory, psychological needs, painting, visual interpretation*