





The Persistence to Persevere

Artistic Statement: By Ayan Ahmed-Aden

Being a changemaker for me means going through a journey of reflection and learning. As a black person who came to Canada as a refugee, finding a sense of belonging was difficult. My post-secondary journey taught me to celebrate myself and my identity because I had the opportunity to hike on a mountain for the first time in field school. Change making and hiking reflect a sense of purpose and resilience, which are the key positive characteristics needed to be a changemaker.

Just like hiking, I was able to step out of my comfort zone by finding a connection with nature.

Being a changemaker helps me explore and develop my skills and create friendships with my fellows. Through my journey as a changemaker, I am able to take steps to solve problems. Also, I

have never painted before, and in this journey as a changemaker, I wanted to start doing something new and challenge myself. I painted a mountain, a sunset, and trees. The Mountain represents Challenges that Lead to Change; The Sunset represents Transformation, and The Trees represent Life and Growth.