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Intro to Literature – P. Perry

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Creative Response Project

I chose to do my creative response project on “The Ballad of Sadie LaBabe” by Tim Seibles. When deciding which reading to do my response on, this piece stuck out to me because I truly enjoyed the rhythm and attitude that the author does a superb job of conveying and maintaining throughout. This poem tells a short story about a woman named Sadie LaBabe, all the while maintaining a musical rhythm and a very jazzy, sexy tone. I considered writing a short story on a version of Sadie during finals week versus the ever attractive and together Sadie LaBabe, this thought is what provoked me to turn to it into an artistic work. I thought it would be humorous if I created a very unattractive, crazy side of Sadie that would not have been seen during the poem. My version of Sadie, “Crazy Lady Sadie”, is more of a disastrous, manipulative, and unsuccessful version of Sadie that would deter any potential suitor. I thought this would be an interesting take not only because it was fun to do and kind of funny, but also because we are often deceived by the front that people put up, and may find a completely different person underneath the mask immediately or in time. I think this possibility is realistic as ever with the rise of social media within our society. It does not take much effort to neutralize your social media and have only the best pictures of yourself and the good times highlighted and on display. This exponentially increases the chances of deception, and gives us absolute uncertainty in the real life that someone is living. My work of art is a two-sided poster board display which displays the life of Sadie LaBabe, and Crazy Lady Sadie, on the front and back of the board. The side meant to portray Sadie LaBabe is filled with pictures of very well dressed, classy, full figured, women that match the description given by Seibles. This side has visuals of Sadie living a very good life, including a stack of books to represent the brains that Seibles makes reference to, a vanity and full wallet to show that she was a very consciously attractive woman who could also provide for herself, a picture of her strutting her stuff for Cade, and also a picture of her out in the town shopping with a friend. That is the Sadie that the author gives us an idea of throughout the work. The back side of the poster board is “Crazy Lady Sadie”, which is the image that I created for her after the poem. This version of Sadie is a complete hot mess. She has been fired from her job, she is emptying out her man’s pockets, fighting, getting drunk, getting arrested, sleeping on curbsides, growing out her armpit hair, and taking her man on Jerry Springer. I think this is a version of Sadie that is unattractive to the average person, and sarcastically contrary to the version of her that Seibles created. I thought that this symbolism would not only be a funny twist on the story, but one that could be relative to a lot of people… as there are a lot of possibilities for deception in today’s world.