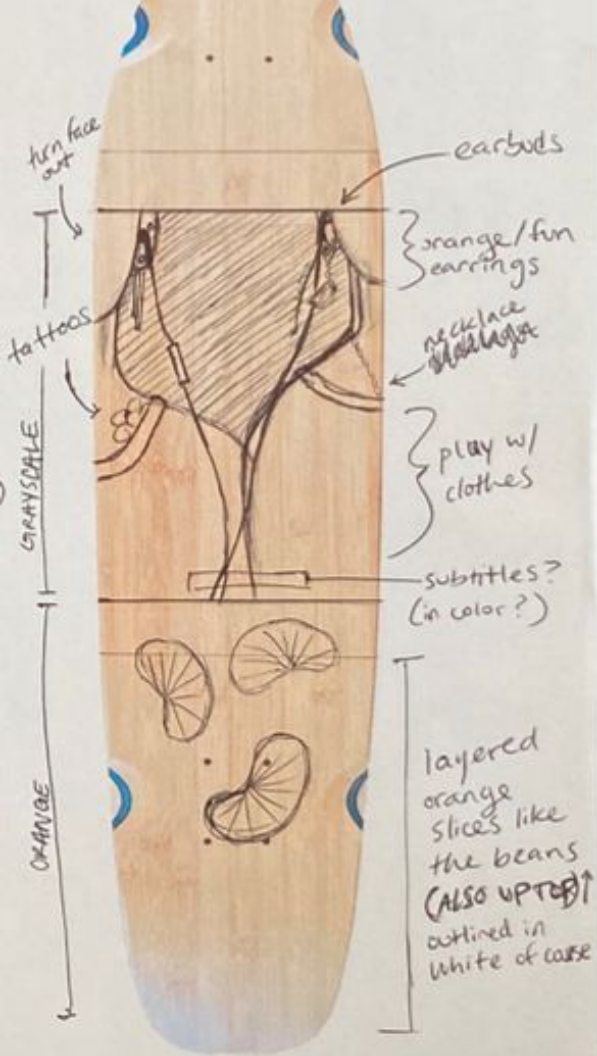


Capstone Progress: Romanticization



Themes:

- **Void characters**
 - Projecting ideas and ideals onto someone with minimal background
- **Midwest emo**
 - A cultural phase that became nostalgic quickly and resurfaced as an aesthetic not very long after its popularity
- **Love**
 - Shift away from the highly romanticized and idealized standard of romantic/passionate love and grand romantic gestures shown in media

Continuing Concepts

- Revisiting Elaine Scarry's *The Body in Pain*
 - Physical pain resists language and is to some extent untranslatable
 - Mental/psychological hardship is similarly elusive
- Scott Alexander Howard's "Nostalgia"
 - Nostalgia is selective: we can feel dissatisfaction with the present without preferring the past entirely
 - We can also feel nostalgia despite remembering the bad and sometimes traumatic aspects of the past we feel nostalgic for
- Connecting to personal experience
 - Feeling nostalgic for an objectively bad time, which can't really be conveyed with words
 - Example: I miss quarantine, but it was a bad time that we all experienced. If I try to explain why, people might not want to listen because they remember how bad it was
 - I'm getting surgery and I have to romanticize it to cope with the anxiety

Continuing Work

1. GIF/animation to emulate the experienced past and feeling of nostalgia
2. Garment that romanticizes surgery despite it being bodily trauma
3. Audio edits involving void characters/romanticized sounds