Brittany Lala

I Am USC Dornsife Submission

I chose to paint a chimpanzee mother and her child as a symbol of the importance other species play in the advancement of human medicine. The baby chimp and human baby represent the potential for new crises to arise, as the natural world is evolving, and human society's constant quest to find answers. The blanket that appears in both pieces symbolizes an innate biological connection between all species, such as that with humans and chimps. It reflects my own appreciation for the complexity of our diverse natural world and the mysteries that still exist within it.

While pursuing a double degree through the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, I have developed a strong interest in the field of medicine. Over the past three years, Dornsife has given me the opportunity to work in a research lab and expand my knowledge and passion for the scientific world. This neuroscience lab utilizes other species in their work in order to make conclusions applicable to human disease prevention. It has brought me to realize the human race would not be where it is today in terms of its advancements in medicine and knowledge about evolution, without conducting research on other organisms. This experience has led me to become more passionate, curious, and appreciative of the work done by the scientific community, and I hope that it directs me to a career in which I can further contribute to this wealth of knowledge.