

This is Emma Drumright reading on behalf of the artist David Fuentes.

I have always had limited mobility in the bones, muscles, and tendons on the right side of my body. Consequently, I am naturally left-handed. I never once questioned that feeling. It just was. And that was my strength...until now.

Through this journey, I wanted to understand the capabilities of what I thought were my limitations. I wanted to use what I perceived as weakness, my right hand, to create part of the work. I expected to find some new perspectives, new lines, new angles.

What I found, instead, was balance.

My right hand created lines and shapes that were spontaneous and unplanned, disjointed and erratic.

The finished works are not crisp and clean. Lines and shapes are not straight, and that's all right with me -- now. Prior to this experience, everything I had ever created had to be clean, polished, perfect. An over compensation for the part of me I thought was lacking. But now that it's not, I feel strangely complete. The unity of both sides of my body made the pieces dance in harmony in a way I never intended or expected.

I have always defined my life through my Cerebral Palsy, and that is simply not true. My work has always reflected the individual that I am on the surface -- the physical nature of my existence, but now I can say I am much more than my limitations.

My art is a constantly evolving introspective journey with myself and the relationships I develop with others along the way. Dealing with these situations makes me understand myself more as an individual.

My work has allowed me to speak through my hands and heart so that you, too, can share my vulnerabilities, struggles, and achievements as a fellow human being.