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My Dance with Time

Lauren Ngo



We wait to graduate high school, then we wait to graduate college, then there's medical school, then residency, then fellowship, then retirement. For us to be happy, we, as humans, desire to meet goals we set for ourselves, yet we only have a limited, undisclosed amount of time on this Earth to achieve them. We all have experienced this arduous struggle with time, where there never seems to be enough of it. Time always seems to fall just short for things we want to last but drags on for things we don't. I've always felt this way acutely, but recently I have been trying to re-evaluate not just my mindset of time but my approach to it. As such, this piece is both an outlet and inspiration for my relationship with time.

Like anything in life, having a healthy and balanced relationship with time is a carefully committed partnership. There are certain steps to take to keep in sync, commitments to keep, and a dedication to each other. In addition to the dancing number depicted in the piece, the woman is wearing a popular traditional Vietnamese garment called an ao dai. This distinction was made not just to reflect my heritage but also to highlight the predominance of Eurocentric fashion in art.

The creation of this piece is a reminder to be kind with the time that we have, for all the periods of agonizing and waiting, time will pass anyways...

