



Pat Johnson

## **WLW**

**Student:** Zoë Johnson

**District:** Spokane Public Schools

**School:** North Central High School

**Instructor:** Jennifer Griffith

**Medium:** Watercolor

### **Artist Statement**

In this piece I explored the symbolism of different colors and flowers. I used purple to symbolize religion, but also the power of the love between my sister and her girlfriend. I used the green/yellow vignette to invoke springtime and the rebirth that occurs despite cruel winters. Historically, violets have symbolized women loving women (WLW) relationships. Violets featured in Sappho's poetry and thus become an identifier for many closeted lesbians in less accepting periods of history. At its heart, this artwork is about the false compassion and scorn my sister and I have experienced from the church and our parents as a result of our LGBTQ identities. I wanted it to serve as a testament to how my sister's relationship has persevered despite the people and institutions trying to keep them apart.

**Status:** Exhibit only