



## BERELIN RUEDA

Grade 12

*New Beginnings*

Acrylic on canvas

Norton Museum of Art Inspiration: *Tree of My Life* by Joseph Stella

This is a scene of a mother swan with three of her ducklings, or cygnets, one of which has died. The mother swan mourns the death of her duckling as she looks at the fallen duckling with concern. In the distance, a couple of swans can be seen to be taking flight. This creates a juxtaposition between life and death, where the swans in the foreground are grounded by the presence of death and the swans in the back are liberated, taking flight, by life. This painting depicts what we as humans also experience within our lifetime, where we may feel as if everything around us is thriving and we personally are not or where we feel like we are thriving but everything around us is stagnant. I was inspired by Joseph Stella's *Tree of My Life* as he had incorporated many living creatures that fly, one of them being a swan and I wanted to show both life and death in one painting using the swans found in his painting.