

Molly Bierman Curatorial Rationale

When learning and studying the different controversies that exist in modern society, there are always two perspectives that can be heard. The idea of duality develops the theme for this exhibition, studying the past compared to the present, as well as the viewpoints that transcribe it. My first piece studies the more negative attributes developed in the theme of duality, with a social commentary on the two sides of the “American Dream”. One that strives for it, leading to a crazed desire for something that is unattainable, and the other being those who fell victim to the lie. My second piece plays off Vermeer’s *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, with a modern twist related to the current global pandemic. This painting compares how the pandemic will affect the culture surrounding art in our future, by showing how it could affect our past had people been put under the same circumstances we experience today.

In my work I used a variety of different painting mediums to create a more graphic looking painting, one that capitalizes on the separation of colors rather than blending them altogether. I use a similar method when creating the mask over top of the famous Vermeer painting to create a sense of coherence in the body of work while showing the duality of the time periods and the methods used.

Jason Case Curatorial Rationale

Every one of us has been exposed to fantasies in our lives. Whether it is books, movies or music, it is human nature to desire escape from reality and to experience reverie. My duology of work presented is intended to convey these fantasies, and to challenge the dichotomy between what is fiction and what is real. My first piece, *R.E.M*, develops the idea of how something so simple as a dream can be much more complex. R.E.M sleep is something that we all experience at certain times, but how does reality affect our dreams? A fantasy we see in our sleep can inspire new ideas, and morph how we live our day-to-day lives. My second piece, *Mysterium*, completely challenges what we know as a higher power. To many, a higher power, or even God is seen as an invisible masculine energy. This piece portrays feminine energy among our universe, or even as an unknown substance in space. Overall, my body of work takes what is seen as fact, and questions it. What is real and what isn't? Who's to say what we have to interpret as fake?

Utilizing traditional art, and the revolution of digital art, *Mysterium* has an interesting look to it. The mysterious substance referenced that was once unknown, along with the concept of feminine energy in our universe, challenges what is real and fantasy and what we know as normal representations of a higher power. R.E.M is a mixed media piece that includes the use of watercolor, acrylic paint and collage. The collage portions can be seen in the clouds of color, as well as the textured background. The rest of the piece was done using watercolor and acrylic paints.

Olivia Gilbert Curatorial Rationale

My pieces convey the importance of our oceans and the negative effects of pollution. My relationship with my family was a large influence on my work as I am very close with them. My concepts play with societal ideals surrounding class and pollution. I displayed my work to convey the differences between a clean ocean and the pollution that is unfortunately, very common in bodies of water. I often use many materials to emphasize a piece's meaning, and in these works I explored different mediums.

Olivia Grinnell Curatorial Rationale

I enjoy nature and painting subjects related to it. Both pieces represent the connection I feel to nature. My intent for *Sunset on The Pond* was to paint subjects that I like, which are sunsets and the world around me. I tried to capture how I was feeling that day, happy and content. I also wanted to create the feeling of summer and what it is like to experience a sunset.

My inspiration for *Butterflies and Flowers* was to reflect how people can look happy on the outside but are not necessarily happy on the inside. The girl is sad, and the butterflies and flowers around her show how she is trying to mask her sadness. During the pandemic, many people struggled and continue to struggle with feeling unhappy, alone, and isolated. This piece captures these emotions.

Throughout the process of making these pieces I noticed the themes of nature emerge. It is something that makes me happy, and I enjoy incorporating nature elements into my artwork.

Sophia Hollasch Curatorial Rationale

I have always had an appreciation and love for stories that take place in lands outside of our earth, whether it is light years away in another galaxy or in a fantasy world of magic and heroes. I have portrayed this love through multiple mediums, including three-dimensional sculpture and on a digital touch screen. My work is influenced by different forms of media, from film to television to literature. Despite working in different mediums for each project, I still maintain my own distinct, unique style in each of my pieces. Without realizing, I began to create work with an otherworldliness theme. Most of my art is inspired by popular franchises such as *Marvel* or *Star Wars*, in addition to my own stories for which I have created entire little worlds. In my *Harbinger* artwork, I drew and painted a character of mine named *Kirsu*, whose story is heavily inspired by *Lord of the Rings* in terms of grandeur. However, the style and overall aesthetic is influenced by Middle Eastern culture. For the *Alien Plains* artwork, I was inspired by beautiful landscapes here on Earth, such as the *Zhangye Danxia Landform* in China. I decided to add a twist by making it completely separated from something we could see on our planet. I painted blue spires to give it a feeling of being from another world.

I used different types of media in my work. The mixed media drawing incorporates both familiar and unfamiliar mediums that I felt comfortable drawing with despite the differences in each material. I experimented with an acrylic painting in terms of style and execution of what I wanted. I explored my theme of other worlds and extraterritoriality through stories and places that I created in my own head, using original designs, as shown in *Harbinger*. I aimed to bring my ideas into reality in the way I best know how.

Carolina Marian Curatorial Rationale

As I created my artworks, I discovered influential themes in culture and my family. Culture is a bonding agent in our society, as it has increased our opportunities to connect, learn, enhance our qualities, improve our wellbeing and develop our sense of belonging. For many people, culture is extremely important, influencing their views, values, loyalties and hope. Personally, my culture is a foundation for who I am and all I have experienced. Through my artwork, I hope to share my culture and share its importance, as well as bring modernity to age-old traditions and encourage my audience to establish a foundation in their culture and heritage. My connection to my family is greatly highlighted in *A róka és a gyerek*, a piece that highlights a childhood book which connected me to my family and language. The embroidery depicts a scene from the same Hungarian book, *A róka és a gyerek*, mixed with the imaginary fields where I formulate my thoughts. The book was my first Hungarian book, making it a staple in learning my Hungarian language as a child and helped me feel at home while being in an English speaking country. In the beginning of my course, I did not have a sense of direction, therefore my mask has no cultural connection to me. I wanted to add my spin onto a relic from a popular video game. The piece was more an exploration for me to discover which mediums and styles I like to work with. The *Majora's Mask* I created is inspired by *Majora's Mask* from the *Legend of Zelda*.

I enjoy using a wide variety of mediums and materials. For the two pieces I chose to exhibit, I focused on embroidery, acrylics, ceramics and plaster. For *A róka és a gyerek*, embroidery was used to highlight the way I have been immersed in my culture, which is through textiles. Embroidery also allowed me to create dimension and shape compared to acrylics. Similar to the dimensional effect created by embroidery, I used clay to create my mask with raised parts adding depth and complexity to a rather simplistic design.

Jaelyn Snyder Curatorial Rationale

My pieces portray the ideas of culture. I am fascinated by the fashion culture all throughout world history and how it has changed over time, even now with masks. Fashion is an artistic way of expressing oneself, and as an extrovert I deeply enjoy expressing myself every way I can. Historical and modern culture is very inspirational, specifically Vikings, royalty or the early American revolution. Each culture has its own unique set of art, fashion and technology that guides the inspiration for the creation of all my art pieces.