

Alexander Nguyen

My main medium of creating works has usually been drawing both traditionally and digitally. Since the tragic death of my wacom tablet's charging port, I decided to focus instead on creating clothes. My goal this school year is to create a small clothing line, focusing on light colors primarily. I want to create street fashion that looks great on anyone, regardless of gender. I also want to be able to work with a variety of body shapes, as my past work with creating clothes has been making them for trans women who may not be able to find clothes that actually look good on their bodies.

Axle Zhao

Art is a tool for me to express my thoughts. I create art because there's a certain kind of emotion and atmosphere I want to address. Under the influence of fashion, I learned the most important thing for me to think about when I create artwork is the whole of format, composition, the use of colors. The details matter a lot to me because I believe that's what the viewers will look at eventually after they are exposed to the feeling I created. I'm also inspired by minimalism, which reflects in the work a lot. I think photography is one of the best ways to convey an atmosphere because there are only images. I focus on the composition and the color when I'm taking a photograph in order to suggest a mood. I also create graphic design, which allows me to combine words with my photographs and communicate a specific meaning.

Janelle Clark

Perception is a large part of life. We value how and what we see so much. The depiction of human beings can mean several different things. From the color of the palette, to the composition surrounding the subject. Pushing that boundary of what a portrait traditionally is is something I really like to futz around with. That raw sense of emotion that you get when seeing real, honest feelings is so important to me and what art is all about for me. I want to depict complex human beings (even if they don't look human). Real, feeling, creatures, who we often forget exist because a lot of the time we forget that and focus too much on our own lives.

Jessica Coblentz

As a young person who enjoys art, for me it is an essential outlet I use to express myself and express my understanding of the world around me. If you know me, you might know I am a big observer. I like to step back and look at the bigger picture of things, but also hone in on the small details and things that get overlooked. My favorite thing to do when I'm making art is to capture feelings. Often, my choice of medium when I make art is through pictures. Whether I am the one taking them, or if I'm using them within a physical piece of work, I love creating an atmosphere that embodies a certain feeling. With my art, my aesthetic primarily focuses on nature. I choose to do this because I love the beauty of the world and seeing things in their natural organic state. Nature inspires me to be calm and free and focus on the present, and I like to display that in my work.

Michaela Chambers

Through my artwork, I seek to capture the beauty of God's creation. It is incredible to think that He has made everything we see from the vast blue oceans to the tiniest daisy hidden among tall, green grass. To show my appreciation for all He has made, I will paint, draw and sometimes even photograph what I observe in the world. I have photographed a bunch of light pink orchids. These orchids stood out to me because I had never seen them in such a color before and it makes them look even more delicate and feminine. Spending time in nature clears my head and brings me peace of mind. It allows me to take a step back from life's busier moments to appreciate the wondrous world God has placed right in front of our eyes.

Meg Cirka-Stachura

To me art is a way to express ourselves, our emotions, our story or anything we want. I feel that creating art is a great outlet for self expression and exploration. I use my artwork as a way to show others a little bit about who I am and what I like as well as a way to get to know myself better. With photography and editing I am able to try new techniques to create an image with a deeper meaning than what you can see on the surface level. While I have mostly been focusing on my photography work I also enjoy using other mediums such as clay and paint. I enjoy creating pottery (both wheel and handbuilding), glazing, painting and some literary work as well. This school year I have been focusing heavily on my photography skills in order to create a collection of photos to follow the saying "One man's trash is another man's treasure." as well as trying to find the beauty in what we normally would perceive as ugly. I have been visiting sites of abandoned houses, military bases, factories and other buildings in order to photograph the decaying buildings that have been long forgotten. It has been a challenge to work on this project due to safety concerns and trespassing laws but I have been lucky to find a few public places as well as getting permission to enter the property. Many of these buildings have been stripped, filled with trash, spray painted and nature has started to take over. My goal has been to visit these destroyed and chaotic scenes to capture images to highlight the beauty and uniqueness within the chaos while trying to also capture the feeling and essence of these places. This project has morphed into a sort of peaceful chaos aesthetic that can create an eerie or off putting feeling which I feel is related to the loud, bold and vibrant colors and objects contrasting with the dark and destructed parts of these buildings. These super busy images also give a sense of emptiness that may feel familiar to some, with the lack of people, decaying buildings, quietness and stillness of these forgotten sites creates a unique contrast with the bright painting and artificial objects.

Parrish André

An artist's words are always to be taken cautiously. Words feel like contrived dilutions of the images, but it's important to say what I feel.

I'm afraid of losing what makes me feel young: fantasizing about worlds entirely separate from this one, and living in a young, excited body. My work is an attempt to actualize the spaces and people I see in my head, while allowing myself natural, gratifying, physical movement. My art feels like an effective way of exerting and cataloging my youth while I have it.

Some images indulge my visual fantasies more, like the large oil painting. Others serve a more bodily impulse, like the abstract pen drawings. All of them are about feeling present in my mind and my body.

Tamia Tabourn

Throughout the global Black Lives Matter uprising, I made art that mixed all of my interests into art that reflects my Black pride. I explored how to blend luxury, glam and pop culture with the current events. So to continue creating afrocentric art this year, I made a shift to center my work towards Black womxn and body positive representation. Also, in light of the Breonna Taylor case, my work is even more important to me. I want my art to represent who I am and I want the people that view my art to know this was created by a Black womxn.

If you aren't familiar about the term "womxn" and "womanism", it's basically the more inclusive version of feminism. Womanism focuses on race, gender, and class and feminism focuses on soley gender. Throughout history, the faces of feminism were often white women. The term "womxn" is also used as way to include non-bianary and transgender people as well as to separate from the sexism that comes from the derived spelling with the word "men".

All of my pieces emphasize the beauty and uniqueness of Black womxn. I intentionally made them the focus point because the complexity of Black womxn are frequently in the background. My work is all about representation so I wanted to recognize differences in many ways. I have pieces that highlight vitiligo, natural bodies, different skin tones, natural hairstyles, non-European facial features, and many more to come. Along with representation I continued to use materials that make my art give a more glamorous feel. I regularly incorporate metallics, diamonds, jewelry, and metallic foils. I think my use of eye-catching materials intensifies the natural beauty that Black womxn radiate.

Gisselle Sanchez

A picture is worth a thousand words. Stories can be told in a single moment through a photo. Through my work, I try to capture small moments that tell broader stories. Even the simplest image can convey a complex story.

Our hands tell the stories of our everyday lives. We do so much with our hands everyday, and they can tell us so much about a person. With my hands series, I wanted to capture the things our hands do daily to try and tell a greater story simplified to a single moment.

I carried my camera around for days, capturing snapshots of people on campus. After seeing the prints, I thought they were missing something. I loved the natural poses I was able to capture in just those specific moments, so I decided to take that a step further, and I drew in the stick figures. They added that extra detail and color that the photos needed.

Sophie Fuchs

I mostly draw people, sometimes things, sometimes both, and occasionally neither. I like to do a little bit of everything—graphic design, comics, realistic paintings, sculptures, chaotic collages and more. Through color and line I am able to visually approximate the thoughts that frequent my mind.

Some of my works have a personal meaning, but many don't. I've always felt that the viewer decides the meaning of a piece, not the artist. If you ask me, "what does this painting mean?" the answer will always be, "what do you want it to mean?" A lazy answer, yes, but honest. The minute I finish a piece, it becomes yours—I'm no longer in control of the narrative. It's up to you to fill in the missing pieces. You're welcome.

Madeline Shatsky Goldseker Berenholtz

The function of horror has always made me curious. What tricks can we play in our brains to scare us? How does something scare you without it actually existing? Are scary things subjective?

Recently I have been exploring and experimenting with words to try and deliver more frightening images. I use words like, hollow, empty, drained, opened. I sit with these words and draw what I see when I hear them. I have also started to read old, scary, stories. This has allowed me to use more of my imagination in creating original images, and has made it easier for me to brainstorm concepts.

Ry Hermann

My work is a culmination of dreams, pervasive existentialist thoughts, and all the media I consume. Most of my work is very personal and I often express my opinions about life, beauty, human nature, and politics through art. Music heavily influences my art. The tone of the song I listen to when I illustrate can shift everything in a piece from the colors I used to the amount of detail. My work is my most honest form of self expression and it allows me to display what is going on in both my conscious and unconscious mind without having to speak.