



UCF

MENAGERIE

**Spring 2020 SVAD
Biannual BFA Exhibition I
March 31 - April 7, 2020**

Preface

Each with a unique artistic voice and vision, *Menagerie* includes work by twenty talented artists. Collectively, the works from these artists are dynamic, expressive, investigative and revealing. Each artist approaches their chosen mediums and processes with intention and focus to effectively communicate with viewers.

These emerging artists are completing their final semester as undergraduate fine art students. The biannual BFA Exhibition is a required capstone experience for students earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art and in Experimental Animation. On behalf of all mentoring faculty in the School of Visual Arts and Design, I am privileged to work with these students and see the culmination of years of research and dedication. I look forward to their future contribution as life-long learners and developers of the visual language.

Shannon Lindsey
UCF Art Gallery Director
BFA Exhibition / Seminar Instructor

Artists

Alba Baez Breton

Lê Bảo Như

Ryan De La Crvz

Cheyenne Otocky

Alejandro Estrada Patiño

Catalina Penagos Soto

Na'ah Gordon

Asia Skelton

Rachael Hilcken

Gretchen Smith

Skye Honey

Aaron Joel Stefan

Kalee Iturrioz

Andrew Štefánik

E. Jacobsen

Erin Stein

Casey Melrose

Sara Daisy Sutherland

Crystal Modeste

Heidi Vance

Alba Baez Breton



Worship
Acrylic on canvas
70" x 43"
2019

Ryan De La Cruz



My Religion – (POP CVLTVRE X ANKH/CROSS)
Processed wood, BMX frame, bike wheel, skateboard, Nike shoes, oregano, salt
63" x 48" x 36"
2018

Alejandro Estrada Patiño



En tu mirar (In your eyes)

Acrylic on canvas

12" x 12"

2020



Na'ah Gordon

When I Call, You Always Come
Appliquéd canvas and denim
88" x 66"
2019

Rachael Hilcken



Theif
Acrylic on canvas
48" x 48"
2018

Skye Honey



Into the Woods
Digital painting
11" x 16"
2020

Kalee Iturrioz



Burnt

Graphite and earth tone chalk on Stonehenge

50.5" x 36"

2019



E. Jacobsen

Candle Queen
Digital painting
9" x 12"
2019

Casey Melrose



God is a Woman: Earth

Polymer clay, wood, acrylic paint, sand, tinfoil, wire, and found objects

20" x 15"

2019



Crystal Modeste

Self Portrait
Acrylic and digital
30" x 47.5"
2019

Lê Bảo Như



Bird Whispers (Little Friend)

Colour pencil on paper

5.5" x 7"

2019

Cheyenne Otocky



Change of Seasons - Fall (detail)
Printed digital comic: 6" x 9"
Full piece: 33" x 12" x 2"
2020

Catalina Penagos Soto



This Too is Fleeting

Acrylic paint, charcoal, pastels, graphite, pastel grounds

69" x 50"

2020

Asia Skelton



Serpent
Digital illustration
20" x 13.5"
2019

Gretchen Smith



End of Plenty

Acrylic, charcoal on canvas

59" x 79"

2019

Aaron Joel Stefan



Serra: To Roll
Screen print
24" x 36.25"
2020

Andrew Štefánik



missing

Mixed media

13.5" x 11.5" x 1.25"

2019



Erin Stein

Chloris
Acrylic on canvas
16" x 16"
2019

Sara Daisy Sutherland



Fortunate
Polymer Clay, Wire, Paper
4" x 5" x 5"
2019-2020



Heidi Vance

I'm Okay.
Acrylic on canvas
30" x 48"
2019

Artist Statements

Alba Baez Breton

Based on my perspective as a Dominican immigrant with a Catholic upbringing, I choose to depict the dichotomy of reality and expectations with exaggeration and humor. At times, I tempt people to touch my work with the alluring and plush form of a stuffed canvas. I turn painted canvas into pillows by stuffing them with polyfil. The intention is to create an experience that is both confrontational and playful while provoking a dialogue between myself and the viewer.

Ryan De La Crvz

As a first generation Filipino-American, I explore my interpretations of religion, culture of origin, popular culture, and life in the U.S. (with its many subcultures) through sculpture. I encourage deep thought within the viewer by exploring varied concepts and experiences: religions, art movements, political and societal issues, life in the age of information and the exponential growth of technology. My art emerges from my passions. I believe the struggle of juggling multiple paradigms is the major challenge for my generation in this ever-changing world.

Alejandro Estrada Patiño

The spaces we inhabit, the possessions we come to cherish, and even what we choose to wear are all factors that reflect our identity and personal history. In my artwork, I seek to explore personal struggles faced as a first-generation American through iconography relating to my background as a Mexican American. Through these difficulties, I seek to unpack the passage of trauma, privilege and pride.

Los espacios que habitamos, las posesiones que apreciamos, hasta la ropa con que nos vestimos. Todos son factores que reflejan nuestra identidad y historia personal. En mi arte, exploro las luchas personales que enfrento como americano de primera generación a través de la iconografía relacionada con mi identidad mexicano-americano. A través de estas dificultades, busco desempacar el paso del trauma, privilegio y orgullo.

Na'ah Gordon

In my work, I tackle aspects of my religious journey through nostalgic imagery. As a gay Christian woman, I am constantly contemplating how my way of life is not in accordance with God's word. I want to memorialize moments and thoughts of my loved ones due to fear of not seeing them in the afterlife. My process is very meditative, incorporating southern practices of prayer and hymns while referencing music from my parents' generation and my generation.

Rachael Hilcken

Due to my expertise as an animal trainer and behavioralist, I have an in-depth understanding of animals. Therefore, I use them as subjects to explore and better interpret human emotions through drawing, printmaking, and painting. By placing animals in familiar spaces and settings, I create snapshots of emotions like desire, anticipation, and joy. By using animals to explore emotions, I hope viewers reflect on how we read and react to the complexities of body language and social signals.

Skye Honey

I make a variety of LGBTQ identifying characters and place them in extraordinary situations that are more often than not, absent in media today. I craft these narratives in either, single scenes or in a sequential visual narrative for reading. I create positive stories that people can relate to regardless if they share the same views as I do. I gain inspiration from anywhere and everywhere and incorporate my own experiences to my tales of fantasy to support visibility and representation of LGBTQ people. My narratives are meant to entertain and aim to bridge the gap between myself as an LGBTQ person and non-LGBTQ identifying people.

Kalee Iturrioz

I am a visual artist that creates through the mediums of drawing, printmaking, painting and sculpture. My work is inspired by and representational of influential personal life experiences through the use of repeated symbols that serve as nostalgic imagery. These symbols include, but are not limited to, a focus on eyes, figures, and other specific objects or animals that serve as an allegorical self-portrait. Each piece is a method of communication and expression of myself to the viewer focusing on intimacy, aiming to engage in personal connection.

E. Jacobsen

In my work, I explore illustrations with a focus on character design and concept art. I create characters that are based in fantasy, whether that be for cartoons or for more refined painted pieces. While often dismissed as childish, I believe that fantasy is important because it can reflect our own world back to us, making it easier to see issues and from different perspectives. A common theme that repeats itself in my art is ethereal and powerful women. I embrace these subjects out of frustration that this type of female character is almost exclusively casted as the villain in media.

Casey Melrose

I create fantasy art to provoke wonder and curiosity in my audience. I depict realistic looking people in unrealistic settings and situations through digital illustration and polymer clay sculpture. I often depict women as supernatural forces because I believe female energy is a strength and I want that power to resonate with spectators of my artwork.

Crystal Modeste

In a time where inclusivity is on the rise, there is still an uphill battle when it comes to the representation of black women in pop culture. From being portrayed as one-dimensional characters, to not being included at all, we are often overlooked or excluded out of the things we too enjoy. With this work, I use fantasy roles commonly found in video games and film to introduce and tell stories of black femme characters who would otherwise go untold. I want to show that these characters can make for just as interesting protagonists and heroes. The world of entertainment is an ever-growing industry filled with a vast variety of people, and it would only make sense to reflect this in its characters and adventures.

Lê Bảo Như

My work explores feelings of displacement and depression. I create somber figures juxtaposed into a colorful, fantastical setting to express a sense of escapism. The figures are covered in drapery and robes to allude to a feeling of warmth and comfort, while being hidden and protected. Through iconography and appropriation of southeast Asian Buddhist and Muslim culture, the figures are reserved and disciplined, and yet withdrawn and disconnected.

Cheyenne Otock

As social beings, we humans engage with one another in a way that weaves complex relationships. It is through these experiences that we navigate our way through life. Through both digitally and traditionally printed sequential illustrations, I develop characters with the depth to embody what it is to have a human connection. Through dark times and light, our collective humanity can be represented through illustrative pieces. My own experiences heavily influence my work and I draw inspirations from several of my favorite video games, comics, and movies such as Arthur Morgan from Red Dead Redemption and Hayao Miyazaki's Princess Mononoke. I believe there is value in being able to recreate a form of universal emotion that the viewer can feel represented inside themselves; this is what I continue to pursue.

Catalina Penagos Soto

Rooted in a continuous exploration of my personal emotional and mental displacement, my work falls within a spectrum of clarity versus selective ambiguity. These mental panoramas employ the feeling of escapism and the mental spaces elicit when experiencing intersectional identities-- my own being a split mentality (D.I.D) as well as the struggles of being a Colombian-American. These abstracted non-existent landscapes occupy the plausibility of locations that only materialize in my own mental world.

Asia Skelton

I create art as a form of escapism to reflect how I process and combat the many issues and expectations women face in society. Digital illustration enables me to create situations where women are not bound by all of these pressures. I utilize my freedom to create to embrace my own beauty ideals free from social preconceptions.

Gretchen Smith

Employing a variety of media and substrate combinations, I create paintings of Florida and the people found in it. I am captivated by sensations of love for humanity and disgust with the disharmony between the environment we inhabit and ourselves. My collection of influences; photos I have taken, sketches of our environment, and fragments of writing on which I ruminate, serve as the foundation to feed the narratives in and structures of my paintings. I allow this foundation to remain partially visible throughout the messy and frenzied process. My work ends somewhere between resolution and visual collapse. I am interested in addressing our desire to extract comfort in this place we inhabit while considering the steep environmental price of that comfort.

Aaron Joel Stefan

Growing up reading comic books, I always imagined having super-powers: flying, super speed, incredible strength, and my most coveted, time control. My current body of woodcut and screen prints reflects on this childhood fantasy by illustrating objects in motion, stopping their action mid-movement, and taking an investigative look at spatial changes, physical overlap, and the directionality of energy in the scene. These prints call to question the ideas of beginning and end, before and after, and the concept of time as linear and uni-directional. By translating a range of movement through juxtaposed imagery, I seek to create fresh, insightful narratives beyond the traditional "moment trapped in time".

Andrew Štefánik

I create conceptual and process-driven work using a combination of metal, plastic, stone, wood, mold-making, found objects, and photographs. I employ interdisciplinary practices in my work that sardonically articulates absence, ambiguity, and sentimentality. My lost/found/repair approach creates new understanding of the image or object from a familial domicile to the public domain. Through the admission of having little to no knowledge of the facts or history of the objects, my work contextualize stories that have never been told while preserving parts of the old.

Erin Stein

My artwork analyzes gendered violence through self-portraits that draw from art history and current events. By pairing my own contorted figure with dramatic lighting, I create hostile and threatening environments that aim to evoke feelings of claustrophobia and animalistic behavior. This intentional use of dramatic lighting is vital to accurately portraying these disturbing and uncomfortable themes. The physicality of these figures is brought forth through the brightly lit forms and simple silhouettes, revealing a confronting vulnerability.

Sara Daisy Sutherland

I specialize in industrial preproduction sculpture dealing with the weird and whimsical. The slight exaggeration of proportion helps me create visually distinct and dynamic sculptures and characters appropriate for various clients and venues. Working in an industrial art setting has influenced the processes and materials I use to create my art. I strive to create high quality works that can function both as foundation design conceptualizations to be enlarged into fully realized production pieces.

Heidi Vance

Often, we are told to “take a closer look” when dealing with our problems. Based on my disbelief of absolute clarity as it relates to the human condition, I challenge that statement because sometimes taking a closer look leads to more questions than answers. My work is inspired by and derived from my interests in Art Conservation and the human condition. Through the application and manipulation of various media (paint, ink, charcoal, canvas, wood, et cetera), I utilize non-objective imagery to symbolize the link between memory and trauma: the imagery mimics the interaction among artists’ materials on a microscopic scale. My goal is to demonstrate the permanence of memory through my personal interactions with the surface and trauma by inflicting physical “trauma” with my chosen materials.

Acknowledgements

UCF School of Visual Arts and Design
Faculty, Staff, and Students

UCF Art Gallery Staff and Volunteers

Orlando Utilities Commission

Castaway’s Sports Bar & Grill



UCF ART GALLERY
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