# Process Portfolio

# Skills and Techniques-Process-Self Portrait

The first step that I took in order to do a self portrait was to research various artist and their self portraits. This was not an easy step, since there are so many artist and self portraits, but I decided to condense my research by researching some self portraits that would match my personality and vision in the world. I came across two artists that I really liked and I couldn't pick between then, so I decided to combine their pieces and make one self portrait of myself. Kathe Burkhart and Scott Rasmann were the two artist that I was able to research and get inspired from, on this step I was able to research more deeply about these artist lives and artworks.

Once I found my inspiration and research done, I had to combine the pieces and make my own, here I decided to leave the structure of Scott Rasmann self portrait and use the technique that Kathe Burkhart used in her self portrait. I decided to do this because I connected with Scott Rasmann and I connected it with the many ways I see the world, but my connection to Kathe Burkhart was the way that she used simple colors to get her meaning across. Out of my connections to the two piece I found my meaning and started to find a way that I could combine the two and make some sketches to represent my meaning.



Once I found my meaning I decided to create different types of sketches, so that later on I could have different ways to exhibit my meaning and choose the best representation of my meaning.
Once I was done creating some sketches I realized that there was something that would connect my meaning to the sketch in most of the sketches, therefore I decided to create a final sketch by combining some new and some ideas from the previews sketches.

# Skills and Techniques-Process-Self Portrait

First I gathered the materials I needed, the canvas, an easel, a computer, a projector and a pencil. I plugged in the projector to the computer and found a picture of Scott Rasmann work and I projected this picture onto the canvas which was placed on the easel. Since this piece was going to be the base of my final work I did a subtle outline by sketching from the projection of the projector to the canvas, this way I would have a guide to know what I would sketch next. After I was done creating an outline, I decided to start measuring parts of my canvas, so that the outline could be a good outline to create the final sketch in the canvas.
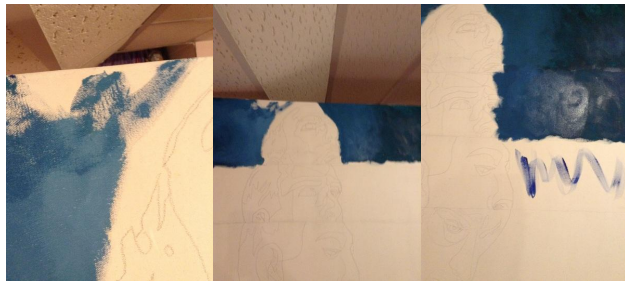




After the outline was done, I decided that it would be best to paint the background first and then my actual face. Since I was combining two different pieces I decided to paint the background as Scott Rasmann did on his self portrait because I realized that the contrast between the background and the faces would be the best if I were to do it this way. I did not use the same colors in the background as Scott Rasmann did because I wanted to use the vibrant hues that Kathe Burkhart used on her self portrait. To paint the background I combined green and blue to create blue-green as a base color, then I also used white and a darker blue to create the shadows and highlights of the background.

# Skills and Techniques-Process-Self Portrait



After I was done with the faces, I was checking if everything seem good, I fixed some of the parts that didn't look very neat and then I was done with my self portrait.

Once the background was done, I decided to paint the space where my faces would go white, because white would be the best base color for the faces since I was using the technique and the hues that Kathe Burkhart used. Then I took some pictures of my face looking at different places in order to create the four faces on the canvas. After I chose the pictures that I wanted to use, I drew a grid over the white space and carefully sketches the pieces by also having a grid over the photos. I sketched face by face in order to have the best control of each face position. Then I took black paint and outlined the basic features on my faces, just like Kathe Burkhart did on her self portrait. Then I put the color on the eyes and the mount by placing a base color and then doing some highlights and shadows.

# Critical Investigation–Artistic Inspiration. Reflection



Kathe Burkhart
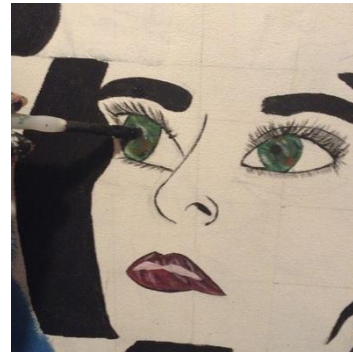Self Portrait
1999
Oil on canvas
24"H x 15"W

Kathe Burkhart created this self portrait in the Liz Taylor painting series where she was using the power of art to communicate her thoughts, these large-scale works, with their ribald humor and feminist-punk attitude made her gain reputation as "bad girl" according to Jane Ursula Harris. The Liz Taylor painting series is a series that started in 1982 and Burkhart still continues to create self portraits for this series, which means that she is still planning to communicate with art about her thoughts on men and the world.



Self Portrait from The Liz Laylot painting series (1982-present) Oil on canvas

The eyes of my world was a success because I was able to use a limited color pallet and I still got to exhibit my meaning. All of the ideas from the final sketched were portrait on the final piece and the final piece is clear and the meaning is visible. Some of the limitations that I had was the projectors projections, which was not working, so I had to experiment with other techniques to solve my problem and at the end I was able to solve the problem. Something that I would do different if I were to do it again would be to grid the whole canvas before sketching or painting on the canvas, I would also manage my time more wisely and finally I would change the way that I made the canvas because I feel that the fabric is a little loose. For me to finish my piece I had to find optimal ways to get over the obstacles that came, and this was a success because I was able to get out of my comfort zone and I still got my self portrait to exhibit the meaning that I created for it to have.

# Communication of Ideas and Intentions

There is only one world, there are many different people living in this world, fortunately I am one of them and I see the world in many different ways. Most of the time I see the world in four different ways; one, by being the first face on the piece, I sometimes can see the world directly without any emotion and just focus on the facts and what is really happening, that is why this part of the piece only has two eyes looking out, to represent the straightforward way that I can see the world. The second most common way that I see the world is with hope, that is why the face is looking slightly up, because I can see the world with hope, but I still don't see it getting any better. The third way that I can sometimes see the world is just by ignoring it, this is the third face, here I just don't really look out to the world, I don't think or try to see the world.
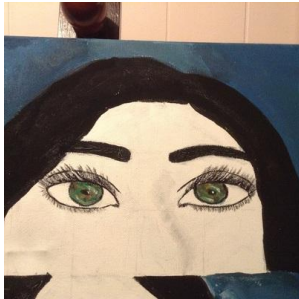




Finally the last way that I see the world is with disappointment, this is due to the many things that the world has to deal with and then we (humanity) are just using and taking advantage of our home and we don't even appreciate it, so we keep hurting it every day. I decided to use a limited color pallet because I wanted to exhibit the emotions, therefore I didn't want any distractions because the meaning is all about emotions, also the contrast between the fullness and color of the world and my many ways to view it. Finally all of the faces have different sized because they all have a different impact on me, the bigger the face is, the bigger the emotion I feel is, just as the eyes are small because I can barely see the world without bias, on the other hand, the lowest face is the one that focuses more in disappointment, which is what I feel the most. The eyes of my world, represent my emotions and feelings that I keep to myself everytime I open my eyes and start a "new" day.

# Skills and Techniques-Process-Ephemera
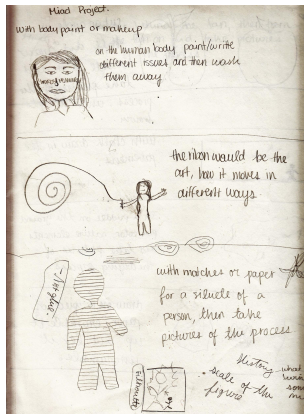


The first thing that had to be done was to find some inspiration and ideas that I could be inspired on in order to create my piece. On an exhibit that I went to I saw a piece by Francis Picabia called Untitled (Match-Woman I), 1920. This piece quickly got my attention because the woman was made out of common objects, there were a lot of matches and that is what gave my the inspiration to create a hum figure out of matches. Then I also researched some of the artist life and what the meaning of his work was, so that I could have some background knowledge in order to continue with the process. While I was doing my research, I researched about what burning something means and other options that I had in my mind before I actually created a sketch. With the research I did, I was able to come up with the theme of the piece and start looking at my inspiration for ideas. Then I sketched all of the ideas and meanings that interested me, and then narrow down my thee and finally choose a final meaning that would collide with the final piece.



First of all, I had to transfer the final sketch into a larger piece of paper where I could use as a guideline to place the matches in the shape of the human. Then I transferred that stencil into the mirror, so that later I could start composing the final piece. Then I started to glue two by two matches and then glue two pairs of two together to have a total of four matches glued together. This was a long process, but this helped me to keep the figure flat and manageable for me to continue building. Once I had a lot of these matches together, I started to shape each section of the body separately, by using matches and flipping them every time, so that the figure could have the head of the matches all around it and not only in one side. Once I was done building each feature of the body I started to glue piece by piece together. First I glued the legs to the torso, then I added the arms and finally the head. I did this my gluing each piece and then letting it cool before attaching another piece. This turned out to be the best technique to assemble the features into a body. After letting it cool all the way, I started to add some matches diagonally to the back of the piece, so that these could add stability to the human sculpture, once that was done, I proceeded to add the supports to the legs so that it could stand by its own. I made a triangle shape and attached it to the bottom of each leg, as a result the piece was able to stand on its own. Finally, I melted any additional glue that was placed in the wrong spot and let it cooled completely before getting into the next step.
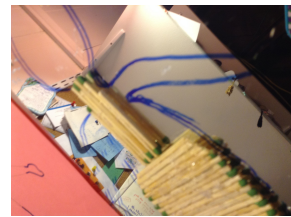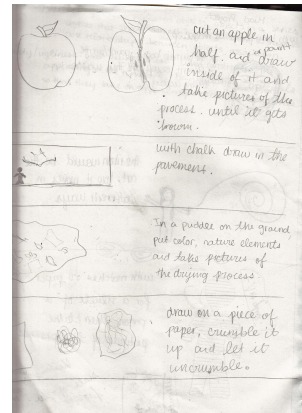
# Skills and Techniques-Process-Artistic Inspiration-Ephemera

The final step of the process is to burn the piece and take pictures of the burning process. In order to achieve my goal of making the human figure burn properly, I first placed the piece on a set that I had previously created using two other different surfaces. Then after placing the piece and the camera on place I took a picture of the piece before burning it, afterward I started to burn in by the had first and then the arms, until eventually it would just burn on its own and collapsed until it stops burning. Throughout this process I was taking pictures without moving my camera, the only time that I decided to move my camera was when the human collapsed and I had to adjust the angle of the camera to be able to see a complete picture of the burning process. After the piece was done burning, I waited until the matches were all used and black to take a final picture of the final piece.
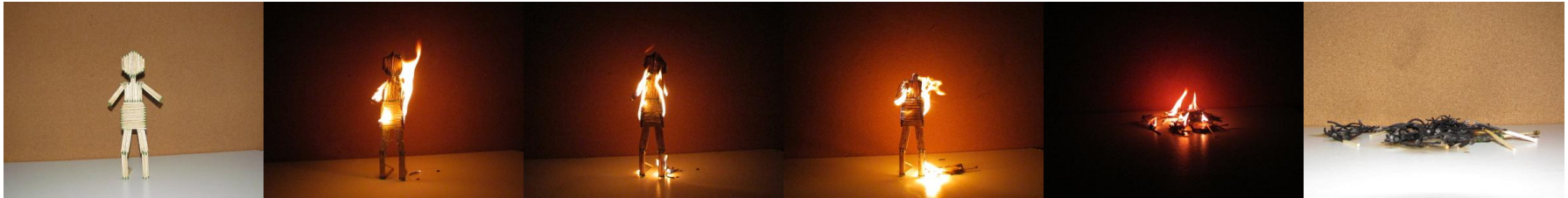


For my ephemera piece I was inspired by Francis Picabia. This artist was one of the main figures of the Dada  movement. He is best known for his pieces that foreshadow aspects of conceptual art, such as his piece "The Handsome Pork-Butcher". The idea that a person can be made up of matches fascinated me, therefore I decided to use this as my inspiration and use the matches to create the human figure for my final piece. In Untitled (Match-Woman I), Picabia used common artifacts to create the figure of a woman, such as wooden matches, string and pennies, this was what inspired me the most, since I wanted to create a piece with things that we may use in our daily bases that we don't really appreciate, but once they are gone one really understands how important that item actually is.

Francis Picabia
Untitled
(Match-Woman I), 1920
Oil on canvas with wooden matchsticks, coins, leather hair rollers, and string
 (92.1 x 73.3 cm)

Francis Picabia
The Handsome Pork-Butcher
Le Beau Charcutier
Oil paint, 4 plastic combs and bone comb on canvas
Support: 924 x 737 x 22 mm
frame: 1060 x 870 x 55 mm

# Experimentation

From the beginning I was experimenting with the type of material that I wanted to use in order to create the human figure, therefore in order to exhibit my meaning in the best way possible I decided to use wooden matches. After I was done sketching and doing some research, I had to experiment on the surface that I was going to be building the piece in, I experimented first without a surface, that did not work at all. Then I sketched the human figure in a bright piece of paper and putted the paper in a plastic cover. This plastic cover did not work as well as I thought, since every time the hot glue would touch the plastic, the plastic would melt and it was really hard to get the matches out of the burned plastic. At the end I was able to experiment with a mirror. I found that the mirror was the best surface to work on since the hot glue would stick to it, but it would come off easily. Later as I was building the piece I experimented by building the piece all together, this did not work because the full body did not have enough support to hold itself, therefore I started all over and created a solution to the problem. What I decided to do was to built each piece of the body separately and then join the together with hot glue. Gluing the pieces together was also my experimentation because I tried to glue them directly to the surface and wait for the glue to cool down, but this didn't work because as I was pulling the piece off the surface, the matches would fall apart of break; instead I glued first the pieces together, by taking match by match and gluing them together and then out of those matches create the feature. After I had all of the features done, I glued them together carefully and then placed the features on the surface. In order for the piece to hold itself up, I made some supports to the legs (bottom of the piece) so that when the time came to burn it, it would stand by itself.



Here I drew the silhouette on a bright piece of paper so that I could see the figure better as I was making the final piece
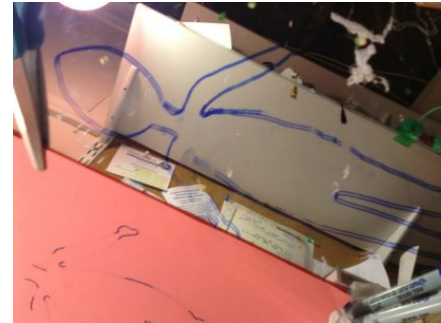


Once I decided to use the mirror, i took a marker and drew the figure in the surface, so that as I was working I could fo the pattern

# Experimentation

My final time of experimentation was when I had to burn the human figure. I was trying to find a space to burn the piece where the background was not distracting the emphasis on the human and it looked neat. This was a hard task to do because there was not a lot of clean and neat spaces around the place that I was developing this part of my process, so I decided to just do it in the deck. This was a bad decision because I wasn't able to place the piece on the same spot for the whole time, therefore my camera wasn't in the same position and place. This dramatically damaged my piece because on the pictures there was not a lot of detail that one could see and the background of the photo was distracting and not neat. Because of this I had to recreate the human figure and also create a set where I would have to burn the piece. I did this by placing a white base and a brown background, this turned out to be great because these colors did not take any emphasis away from the sculpture.



The last part of my experimentation was the way that I was going to burn the sculpture. I wanted to burn the sculpture outside at night, so that the pictures could be taken only for the figure of the fire and how the sculpture decomposed throughout the process. Trying to have an even way of which the fire would burn the piece was really hard, because I was not able to control the wind, not the fire, therefore the wid and the fire worked together to burn this piece. I wanted the whole piece to burn at the same time, unfortunately this did not happen because of all the obstacles that I had in the creation of the piece. Finally, I had to experiment in the way that I took the pictures of the human burning, At the beginning I did not set up a spot for my camera to stay in place, not an specific place to where the sculpture was going to stand for the whole process, as a result the pictures did not turn out to be good quality and the burning process was not clearly visible.

# Skills and Techniques-Process-Triptych

From the beginning I knew that I wanted to involve the country from where I am from, therefore I started to think about how I could incorporate it into my canvases without making it seem really obvious. That is when I thought about the colors of the flag, yellow, blue and red. I had to be very creative on the way that I was going to incorporate these colors into my piece, therefore I started to research different artist and gathering some ideas.It is essential to find an artist which I could be able to find inspiration. As I was researching I came across with different artists who incorporated the city into their artwork, unfortunately none of these artist were giving me the inspiration I was searching for. Then, I started researching artist who created faces and I came across a beautiful piece of art by Brian Donnelly. Donnely creates amazing pieces on which he uses normal people, but then there is always something different about them, for example, the piece I chose as inspiration.

Once I had my inspiration I decided to sketch some ideas.  I knew that I wanted to have my face on one of the canvases therefore I decided to use my inspiration and change it into my own self, I changed the hair color and the skin color but I left the hairstyle because this way I could be able to represent the complexity on the simplicity of myself. Then on the second canvas I decided to have my face melting on the city so that way it can represent the way that I view the city and how much or how little I influence certain parts of my environment. Finally the last canvas I have the city melting on the bottom half of my face, this way this canvas can represent the way that the environment interacts and affects me, I also only show the bottom part of my face because the environment around me only cares about our appearances, not about our knowledge and intelligence.
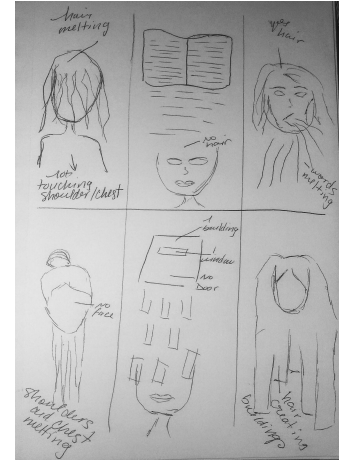
# Skills and Techniques-Process-Triptych

Once all of my sketches were done I decided to create a grid on the canvases in order to transfer all of the details from the canvases. For the two canvases that have my head on them I decided to create a grid on the original work from Donnelly, so that most of the details from the hair could be detected on the canvases. Finally I transferred the cities into the canvases, the only part from the sketches that I did not transfer to the canvases were the melting phase of the whole piece; I did not include this phase because I wanted the paint to be free and organic. Now that all of my sketches were transferred into the canvases I was ready to start painting. I gathered all of the materials I needed; brushes, paint, the sketches and the original piece. I started by doing the most time consuming part which was the hair, due to all of the details and color mixing that I had to do in order to make it as intricate as possible. I outlined the hairs with dark black paint and then I filled the empty spaces with lighter black paint and then I went back to emphasize the detail on the hair with a mixture of these two tones.
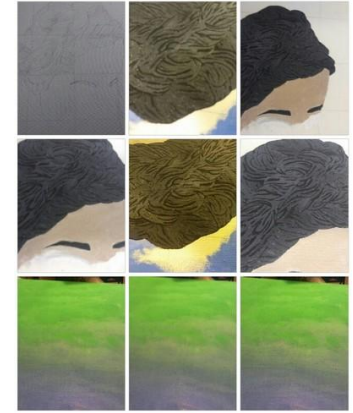


Once I was done with the hair I decided to paint the background from the first canvas a different color than the other two canvases, as a result I did this canvas first. I decided to use vibrant hues to emphasize myself on top of them, this gave it a range of emotions. Then I decided to change the background of the other two canvases by changing their colors into the colors of the Colombian flag, which is where I was born, I decided to do this to have a contrast between the way that I view myself and the other ways that the environment and I are influenced by each other. Finally I painted the building, I did not want to create emphasis on the buildings, therefore I decided to paint them different tones of black, as the hair; because not the hair or the buildings are the most important part of this piece, the most important element of this piece is the interpretation of the viewer of the melting paint.

# Artistic Inspiration-Reflection



The idea of a melting head fascinated me and I rapidly chose Brian Donnelly as my inspiration. Donnelly focuses on creating portraiture, but he is very far away from classics, he was able to invent and create all kinds of distortions and mutilations that reveal the true colors of humans. The way that Donnelly was able to exhibit such a heave meaning on a single piece inspired me to create my own representation. Donnelly breaks all of the "rules" of painting and the results of his bravery are mesmerizing, from a melting face to giving human bodies animal heads, he is able to give a different meaning to art and he's craftsmanship can be called perfect, Donnelly made me want to make the rules in art and create my own.



Brian Donnelly
Wringingoil, 2015
turpentine, hand sanitizer, canvas
60.96 x 60.96 cm
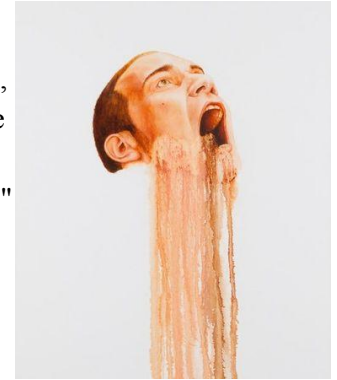
Brian Donnelly
'Untitled (Gasp)', 2012
oil, turpentine, hand sanitizer, canvas,
45.72 x 60.69 cm

Overall this piece was a success; I was able to create this piece which at the end it was able to portray the meaning properly. The uses of hues and techniques on these paintings were able to bring this piece together and make it a whole, even though this piece changed throughout the process the result was better than expected. Some challenges that I faced in the making of this piece were that I realized that I lack practice with acrylics, thus acrylics is out of my comfort zone and the painting process was difficult, this did not stop me from creating my goals and I was able to achieve a pleasing result. Another immense challenge on this piece was experimenting with different techniques in order to find the perfect way to create the melting effect, this was the most time consuming and tiresome element that I came across in the making of this piece, fortunately I was able to overcome this obstacle and make the best out of it. By creating this piece I was able to exhibit my emotions and thought about myself, my culture and my environment and I believe that using art to share with others is the best way to portray one's thoughts.

# Reviewing, and Reflecting– Presentation and Subject Specific Language

"La Llorona in the Creek" is a piece that exhibits the story of a woman who converts into La Llorona. This woman can be any woman who has ever experience solitude or sorrow, this is the story of every woman who has ever lived. Each of the colors represent a little bit of one's life, everything from yellow representing happiness to black representing sorrow, each feature of the piece is a chapter to the story.

The goal of this piece was to create a story of how a woman could potentially be or become La Llorona and based on the results of the piece I was able to meet this goal. I am pleased with the digital drawings, since this was my first attempt to digital drawings. If I were to do this piece again I would change the program that I created the drawings on, this would help me to experience different sources and choose the most reliable in order to create better drawings. I would also maybe use only one tool to create all of the drawings to mimic the technique that Monet would use to create his paintings. The results of this piece are close to my previous goals and this is very pleasing due to the fact that each of the drawing contains a different meaning which create part of the story from all of the drawings placed together, these drawings exhibit the meaning without overly emphasizing La Llorona, which was the overall goal.
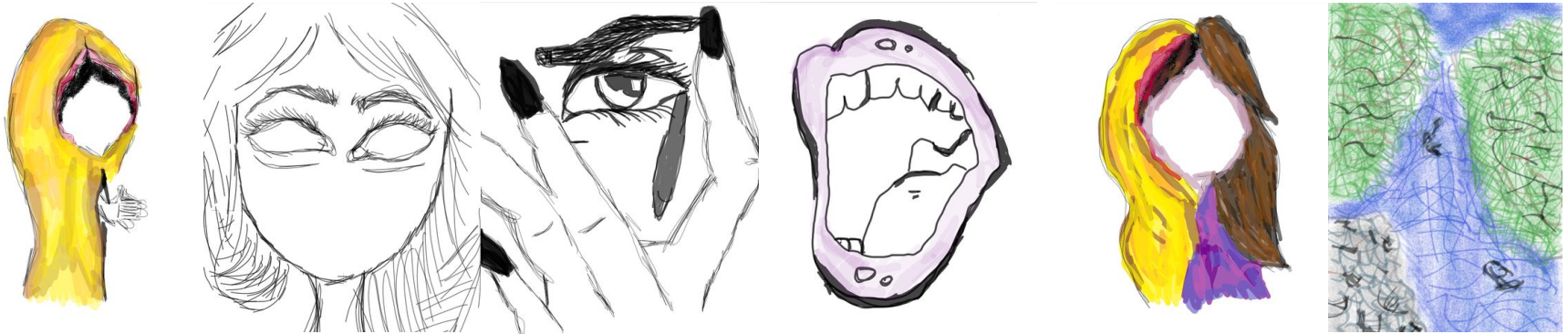
# Artistic Inspiration

Woman Hollering Creek is a novel by Sandra Cisneros. This was one of the pieces read on literature class and arguably it was one of my favorites. This was one of the most reliable and fascinating novels I had ever read for school, this novel made me questions and wonder many things, but most of all it inspired me. I was able to obtain inspiration from Cisneros to create a series on digital drawings to exhibit the reality of some stories. The stories where she compared a simple woman with the legend of La Llorona.

From the beginning I knew that Cisneros was going to be my main inspiration, because of her talent and the relationship between her stories and La Llorona. However, I still needed to find an artist to base my work on. I began to research artist who were experts on digital art, but none of these artists gave me the inspiration that I desired. I continued my research and found Monet, an artist who conveyed emotions and reality into a single piece. This got my attention and it inspired me to create this piece.
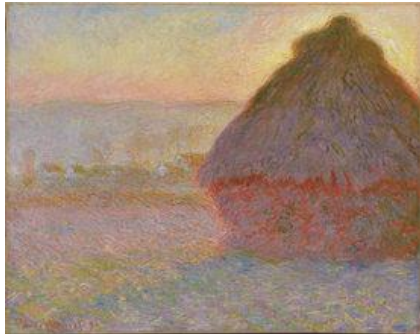


The artist that inspired me to create digital drawings was Claude Monet. Monet was a very talented impressionist artist who would paint simple landscapes with hues that would exhibit his emotions rather than the actual scenery hues. Monet inspired me to create a drawing where I would exhibit my mood and the scenery, by using elements of impressionism and realism.

Claude Monet
Haystack, Morning Snow Effect
1891
Oil paint
2′ 2″ x 3′ 0″
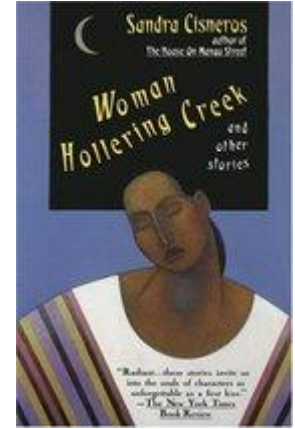
# Skills and Techniques-Process-Block Print

From my previous experiences and experimentation I was determined to create another block print. I began to research artists who would create block prints. I wanted to be inspired my someone who created art of human figures, that is when I came across Stephen Alcorn. Alcorn is an artist that creates block prints with many human features and faces and this caught my attention, from there I became inspired to do an art piece where I could exhibit the inside of humans with a metaphor and I did some more research and I came across "The Seven Deadly Sins". These sins are the sins that humans commit the most, this inspired me to create the inside of an individual without creating their organs. My main goal was to show the sins of a human, this lead to many ideas on how I could do this. I narrowed my options to three from where I sketched and chose the best one.
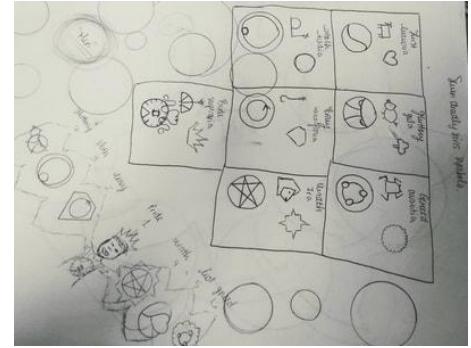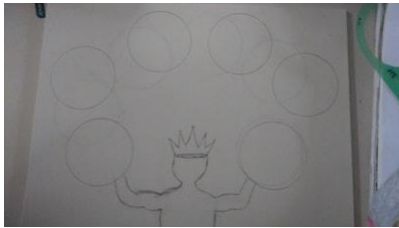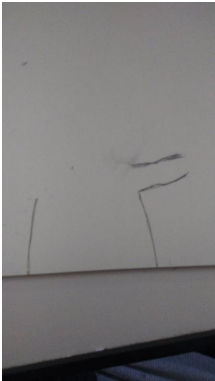






Once I had chosen the sketch that I wanted to follow I began to sketch I on the rubber. I began to sketch the man on the bottom, this was the most challenging part of this step, I had never drawn the human body and even though this was a small portion of the body the proportions were not entirely correct. Finally when I was done with the human I drew a crown on it and began to space out as evenly as I could the circles. These circles were all the same size and I created them by using a compass. I finished transferring the sketch into the surface when I drew all of the seven symbols on each circle.

# Skills and Techniques-Process-Block Print



Using the carving tool I began to carve the background, I did this by carving in horizontal lines and in long strokes, this created texture in the background that would eventually show up on the paper. After I finished all of the background I began to carve the symbols inside of the circles extremely carefully, without carving over the lines or too much into the center. Every symbol is different, therefore carving took a different time from each circle.



When all of the carving was done I began to prepare my work space to do the ink transfer. I placed two papers, one where I would put the block to transfer the ink into and the other one to place the inked paper. I placed some ink into a flat surface where I spread it out with a role, then once I had enough ink on the roll I rolled it over the block to adhere the ink into the uncarved places of the block, once all of this area was covered I carefully placed a white sheet of paper on top and another paper on top, then with circular motions I placed force on top so that the ink could easily transfer to the paper. I did this process a couple of times to get some experimentation and then actually create my piece.
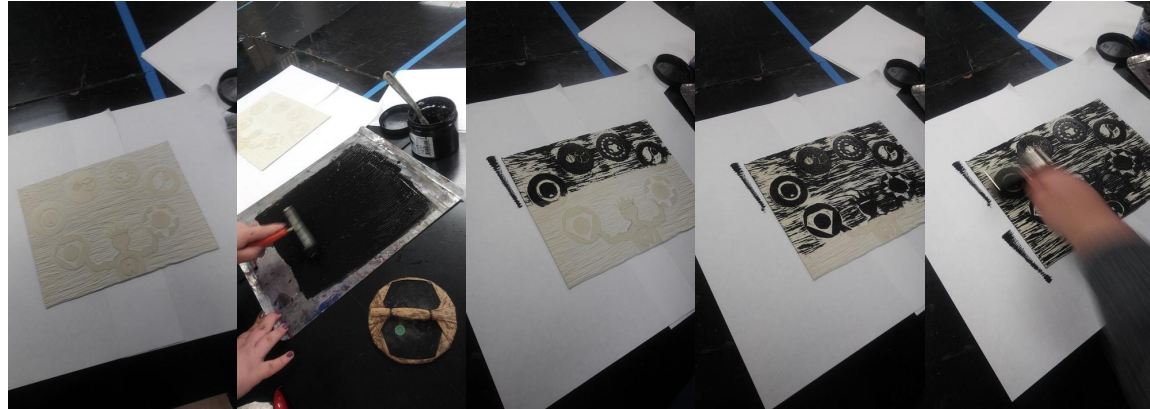
# Critical Investigation–Communication of Ideas–Artistic Inspiration

"Men" was created with much texture to show no matter how close or far away we are, our race or skin tone we are all sinners, how we at some point or another commit one of these seven sins and sometimes don't even realize it and keep on living with these sins through our whole lives.

"Men" was a success because I was able to exhibit the true identity and the inside of a human without realism. This was my main goal and overall it was achieved. Some failure that accompany "Men" is that perhaps it is not so easily viewed that these symbols on the circles are The Seven Deadly Sins, therefore it won't be so easily relatable to the viewer. One thing that I would change about this piece is that maybe I could somehow label each sin, making the meaning more relevant. Overall I am pleased with this piece, due to its craftsmanship and exhibition of the meaning. I believe that this piece shows a clear way that a human might have all seven sins and that was my goal.

Stephen Alcorn was my inspiration to create this piece. I came across this artist when I was looking for artists who would incur[orate human features into the work. The two works that inspired "Men" were "Henry David Thoreau" and "William Faulkner", these block prints inspired me because of the usage of line and texture, here Alcorn was able to create human featured without defying details. I wanted to incorporate lines of the background and the geometry into the main point.
"Men" and these two artwork relate to one another in the way that texture and lines are use to create the print. Alcorn used smooth lines to create shadows and contrast, as well as these elements are used in "Men", I mimicked his technique to create texture in the background while creating contrast between the circles. I used a variety of length and thickness of lines to vary the portions of where the print would show shadows and highlights.



Henry David Thoreau
1982
Relief-block print (B & W)
13 x 10 in. image, 23 x 17-1/2 in. paper



William Faulkner
1985
Relief-block print (B&W)
12 x 10 in. image, 23 x 17-1/2 in. paper

# Skills and Techniques-Process-Mixed Media

In order to complete this project I had to research my environment and some artist to find some inspiration and the materials that I was going to use. I realized that there are many places were people paper is used incorrectly and then it is thrown away. In order to bring my ideas to life I have to make some sketches beforehand in order to make an image and show others my ideas before creating the final piece. I have already decided that I was going to use shredded paper, therefore I started to sketch different positions on which I was going to place the paper in order to have an intricate, yet simple piece to exhibit the meaning the most properly.

The first three sketches are planning sketches, I made these sketches in order to  find out they way that the shredded paper would look the best.
In the first sketch I wanted to exhibit the way I wanted the paper to pose as in order to clearly state the meaning, in this sketch the paper was going to be in one mountain which was going to be made out of the shredded paper to represent the whole amount of shredded paper without clearly making the levels visible.In the second sketch I decided to represent the meaning in a different way, the paper still has the form of little mountains, but they are all small and connected to represent how humans are all tied to this idea but are not able to see the difference on the levels.The third sketch shows different sizes of mountains that are not connected, this is done in order to represent the amount of levels and how segregated they are in society.
With the inspiration of all the three previous sketches I came up with a final sketch. The final sketch included something from the previous sketches and it connected to the meaning perfectly. The mountains were going to be all different sizes, they were going to be somewhat connected and they were going to be placed in a circular way, then in the middle of all the mountains there is going to be a tiny pile of paper to represent the middle class and the mountains of shredded paper will represent the difference between the levels and what influence one has on another, I also thought about including one levels that is decaying because it is falling apart and becoming a lower level.
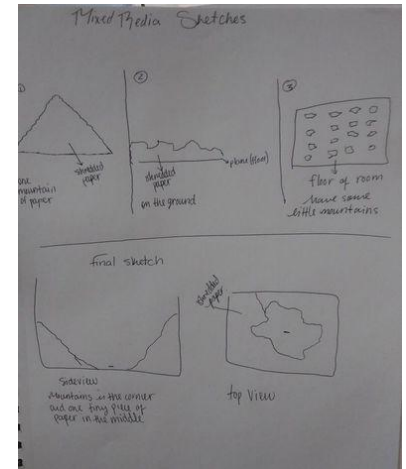
# Skills and Techniques-Process-Mixed Media

I walked around and asked different people for paper which they did not want any more and I told them that the paper could be used and the form that they had the paper in did not matter. The paper that I collected was mostly flat sheets of white paper, there were some sticky notes and some crumbled up paper, I used all of this paper. When I had enough paper I decided to start shredding the paper and it turned out to be time consuming because the shredding machine could only take so much paper at a time and it had to be carefully and patiently shredded in order to not overheat the machine. After I had a reasonable amount of paper I stored it in black plastic bags and saved it until I had all of the paper shredded.

Once I was done shredding the paper I took all of the bags and found a place that was neat and eligible to create and take pictures in. I found a scenery that was casual and clean enough to have emphasis on the piece. I gathered the plastic bags and compressed them tightly so that the paper inside would stick together without using any other component. I carefully took each bag of paper and opened it and carefully dragged it across the floor, using a tight motion I was able to release the paper out of the bag in the form that I anticipated. As I did this with all of the bags I placed them on a circle and I moved some of them around to make a chair like figure, after I had all of them I decided to put one of them in the middle which would represent the cushion of where one would sit at on a chair.

# Communication of Ideas and Intentions –Reflection

Paper has many different forms. Shredded paper is one form of paper that is often used to get rid of information, hide information or just to make more space for more paper. I want to use this type of paper to represent the way that the different levels in our society affect individuals and use the shredded paper in order to get rid of that feeling, hide this feeling from others in order to keep this cycle going for the advantage of the ones on the higher level. I research what paper is made out of and it turns out that paper is a material made out of different elements, wood, rags and certain glasses, therefore I realized that paper is much more than just dead trees, paper is a mix of different elements that our world contains, just like there are different influences on each level that keep specific individuals with power to be closed minded and forget the injustices happening around them. The tiny pieces of paper that are created when shredding paper represent all of the people within these levels and how much they have to rely on each other in order to keep their level strong  and alive, these individuals have to create cornerstones to maintain their level in place, because none of these levels wish to become a lower level because they know that once you become a lower level it is extremely difficult to raise back up. There are different levels of education, manners, lives and people. These levels revolve around us and we are the ones who keep these levels alive. Shredded paper helps us realize all of the garbage and excessive waste of life that we spend on these levels, either being close minded or just waiting for someone to do something. Within these levels there is power, a power that controls people's minds and leads them to do unimaginable things; the power of money. Money is the reason why there is segregation and why there are a some many different ranges of wars. Money is the main reason why there are different levels of people, the higher the level, the richest the people and more money means more power. The levels have always been respected and cherished due to the massive amount of influence that money has on individuals. Depending on the money and level that an individual might have determines the level at which that individual sits in society, like the 1%, which sits at the top of the mountain. All of these levels are guarded and revolve around one another, as they mostly revolve around the middle class. The one percent of our word sits on top of everyone, that is why I composed a chair with the different mountains that represent the different socioeconomic classes and on this chair that one percent sits on the chair.

"2017" clearly exhibits the metaphor that I wanted to exhibit from the beginning, this is a success on my journey because I was able to combine my ideas and the ideas from my artist inspiration and create an ultimate piece that would bring everything together and the final result was an amazing piece in which the viewer could look at and wonder for a while. I think that my work forces the viewer to consider and reflect about their actions and the world, so that when they read my statement they are able to realize how impactful this sculpture is.  Some things that were not as successful for this piece were the scenery and the lack of photography experience. I was not able to find a cleaner place to display my work, therefore I had to use what I had, which was not the best place to display "2017". Another issue with this piece was my lack of photography experience, I have not been able to have any type of photography practice prior to this, therefore I was not able to clearly capture the sculpture on a single picture. Overall I am leased with the way that I was able to bring my ideas to life and take this opportunity to express my opinions and feelings towards our society, "2017" clearly portrays the meaning that I intended to portray.

# Artistic Inspiration

Felix Gonzalez-Torres has focused throughout his career on political and social issues which has made the meaning of his work overlap with his private and public life. As a gay artist he was able to bring attention to his community through his artwork, this forces the viewer to reflects on the meaning. Gonzalez-Torres was able to bring issues to the public and make them understand the significance of these issues and how much his community was affected by them.

Felix Gonzalez-Torres b. 1957, Guáimaro, Cuba; d. 1996, Miami
"Untitled" (Public Opinion)
1991
Black rod licorice candies individually wrapped in cellophane, endless supply, ideal weight: 700 lbs (317.5 kg)



Felix Gonzalez-Torres
American, born Cuba,
1957–1996
"Untitled" (Portrait of Ross in L.A.), 1991
Candies individually wrapped in multicolor cellophane, endless supply
Dimensions vary with installation; ideal weight 175 lbs.



The structure of this structure varies from a pile on a corner to a carpet like sculpture. This piece is rather grotesque and it portrays a heavy meaning. This piece is made out of 700-pound spill of black-rod licorice pieces. This sculpture represents the way that the public has decayed and how their point of view has a hostile hegemonic stance. Considering that this artwork was made in a conservative political environment, the sculpture also portrays the amount of censorship in America that neglects the opinion of the public.

This sculpture was made to represent Ross, Gonzalez-Torres's last partner, which was unfortunately lost due to the AIDS epidemic. This piece weights approximately 150 pounds which is close to what Ross used to weight when he was healthy and happy. Gonzalez-Torres wanted to remember the joy and excitement that Ross had and he decided to show it in candy for which everyone could manipulate because Ross would always bring joy to everyone and the best way to do this was to use candy, which is an object that most people enjoy.

# Critical Investigation-Presentation and Subject Specific Language

A room with a view is essential for nature, "Closed and Exposed" is able to create a room within nature that allows individuals to feel exposed and uncomfortable by trying to find their way to the lake. Using Judd as inspiration I was able to create a sculpture where people were able to interact and at the same time the sculpture was able to interact with the environment and enhance the view of the lakefront. When people go to the beach the scenery of the beach is able to bring people joy because one does not go to the beach everyday, therefore there are certain emotions that the beach gives to people thus they have a good time. I want to be able to bring people the opposite emotions when they go to the beach, I want people to experience awkwardness and confusion because it is the total opposite of what an individual usually feels at the beach. The installation that I created affects the scenery because it adds emphasis on the view of the water; I decided to make the area of the water greater than the sand because the water is the reason why most people enjoy the beach. Milwaukee has many buildings, but the fact that it also has a beach makes the city more provocative and enchanting for individuals, the beach of Milwaukee has rock, sand and water but because of the size of the lake the water seems infinite, therefore I decided to emphasize this.

The structure that I created relates to the environment and the mind of an individual because it is complex and calm at the same time. My structure is centered around a certain area of the beach, just as someone's mind could be, however there are many objects an distractions that affects one's daily life. I created my structure to be the distraction of the focus of an individual, because when they walk through the sculpture they will feel challenged, but at the same time their mind will be focused on solving the puzzle of the sculpture. Overall the sculpture is both a distraction and a focus point for individuals, due to the minimal objects that create a complex structure. Overall this room with a view was a success. I was able to create an sculpture for the lake from that could be able to enhance both the lake and the sand; my second purpose was to make people uncomfortable and confused when walking through this piece. I was able to create a sculpture that meat all of the goals that I had in mind. Some things that were not successful were that I had to recreate the whole project because I did not have enough experience cutting this type of material and it did not turned out to be as good as I expected. On my second try I did make improvements, but it did not portray the meaning as well as it could. And finally the last try I was able to create the final piece on which I believe that the meaning was clearly presentable and the craftsmanship was good.

# Experimentation

The process of experimentation that I took was to create the sketches of real materials. I was able to create five different sketches where each one of them was able to exhibit the main idea. There were some sketches that were not as fluent or understandable as others, therefore I decided to create them all and experiment on the feeling that one would get when walking into this room with a view.

In the sketch to the right, there is a series of elements that accentuate the beauty of the lake, but also have a beauty on its own. I created this sketch to show how there are obstacles in a path and if an individual were to walk through here they would find themselves guessing at the center piece.

I also incorporated an element within an element on the center piece. I developed the idea of confusion and wonder, I thought that by having two circles in the center piece the people passing by would wonder and question themselves about the centerpiece.

I did not choose this piece because the center piece does not enhance the lake and it brings destruction to the whole room. The center piece is a piece on its own and the viewers are not able to interact with this piece, therefore I did not choose it as my final piece.

On my second sketch I decided that I still wanted to incorporate the walls with a bend, just like a circle, but because of the experimentation from the last sketch I did not want to create a circle.

I decided to create half open circles where people could walk through, interact and admire the walls of this rather strange position of walls.

The half circle walls enhance the waves of the lake and how these waves bring peace and calm to an individual.

I did like how close the walls were from the water, but I did not choose this sketch as my final piece, I felt that this piece took away emphasis from the lake and this does not enhance the lake at all,
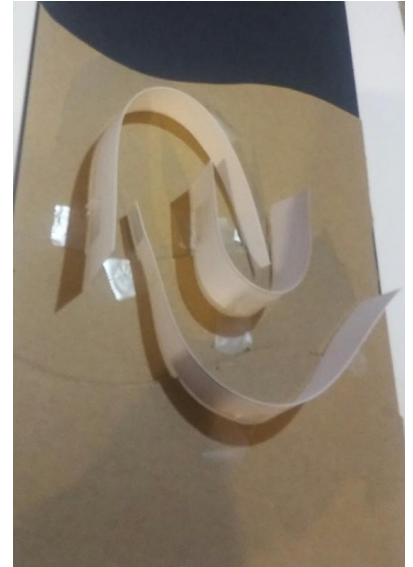
# Artistic Inspiration



Donald Judd, Untitled, 1977, Munster, Germany. Cement

Donald Judd often works with minimalism in order to create the emphasis on his art, this is how he involves the viewer with his artwork. Judd creates his artwork around the given space and the medium for his piece, since he mostly focuses on minimalism he is able to involve the space given and make it part of the artwork. He did not want his artwork to convey illusion or falsity, instead he decided to make his own rules and create artwork that would portray a sense of strength and definition.

I decided to use Judd as inspiration because his work is clear and it goes straight to the point, thus I want my work to be somewhat connected to his work and convey a sense of strength and confusion right away when the viewer steps into the room with a view.

Judd created this Untitled piece in Germany which he does not specify the meaning, because Judd believes that a public sculpture is for everyone to view differently, as the name states its untitled for this reason. Judd decided to create this piece as a circle because it was a clear space and he was able to add a monument to the space of this scene and add more character to the landscape.

By adding this sculpture Judd was able to incorporate minimalism art into something as complex as nature. By exploring the scenery first Judd was able to create a piece that would apply a space within a space; this strengthen the meaning and view of the sculpture due to the contrast that it has with the scenery.