



The Groundhog Show

June 9-11, 2023

Artist Bios & Statements

(alphabetical by artists's first name)

Abby Cipar they/them
@abbyayy



Bolo no. 1

Fabric, fiber fill, foam insulation board, plywood, latex and acrylic paint, yarn, sewing notions, embroidery thread
\$500

Artist Bio

Abby Cipar is a multidisciplinary artist, arts advocate, and aspiring curator with roots in Akron, OH. They are a 2021 graduate of The University of Akron, holding a BFA in Painting & Drawing. During their studies, they received notable honors, such as the 2019 Folk Charitable Foundation Venice Biennale Travel Award and the President's Holiday Art Award. In the spring of 2022, Cipar wrapped up their second solo exhibition, "Sweet to One Another" at Praxis Fiber Workshop (Cleveland, OH). More recently, their work has been included in the 2022 CAN Triennial at The Sculpture Center (Cleveland, OH), "Finding a Memory" at Piano Craft Gallery (Boston, MA), "CAA Scholarship Exhibition" at Detroit Artists' Market (Detroit, MI), and "The Infinite Mix" at YARDS Projects (Cleveland, OH).

Cipar currently serves as a Community Member on the Artist Resource Committee for Akron's Summit Artspace and is curating a group exhibition, "Collective Remedies," for KINK Contemporary (Cleveland, OH), which will open in June of 2023. Slated for graduation in 2024, Cipar is pursuing an MFA in Fiber from Cranbrook Academy of Art and is the 2023 recipient of the Stewart Thomson Fellowship for Haystack Mountain School of Crafts.



Living this way'll drive you up a wall

Fabric, fiber fill, foam insulation board, plywood, latex and acrylic paint, yarn, sewing notions, embroidery thread
\$350

Artist Statement:

This work considers laborious acts of making, such as sewing, binding, pinning, tucking, stretching, and squeezing, as sites for communicating intense, highly personal experiences of gender dysphoria. Material choices within their work speak to reciprocity and found family, while simultaneously opening dialogues surrounding the heaviness of nostalgia and how we dictate what parts of history are worth keeping.

Abby Rambler she/her
@abbyrambler

Artist Bio

I am currently a printmaker and painter at the University of Akron. Some of my recent work is interested in mediating reality through bright colors and strange modes of seeing people and events around me. I love old comics, disco, and taking photos!

Fixed Shadow

Watercolor and ink on paper
\$80

Artist Statement:

This piece began with a set of quick paintings focused on two characters. I enjoyed combining initially unrelated characters and backgrounds and finding the relationships.



**God bless the piano
player at the mid
century gay bar**

Oil on canvas
NFS

Artist Statement:

This year, I became interested in gay bars that existed in German between World War I and II. This painting started as a colored recreation of a photo inside one of these bars and stretched into a more expressionist exploration of space between people and movements.

Adrienne Jurick she/her

@arj_ceramics

Artist Statement:

Much of my work explores emotions, especially fear, and how I see, hear, and perceive information. In a way, I think some of my fears are unusual – caterpillars, for example, are something that I have been afraid of since childhood. My sculptures are a way for me to gauge others' reactions to see if these fears are shared or just plain ridiculous. This curiosity, both in my fears and in the surreal images I imagine is best expressed through the ceramic medium.

I get inspiration from my experiences, and how my anxiety has warped my perception of the world around me. I have a very active imagination, and that combined with my anxiety exacerbates my perception of reality. Situations that seem small to anyone else are seen as a larger problem or concern in my mind. Caterpillars, for example, are often seen as harmless because of how small they are, but to me, they are capable of becoming a bigger problem.

My goal throughout my work is to convey my emotions and fears in a way that invites the viewer to engage in my work. I like to add some surreal humor to my work as a way to help me cope with my fears - associating something positive or humorous with my fears helps me find something light in a time of darkness. Adding these whimsical elements helps to create a connection between the viewer, the work, and me.



My Buddy, Fear

Ceramic, Mixed Media
NFS



Alexa Indriolo She/her

@goth_orchid_

Artist Bio

Alexa Indriolo is a contemporary abstract artist and designer working in Cleveland. Her work is a reflection of trauma that she believes humanity shares. It explores the yearn to control, as well as loss of control. She aims to spread awareness of sexual assault through her depictions of intense emotion, thoughts and words.

Alexa has shown her work in Dayton, OH and Cleveland and is starting to explore the gallery world more in 2023.

FU

Acrylic, Spray paint

\$250

Artist Statement:

....self explanatory.....

Alexia Avdelas she/her

[@alexiaavdelas.art](https://www.instagram.com/alexiaavdelas.art)

Artist Bio

Alexia Avdelas (b. 2001, Canton, Ohio) graduated summa cum laude from The University of Akron's Mary Schiller Myers School of Art in Akron with a BFA in Painting and Drawing, with a Minor in Illustration.

Avdelas was awarded the Dashiell Tools & Materials grant, where she used the funds to create large-scale woodcut paintings. She also received the 2022 Folk Charitable Foundation Venice Biennale International Travel and Study of Art Scholarship. In 2022, Avdelas also was a University of Akron ambassador, working with the Curated Storefront Artist Residency with international sculptor Chakaia Booker at Akron Public School's I Promise school.

Artist Statement:

My multifaceted paintings explore body autonomy and tension. Contradiction and dissonance are key elements in my work, where I develop an unbalanced composition through juxtaposing dense layering with atmospheric space. I look at the sex and symbolism of the vagina and it's capabilities when creating work, as well as create a space where the absurd, humor, and personal meet and interact.

While I am making, I decide and try to understand what will become of this specific piece. I consider the notion of birthing oneself, where the self is a consciously constructed self and emerges through life experiences, culture and conscious choice. My images explore how dysfunction and function both show the limits and potential of the self and the body.



a mild secret

Charcoal, Found Materials, Gouache
and Tape on Paper
\$100



Ali Gemmer she/her

[@aligemmerart](https://www.instagram.com/aligemmerart)
[Facebook: Ali Gemmer Art](https://www.facebook.com/AliGemmerArt)

Artist Bio

Ali Gemmer is an emerging artist located in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. As a self-taught artist, she has honed her skills in experimentation and exploration. Her preferred mediums include a combination of charcoal and chalk pastel on black paper, sometimes branching beyond that and incorporating mixed media elements.

Gemmer's artistic journey is a continuous exploration of the raw and often unsettling aspects of the human condition. As an emerging artist, she submits aspects of her own experience while pushing the boundaries of drawing and realism.

While Gemmer approaches her work with intent, she welcomes viewers to perceive it in any way they wish. She hopes to create a space for reflection and contemplation, allowing people to confront their own fears and anxieties while fostering a sense of empathy and understanding towards others.

“With Times Comes Healing”

Acrylic Paint and Charcoal on Cardboard
\$325

Amanda Bacon she/her/hers
@amandabaconstudios
FB: Amanda Bacon Studios

Artist Bio

I am a graduate of the University of Akron, where I have degrees in studio art, ceramics, and professional photography. I am a multimedia artist, but I work primarily in fiber arts and ceramics. The majority of my work consists of functional hand-thrown stoneware and porcelain pieces.

I am a visual arts instructor and teach ceramics, specifically throwing on the wheel, at the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center. I'm married to my best friend (we met in a life drawing class!) and I'm a mom to 2 teens and a tween, who keep me very busy. I have a pottery studio at home where I work part-time. I also teach horseback riding lessons and enjoy hiking and backpacking. A consistent theme of horses and nature is typically seen in my bodies of work.



Mushroom Mugs

Stoneware
\$75 large
\$65 small

Artist Statement:

I make functional ceramics, inspired by my day-to-day life consisting of my equestrian companions, my travels, and my time spent in nature. These mushroom pieces are reminiscent of the fly agaric mushroom that I often see along the trail in the Seneca Creek Backcountry, where I go backpacking each fall. I find the striking contrast of the red and white fascinating.

Andrea Schepis she/her
@Andreaschepisart

Artist Bio

Andrea Schepis was an art teacher in several Stow/Munroe Falls schools for 36 years. She received her BFA from Kent State University and has done post graduate work at Kent State University, Cleveland Institute of Art, Ashland University and two Earth Expeditions through Miami University. These Expeditions took her to Belize and Peru to study Forest and Marine Ecology, Entomology and Ornithology. After these life changing experiences Andrea began to source materials for her work from discarded materials, including floppy discs, various packaging and silica gel beads, to keep them from disposal and possible environmental issues. She finds inspiration for her recent subject matter in species experiencing population decline or extinction, in hopes of impacting those that view her work to be moved to consider their impact on our environment. When not in her studio, Andrea works as adjunct faculty in Kent State University's Art Education Department, as a gallery assistant for Akron Soul Train Gallery, as a ski instructor for Boston Mills Ski Resort, teaching art classes for Stow Parks and Recreation and as part of Hudson Montessori Conservatory of Music. She loves to ski, garden, hike and travel.



Sedum Bee

Acrylic on canvas with silica gel beads
\$1,000

Artist Statement:

In this work I chose to paint a bee, collecting pollen, on a Sedum flower. I used bags of silica gel beads that I added paint to, in order to ensure that they will not be disposed of and add to growing environmental issues due to plastics, as the pollen. I chose a bee considering their enormous decline in population causing issues which hugely impact agriculture worldwide. I hope to prompt those that view my work, to be moved to consider their own impact on our environment.

Angelo Maneage He/Him

Twitter: @angeelio

Instagram: @lordangeelioagain

Artist Bio

Angelo Maneage is groundbreaking. He is the author of two chapbooks of poetry, including one called BALL PIT BUCKET FILLED WITH BRIDGE WATER (Ghost City Press). He lives in Cleveland, OH next to a Texas Roadhouse. Visit him at www.texasroadhouse.com or www.angelomaneagethewebsite.com



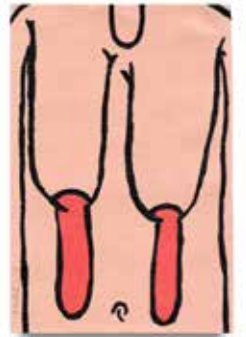
LEADER

acrylic, Ticonderoga pencil, canvas, wooden frame
\$350

LOOKING DOWN

AT AWESOME TITS

acrylic, Ticonderoga pencil, canvas
\$50



Annie Cyrus They/them

@ann.yelhsa

Artist Bio

Hello, my name is Annie and I'm an artist from Northeastern, Ohio. I'm currently a full time student attending Kent State University for a bachelor's of fine arts degree with a concentration in Jewelry, Metals and Enameling.



Artist Statement:

The process of stone lithography is incredibly laborious and often painstaking. The process reminds me of the labor I had to grow up with being a child of an adopted mother. Although my mother was born in Việt Nam, she was adopted out as an infant and her adopted parents failed to educate her about her culture. This weight has continued to her children and is something I carry every day, something I grind down to create a clean slate, something that I redraw on in hopes to cultivate such culture in my own right.

Lòng ghen tị (Jealousy)

Stone lithograph on stonehenge
\$65



Have you taken your meds yet?

.....no

Powdercoated copper, polymer clay, acrylic paint
NFS

Artist Statement:

I'm a huge advocate for impulse art. I love the process of having an intrusive thought and then bringing it to life as art. This piece is a fully functioning pill dispenser, modeled after a clonidine pill, I take for my anxiety.

Ashley Kouri she/her
@ashleykouri

Artist Bio

Ashley Kouri is an Ohio-based fine arts photographer. She works with the wet plate collodion process (tintypes) as well as traditional darkroom methods. She loves traveling and photographing people and places along the way. She travels with her portable darkroom doing tintype popups around the state.



Curse of Eve

Tintype
NFS

Artist Statement:

My research begins with how women were portrayed throughout history. After growing up in the Catholic Church, I eventually came to realize how we have been manipulated. Women, beginning with the example of Eve, were taught to be submissive to their male counterparts. Now, I have been working on rewriting the narrative as well as depicting the patriarchal standards that are imbedded in institutions such as the Church. My work is pointing out these issues as well as creating a new religion based on the strength of women and those who do not identify as men.

Follow Her

Tintype
NFS

Artist Statement:

Following the loss of my father, I didn't know how to handle my grief with anything other than photography. I was lost for so long and still have far to go. I have been able to think a lot about mortality and how humans survive on this earth knowing that we are all fated to die. In my experience, we find even the smallest moments filled with beauty. We share these memories with those we care about and connect more than we ever could if faced with immortality. We have more to lose so we cherish it. At a funeral, we all share our favorite memories, laughing and crying whilst thinking of the moments we did not realize were so important until they were. My work is about death and dying but also living after such a huge loss. I'm grieving and this is my grief.



Purity Myth

Tintype
\$400

Artist Statement:

My research begins with how women were portrayed throughout history. After growing up in the Catholic Church, I eventually came to realize how we have been manipulated. Women, beginning with the example of Eve, were taught to be submissive to their male counterparts. Now, I have been working on rewriting the narrative as well as depicting the patriarchal standards that are imbedded in institutions such as the Church. My work is pointing out these issues as well as creating a new religion based on the strength of women and those who do not identify as men.



Bee Reid they/them
[@coreydrawmetals](#)

Artist Bio

Bee Reid (also known as Corey Drew) is a jewelry artist and metalsmith from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and is currently based in Kent, Ohio. They began their metalsmithing career at Edinboro University and received their MFA in Jewelry/ Metals/ Enameling from Kent State University in May 2023. Before attending grad school, Reid co-founded and operated Queerly Collective, a space to center and uplift queer artists. They have exhibited work at New York City Jewelry Week and the Ohio Craft Museum, Columbus, OH, and their work has been featured in Metalsmith magazine. Their work will be featured in an upcoming exhibition at the National Ornamental Metal Museum, Memphis, TN.

Artist Statement:

I have mourned many people, most of whom are still alive. Forming and maintaining relationships has always been difficult for me. Relationships end in sudden and unexpected ways, and I carry an immense amount of grief with me. These experiences have led me to create a collection of mourning veils in which I explore my non-linear grieving process of interpersonal relationships. These pieces are heavily influenced by my identity as a fat, neurodivergent, genderqueer dyke. I find it impossible to separate my mourning process from my identities which often leave me alienated and on the outside of my communities. These wearable objects allow me to physically express the emotions I experience internally but struggle to appropriately display. The weight and/ or placement of the pieces make them impossible to ignore, much like the aching pangs of sorrow. Wear A Thousand Teardrops Can't Be Wrong when overwhelmed and consumed by deep mourning.



A Thousand Teardrops Can't Be Wrong

Leather, freshwater pearls, sterling silver,
silk, steel, ribbon, dye

NFS

Brandon Dean he/him
[@hellobrandondean](#)

Artist Bio

Brandon Dean (b.1985) is a Cleveland, OH based, multi-disciplinary artist raised in Montgomery, AL. He holds an MFA in Painting from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, and a BFA in Painting from Auburn University. His exhibition record most recently includes Vox Populi in Philadelphia, PA, Arlington Arts Center in Arlington, VA, Zhou B Art Center in Chicago, IL, and Stamp Gallery in College Park, MD. Southern Exposure, his self-published series of books and zines, is in library collections across the United States.

Artist Statement:

My work explores race and the friction of representation through use of the white male as an "exotic" subject, exposing the inherent strangeness of desire and the canonical drive. In various mediums, I work to articulate a vision of identity that exposes the uncomfortable influences at play in the shaping of our perception of the world.



Boys with a Basket of Fruit

Oil on Canvas
\$2,300



Invisible Hand

Oil on Canvas
\$1000

Brian Mark Bailey

@brianmarkfineart

Artist Bio

Brian Mark Bailey is an Afro-Latino American visual artist born in 1990, raised in Cleveland, Ohio. His work explores the breakdown of society's ethics, existential angst and the brevity and beauty of human life. Figurative folk expressionism best describes the combination of figure, line and color that construct layered mixed media works made mostly with acrylic paint, oil sticks, soft and oil pastels. The works draw influence from his inner-city upbringing as a bi-racial kid, the beauty of black and hispanic culture and the Holy Bible. He admires artists such as Picasso, Matisse, Basquiat, Joseph O' Sickey, Richard Andres, Jack Kabangu, Lamonté French, Bob Thompson, Estaban Whiteside, George Condo, Charly Palmer, Richard Haines, Jacob Lawrence & Karel Appel.



Joyride with daughter

Acrylic, oil stick
\$1,000

Artist Statement:

Im a black single father. Both me and my kids had to go through healing through divorce process. This piece depicts my daughter in the car. The car many days for us was a place of tranquility and peace as we joyrode and listen to music. The piece captures the healing taking place during that time.

Brittany Gorelick she/they

@burtnaay

Artist Bio

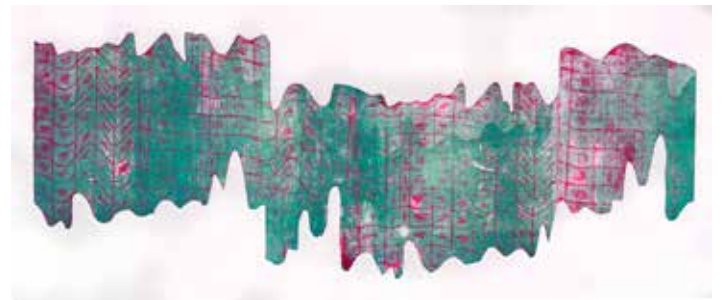
Brittany Gorelick was raised between Brooklyn, NY and Jacksonville, FL. They received their MFA from Kent State University in Print Media and Photography and their BFA from the University of North Florida in Drawing Painting and Printmaking. Through traditional printmaking, alternative papermaking and photographic processes, they use abstraction to explore the unseen symptoms of mental health. They have shown work across Florida, Texas and Ohio, and have been included in group shows in both Germany and Nicaragua.

Artist Statement:

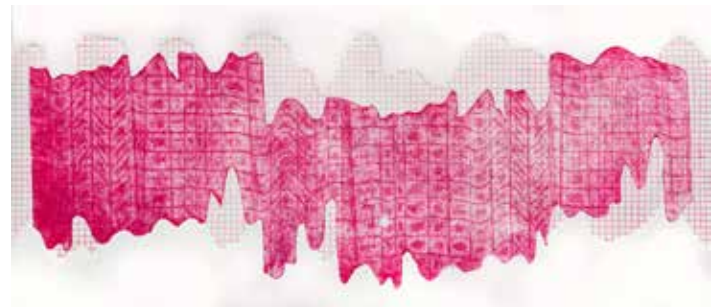
A small gestural mark, a symbol for an unseen symptom of neurodivergence, is placed within a grid, a system of control. That grid is then distorted and confined by an abstracted echocardiogram of a panic attack. It then directly interacts with a printed rigid grid, placing the two in opposition.



Systems I
Collagraph & Monotype
NFS



Systems II
Collagraph
NFS



Systems III
Collagraph & Monotype
NFS
(Commissions available upon request \$160 each unframed)

Celeste Stauber she/her

@celeste_stauber

Artist Bio

Celeste Stauber (she/her) is a 2018 Graduate from Baldwin Wallace University with a B.A. in Studio Art. She currently is part of the collective Artist at the Twist (formerly 6th floor ArtCraft artists) located Twist Drill Building in Cleveland. Celeste spent 2021 co-curating at E11even2 Gallery located in 78th Street Studios. In March 2022, she started working as the Gallery & Store Manager at the Morgan Paper Conservatory. When she is not painting or drawing, you can find Celeste wandering the Cleveland Metroparks or tending to her plant jungle.



A Big Ole Leaf

marker on toned tan paper,
handmade paper, linocut print

\$125

Artist Statement:

Saving my scraps from previous drawings and prints leads to little studies such as this one. I create pieces to fit in vintage frames I find at thrift stores.



untitled

marker on toned paper, linocut,
mounted on wood panel and sealed
\$300

Artist Statement:

I draw to explore human and organic forms, capturing subtle shadows and patches of light. White, rectangular paper is constricting and mundane. I am better able to draw when I have a texture and a wash of color to react to. By exploring different mediums, I am better able to play with the shape of paper and negative space. Quite often, I will let my drawings sit, whether it is days, months, or even years, before deciding to make the first cut of what will become a new piece that ties together my past and present self.

Chardé Davis she/her
[@chardeisloading](#)



Journey
Aluminum
NFS



**The Space Between
Study #1 of Life and
Death**

Photography
\$500

Artist Statement:

Many people believe, as do I, that there is space, not just in time, but in between time. The space between the moments of death or dying and what lies on the other side are most intriguing to me, both physically and spiritually. Exploring the beauty of flowers and the shift between the elements that make them beautiful in life and death, has offered an insight into what beauty living things can possess even when they are no longer. This once green Chrysanthemum, exudes a textural beauty that honors the movement and life it once had, fixed in time, and emphasizes its new color and shape, transformed in the in between.

Chevy they/them
[@chevydanger](#)

Artist Bio

Chevy is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher. They are primarily interested in exploring the variety of connections between human beings and the systems we work in and against, identity and nature. They are interested in almost everything but often center an exploration of gender, sexuality, movement, and the senses notably, sound and the impact of music. At the moment, they work in the mediums of photography and ink. Originally an arts administrator, and always a researcher, Chevy is curious and vigilant about exposing and removing the barriers that prevent artists and arts organizations from fulfilling their unique visions and creative passions.



Christina Turner she/her
[@happywonderfool](#)

Artist Bio

Christina Turner is an artist and designer based in Akron. She's interested in the intersection of visual design, information organization, and community building. You can view her work at www.happywonderfool.com

Soft Torus I

Acrylic, charcoal, and gouache on canvas
\$75

Artist Statement:

Soft Torus 1 & 2 are the culmination of a series of sketches and sculptural maquettes I was studying in 2019 and 2020. I've always had an affinity for circles, but often explored that theme as a collection of flat circles in aggregate, more interested in circle packing and group behavior. Here, I "zoom in" and imagine a sort of portrait of these individual entities in 3 dimensions.

Clay Hagy he/they
[@Ch._arts](#)

Artist Statement:

I am combining the beautiful with the misunderstood. Using the portrait as something that is beautiful and familiar to the viewer, the portraiture, and mixing it with the misunderstood and unfamiliar, the insect, it creates a balance to change the perspective of the misunderstood.



Dynastinae

Enamel, copper, steel wire, silver wire
\$500



Actias

Enamel, copper, steel wire, silver wire
NFS

Cooper Liedtke

He/Him
@cratergal2

Artist Bio

I am a 19 year old artist currently in my first year at Rhode Island School of Design. I'm majoring in painting starting next year.

Divine Beings

Oil on Oil paper
\$1,002

Artist Statement:

Divine beings is an abstract painting. For me it is a mockery of the idea of a god-like or perfect being. There is a faint symmetry imposed in my work but I wanted to emphasize how deeply imperfect it is at it's core.



Cynthia Petry

@cpetry_collage

Artist Bio

Cynthia C. Petry is director of the Coburn Gallery at Ashland University as well as a professional instructor. She received her bachelor's degree in studio art from Morehead State University and a Master of Fine Arts with an emphasis in printmaking from Ohio University. Cynthia's work has centered around exploring mixed media collage works as well as integrating nontraditional materials. Regionally, her artwork has been exhibited at The Mansfield Art Center, Dairy Barn Arts Center, The Erie Art Museum, Bryn Du Mansion, Studio 214, 78th Street Studios, East Tennessee State University Reece Museum, Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Schnormeier Gallery, the Gallery at Lakeland CC, BayARTS and Ohio State at Mansfield Pearl Conard Gallery. Nationally, she has exhibited her artworks in numerous juried exhibitions. Cynthia also serves as the director of the Art Saturdays program offering educational and creative experience for children in the greater Ashland community.



Lost Bird

found photos, knives and bees wax
\$250

Artist Statement:

The Unknown Series mixed media analog collages align with loss of knowledge, flora and birding. Much like finding that elusive bird or plant, the identity or identification of a person may be just one part of that history. I am a chaser - ephemera detective work may not always be able to find a definitive conclusion or return that long lost photograph to a family member, yet the unknown photograph will live in perpetuity. Can identity be invented? Or reassigned? Will I find the mega or grail? These are questions that my artwork seeks to explore through visual manifestations.

DaveRuinsArt (Dave Sherrill) He/Him

@DaveRuinsArt

Artist Bio

Hello, I'm DaveRuinsArt, I take thrifted paintings and I add pop culture things to them, Godzilla and Star Wars and dinosaurs. I do black velvet paintings and original work also.



Bitchin Life Day

Acrylic on a thrifted painting

\$900

Artist Statement:

During the pandemic I realized social media was spreading panic and anxiety in my community and I wanted to create joyful content that created happiness, even if it was temporary. I started to paint what I loved which is usually nerdy movies and weird monsters. My art went viral and I found a much larger audience than I expected. I continued to learn classic art skills from the internet and make more and more elaborate pieces. This piece represents a challenge to myself to make the most elaborate altered art piece I could create. This is a maxing out of my imagination, vision and construction. My goal is to learn classic painting skills and be respected without becoming a serious artist.

David Kruk

He/They
@david.kruk

Artist Bio

David Kruk (b. 1992) was born in Mountain View, California before moving to Denver, Colorado at the age of 5. He studied ceramics at CSU Fort Collins and has since completed a post-bacc and graduate program at Kent State. David is currently an adjunct teacher at KSU and works for the Akron-based non-profit Curated Storefront.

Artist Statement:

This body of work considers Mark Fisher's concept of "lost futures" through the aesthetics of vaporwave and Funko Pops. I am interested in how these anachronistic objects utilize nostalgia through the remixing of cultural references to engage with consumer capitalism. This continual referencing of the past exemplifies contemporary society's cultural stagnation and the erosion of collective imagination towards a radically transformative future.

These small ceramic sculptures are a way to push these anachronisms a bit further, remixing the remix. I wonder about the ideological trajectory from ritualistic idol to mass-produced fandom figurine, the significance of the handmade object within and ever-growing industrialized society, and how the concept of a collectible operates within the spheres of the household to the museum.



Scouter

Ceramic, glaze, underglaze, gold luster, ceramic decals, steel, OSB, gold leaf, wood filler, epoxy, newspaper advertisements
\$1,000



Totem For Lost Futures

Ceramic, glaze, underglaze, gold luster, ceramic decal, acrylic paint
\$1,000



You Too Can Become A Hero Funko POP!

Ceramic, glaze, underglaze, acrylic paint, synthetic clay, OSB, acrylic sheet, dichroic film
NFS

Davon Brantley

He/Him
@Davon.Brantley

Artist Bio

Brantley implements self-portraiture and psychology within his work and is inspired by the dissociative behaviors that happen because of trauma and the repetition involved with these experiences. "I guide the audience through my own narratives involving experiences of colorism, racial stereotyping, and meditations on death, life, sexuality and masculinity," says the artist. "Through the use of my own image, the viewer is presented with images of someone who is not themselves, who may or may not share the same experiences as them and someone who is actively disrupting expectations based on identity."

Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Davon Brantley is a 2018 graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art in Drawing. Exhibitions include We Not Linkin' at BayARTS, Bay Village, OH; Seen/UnSeen at The Artists Archives and Sculpture Center, Cleveland, OH; and Body Building : The Art of the Human Figure, Indianapolis Art Center, IN. Brantley also curated two major group shows in 2021: New Beginnings at Waterloo Arts, and Bridging the Gaps, with MOCHA at the Morgan Conservatory, Cleveland, OH and Where We Overlap in 2022 with MOCHA at the Museum of Contemporary Art.



My Love

Charcoal on long fiber paper
\$800

Artist Statement:

A delicate portrait done on long fibered paper of my wife. Just like paper relationships can be strong but take a certain delicate touch when navigating longevity. My wife is a super important person in my life and I truly believe that by us being delicate with each other in friendship and romantically that we have set ourselves up for a very long and amazing relationship.



Twins Expletive

Oil on Paper
\$17,000

Artist Statement:

The mania twins scream in shock to something occurring off-scene. The viewer is allowed to insert their own reaction inside of the speech bubble presented in the frame. Extreme expressions and a color palette of vibrant yellows and blues introduce us to Dayven and Duhvaughn. Two reoccurring characters in my body of work that represent pensive sadness and manic happiness. We distract ourselves from the intense situations by submerging ourselves in high emotional states in order to block ourselves from acknowledging the situation as a whole.



The Price of a Dollar Bill

Oil on found wood and birch

\$300

Diana Rice She/Her
[@Dianarice.art](#)

Artist Bio

Rice is a multimedia painter and installation artist. She graduated in the Spring of 2023 with a B.F.A. from The University of Akron with a concentration in Painting and Drawing and a minor in illustration. During her studies, she received notable honors such as the 2022 Folk Charitable Foundation Venice Biennale Travel Award. Her senior exhibition was held at KINK Contemporary April through May of 2023..

Artist Statement:

My installations and paintings are physical records of the mind and the things we hold onto. These are memories from childhood, from yesterday, and they are mostly the ones in the periphery of your life. They are the ones made going to the grocery store. They are the dollar you find on the ground or someone's handwritten shopping list. They're the old woman who compliments you or the child who smiles at you. These moments are fleeting but prolific, and they are expressed in the work through painterly, expressive brushstrokes and assemblage-like forms. An expression of things we collect and compile around ourselves. Whether conscious of it or not, these moments make up the framework of our lives.

Eden Bradford They/She
[@eden.art_](#)

Artist Bio

Eden Bradford (They/She) studied at The University of Akron. They graduated in the Spring of 2023. They studied as a Bachelor of Arts: Studio Art with minors in metalsmithing and pre-law. They received multiple scholarships for their work from Myers School of Art's generous donors. Their work has been included in the Ohio State Fair's Fine Art Exhibition, the GAR Foundation Art Show, and many other shows throughout Northeast Ohio. They worked with the Emily Davis Gallery in the curation of the 2023 Collection Show. They used their curatorial skills through the creation of the Bullshit Show, which has run for two years now.

Their work in the past few years has been focused on using metals and developing their metalsmithing skills. Previously, Eden's primary focus has been photography. They experimented with black and white photography throughout the darkroom process. In the past, they have drawn inspiration for their work from experiences with mental health issues and their queer identity. A lot of their metal work is based on a clean and simple aesthetic. They have also incorporated found objects into their jewelry designs.



Mmmmm, Let Me Take A Bite

Cast Sterling Silver

NFS

Artist Statement:

Every time I see a large ball of silver, I have an unexplainable urge to bite it. I feel a need to sink my teeth into it and leave the impressions of my teeth in it. As this is not possible, I created a piece that fits in between my teeth. It is meant to be worn whenever one is feeling the urge to eat silver.

Elise helms She/her
[@elise.helms](#)

Artist Bio

Elise was born and raised in Akron and attends the university of Akron studying painting and drawing and art education

Motion picture
Oil on panel
\$300



Elly Arvizu he/him
[@_pickledhead_](#)

Artist Bio

Elly Arvizu was born in Charlottesville Virginia and now lives in Ohio to pursue his art education at The Cleveland Institute of Art for his BFA in Ceramics. He now resides in the Cleveland area until proven otherwise. While living in Ohio Elly has been pursuing the goal of becoming an artist. Through the depiction of romanticism and the physical form of his body, Elly creates ceramic figural sculptures of religious mythos to represent the queer body.



Gabriels Woa's

Stoneware, majolica, and kanthol
\$500

Artist Statement:

Gabriels woas is about the pain of being gods messenger



Give and Take

Stoneware, majolica, and kanthol
\$500

Artist Statement:

Give and Take is the reorientation of what was given and taken from the garden of Eden with a trans body as Adam.

Emily Bartolone she/her
[@emilyb.art.olone](mailto:emilyb.art.olone)

Artist Bio

Bartolone obtained her BFA from the University of Dayton and her MFA from Kent State University. She is currently working and living in northeastern Ohio where she is the Curator of the Malone Art Gallery at Malone University, Canton, OH. Her work has been seen in publications such as Art Hole Magazine, London, ENG, and Okay Cool Magazine, New York, NY. Within her career, she has shown at Project Gallery V, New York City, NY, the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH, The Contemporary, Dayton, OH, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh, PA, the Oceanside Museum of Art, San Diego, CA, and the St. Louis Artists' Guild, St. Louis, MO, among others, including an upcoming solo exhibition at Studio M within the Massillon Museum, Massillon, OH, in 2024.

Artist Statement:

Stemming from my infatuation with the formal elements of painting, my work pairs down simple, anthropomorphized shapes in an effort to explore paint and color theory while simultaneously creating tension and humor through color, edges, and texture. In utilizing color theory to create color relationships that result in sensory optical experiences upon viewing, I can trick my viewer into seeing colors as other than themselves, adding a layer of humor to the production of the works. The playful, human qualities of painting are incorporated into the work through the use of amorphous shapes animated within the picture plane. The introduction of curved shapes allows for a push back against the bravado of minimalism and geometric abstraction I have experienced as a female artist in those fields, adding feelings of tension that mimic my own in relation to those ideas.

Further informed by ideas of the mundane, the awkward, and the jovial that surround everyday life, the complexity of human relationships are mimicked by the shapes interacting on each painting's surface. In acknowledging that life is not always cordial, moments of tension are placed within the surfaces in the form of an abrupt mark, a disparate color, or a shift in scale. This tool is also used to create depth, creating space within the paintings more easily translatable to the viewer as a livable space, reinforcing the idea that the shapes they are seeing could be human ones.



Rolling Away (Uh-Oh)
Acrylic on Panel
\$200



Walking, Rocks in my Shoes
Acrylic on Panel
\$200



What's Inside
Acrylic on Panel
\$200

Emily Speelman she/her

Artist Statement:

Every moment holds a glimmer of magic. When you pause and are present it will find you. I seek to capture the mood of the moment, the magic in the season, in my works.



Kenwood I

Oil on Canvas Board

NFS



Funk Farm

Oil on Canvas Board

NFS

Emily Zepp She/Her

@emilyzepp

Artist Bio

Emily Zepp is a graphic designer and painter from North Canton, Ohio with a love of both digital and traditional media. She's a University of Akron alumni with a BFA in Graphic Design and a minor in Painting.

Divide

Acrylic paint on canvas

\$200

Artist Statement:

The translation of images and ideas defines our contemporary lives. This painting depicts the connections between random and designed systems. Programs like ASCII art and QR generators both produce recognizable images and messages, but create the composition randomly based on a process and rules. The work made by hand and brush bridges the connection between print and digital spaces.

The human eye may be able to infer how a derivative piece of art or a deconstructed QR code should properly be remade, but a computer is entirely literal. A camera can't make the jump necessary to access a message hidden within the jumbled pieces. Everyone with a smartphone and an internet connection can access the linked information through the code.



Erin Keaton she/her/they/them

@erin_keaton

Artist Bio

Erin Keaton, b. 1983 Millbury, OH, is an interdisciplinary painter and drawer. She uses the concepts of somatic inquiry to process the way in which memory, be it trauma, delight, or fear, are held in the body. A belief in the lingering energy of things manifests in her work. Everything is done with intention, even as she allows herself to be guided by intuition.



Dixie

Gouache, silver and gold leaf, charcoal on bristol

NFS

Artist Statement:

Dixie is part of a series of relics - people, places, and memory - from the artist's entire life. Dixie was the artist's paternal grandmother.

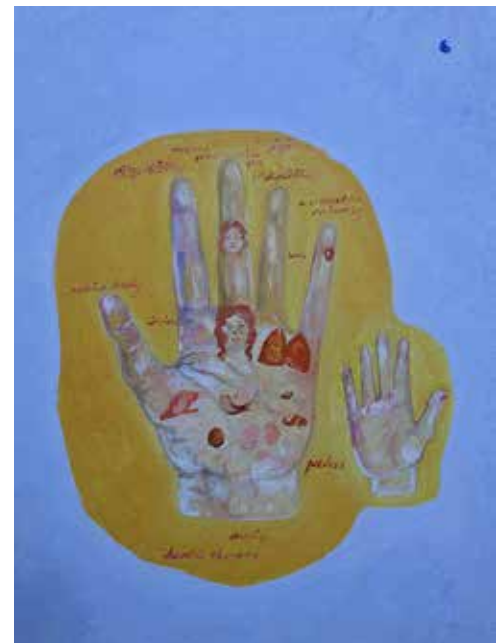


Connie

Gouache, ink on bristol
NFS

Artist Statement:

Connie is part of a series of relics - people, places, and memory - from the artist's entire life. Connie was the artist's maternal grandmother.



Pressure

Oil on wood panel
\$400

Artist Statement:

Pressure is part of a series of relics - people, places, and memory - from the artist's entire life. Pressure depicts acupressure points in the artist's hand and what comes from its energy release.

Eva Polzer she/they

@eva.polzer

Artist Bio

I am in a committed relationship with clay, the beauty of discomfort, and the creation of animal; breathing figures meant to be projected onto, fawned over, and feared for. Their bodies speak, primal and honest, a non-verbal language observed fluently. I use them as a vehicle to unpack, to attempt to understand both intra and interpersonal dis/connection and dis/regulation, and to communicate my concerns with my own internal and external world.



self observation

porcelain
NFS



the domestication of shame

ceramic, human hair, cat bell, rubber-band,
acrylic ink
NFS



what is it in between?

ceramic, glaze
NFS

Fred Pierre

He/Him
[@informationwillbefree](#)

Artist Bio

Fred Pierre creates colorful, abstract art using digital compositing techniques and open source software. Fred incorporates photographs and drawings of nature as well as geometric forms that create motion and depth in the image. Fred has served on the boards of the Art/Not Terminal gallery in Seattle and Kent's Standing Rock Cultural Arts.

Verticals

Fabric Print Lightbox
\$99

Artist Statement:

Fred Pierre loves making digital art. Verticals is about wealth inequality and sustainability. Fred volunteers with Standing Rock Cultural Arts in Kent to produce Kent's International Film Festival, the World Music series and the annual Environmental Art Show.

Verticals is a fabric print stretched over a handmade lightbox..



Grant Ederer

[@grant.ederer](#)

Artist Bio

Grant Ederer is a ceramicist living and working in Akron, Ohio. His background in industrial design informs the functional, sculptural, and tactile characteristics of his craft. He uses a wide variety of mold making and slip casting techniques to develop forms and surfaces. His use of color is inspired by the gradients found in plants, animal, and whole landscapes.

Lamentations on the Final Six Years (But Sir, I would Download a Car)

Ceramic, stone, copper wire, twine, nylon, epoxy
5 easy payments of \$69.69 (\$348.45)

Artist Statement:

I think it looks like a cat toy. Well I see it as an assemblage of discard. Wasn't that piece supposed to be a charcuterie board? What does it do though, and is it ergonomic? Absurdism, recognizability, and readymade ness. Sometimes elements come together and are the sum of their parts, while other times those elements are sufficiently divorced from their source that arithmetic does not apply. Sometimes, things that are expensive are worse. Anything is a cat toy if a cat has toyed with it.



Gwen Waight

@GwenWaight

Artist Bio

I have resided and worked in Ohio for 20 years. I received my degree from the University of Iowa in sculpture and worked in my dad's ceramic studio for ten years. It was in my father's studio that I learned my appreciation of three-dimensional space. It was also my dad's non-sentimental nature of tossing/ burning all things deemed unnecessary clutter that rooted my deep need to covet and collect almost everything. I studied ceramics in college and love, really, all things clay, thus also why I have an awesome collection of cups, mugs and unomi. I however never felt like clay was the medium by which I wanted to express myself. With found objects and assemblage I truly discovered my voice. The objects I lean towards always seem to have lived and have a story to tell....some objects are complete memories for me and just as a writer will string words together to create a work I assemble objects to create my art. I love the fact that like words, smells and colors; objects hold meaning and memories. The wonderful thing is that sometimes the viewer has similar or completely different ones than my own. I feel that found object assemblage is just like painting in 3D or perhaps, collaging. For me, it is a better process because I don't start with a blank canvas and I get to move my objects around without having to "paint" over something I don't like or have to wait for paint to dry. Often in my studio I will have three or four different pieces going at the same time. I start sometimes with an idea first and search for the objects that are going to express that idea or I start with an object or several objects that shout so loudly that they need be assembled.



dirty knees, look at these

Found Object Assemblage

\$600

Artist Statement:

Kids don't even know what they're saying sometimes, but it sticks with you just the same. I was often chanted this rhyme in school; Chinese, Japanese, dirty knees, look at these. With facial gestures and fitty twists to go along with it. I have taken it and made it mine.



float

Found Object Assemblage

\$400

Artist Statement:

I made this piece after watching a movie about women believed to be witches that were teathered to a rope to keep them from flying or floating away. Ironically the way I came upon the materials used for this piece was that they floated ashore to me.

Hannah Ayers she/her
@byhannahayers

Artist Bio

Hannah Ayers is a Cleveland, Ohio transplant from Cassopolis, Michigan. She received her Masters of Fine Arts in Painting from Miami University and a BFA in Studio Art from the College of Wooster. She is a practicing artist working primarily in oil painting and has exhibited artwork locally and nationally.

Artist Statement:

I am interested in how memory serves as a catalog of our experiences, and how the memories we accumulate stay with us over time. Our memories become pieces of a large collection. Sometimes the parts relate to each other, and sometimes it feels like a challenge to reconcile discordant parts. This drew me to look closely at the collections other people had worked on assembling, and wonder about what I might learn from the ways items are stored, arranged, and organized.



Conglomerate
Oil on paper
NFS



How to Catalog a Butterfly
Oil on cradled wood panel
\$300

Hannah Johnson

@hannahjohnson.ceramics

Artist Bio

Hannah Ramona Johnson is an emerging ceramic artist from Hamilton, Ontario. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Ceramics from Sheridan College in 2022, and is currently an MFA candidate at Kent State University with an anticipated graduation date of 2024. She has exhibited work across Ontario and internationally in the USA.

Tickle

Glazed ceramic, paint, flocking

\$350

Artist Statement:

My work explores themes of artificiality, sweetness, domesticity, and frivolity to explore and celebrate notions of beauty. Forms are directly inspired by domestic objects such as teapots and area rugs, celebratory decorations like balloons and bows, and various desserts and candies. By pulling from multiple inspirations, the forms appear familiar but unidentifiable as specific objects, while also appearing as soft and curving bodily forms. The candy-like surfaces of the object-inspired and faintly bodily forms humorously frame the work as simultaneously off-putting and beautiful, challenging and celebrating ideas of beauty.



Henry Tulip He/Him

@henry_tulip

Artist Bio

I am a Studio Art major at Kent State University who primarily works in painting and printmaking. I am originally from New Philadelphia, Ohio. My work is influenced by my own experience dealing with my mental health.

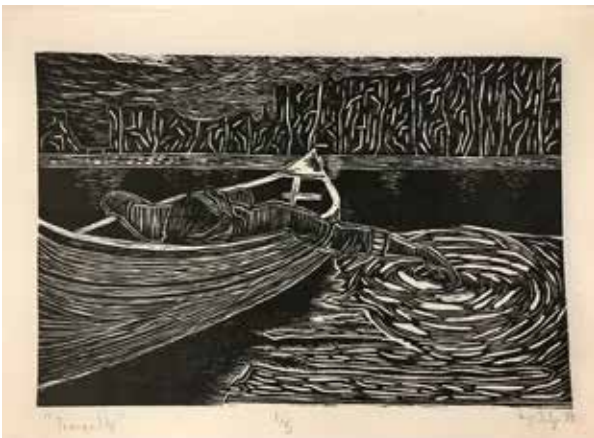
Artist Statement:

I primarily focus on the human condition in relation to my own struggles with my mental health. The relationship between human and environment, and how they interact with one another is a topic I tend to delve into when creating.



Sock Puppet (Lorain)

Acrylic
\$500



Tranquility

Woodcut
\$200

Hope Hickman She/Her/They

@Hopehickman_smallpond

hopehickmanstudios@gmail.com

Artist Bio

Hope Hickman is a multidisciplinary artist. She began her career in the mountains of Western North Carolina. There, she was trained in ceramics through a series of informal mentorships. Recently, Hope has returned to Northeast Ohio, where she was born, to begin a new chapter in her arts endeavors. Hope's work typically bounces between three disciplines: jewelry, sculpture and painting. Her most current work centers around contemporary life. She is particularly interested in how relationship building, both with oneself and others has changed in a post-internet world.



My Little Clay Sprite

Ceramic

\$100

Small

Artist Statement:

In the world of gaming, there exist 2-D and 3-D systems. In a 2-D system objects appear flattened and are mapped onto planar landscapes. These objects are called "sprites", with x/y coordinates that dictate their location. My little clay sprite is a dancer. Feel free to change her coordinates.



Decadent Jewels

Ceramic

\$125

Artist Statement:

This pair of earrings is from my most recent collections of jewelry titled "A Myriad of Small Things," which uses objects of familiarity to highlight the difference between perceived value and intrinsic value.

The collection recycles old jewelry motifs which have oscillated in and out of fashion. The pieces are ironically made of dirt and toilet paper (ceramic with paper pulp for lightness) and then coated in real gold. In this way, the jewelry is part of a larger discussion examining value, desirability, and capitalism.

Additionally, the Astro-turf is a commentary about suburban lawn culture.

Ian

@evade.art

Artist Bio

I am an Akron area artist that has always used creativity as an outlet to my experiences in life and in dream. My style tends to expand through my growth and I can never seem to feel complete without creating.

Artist Statement:

I feel like any artistic examination of space or things associated with it must interplay technology and humanity. Why dream of space? Am I trying to explore or escape? The obligations and restraints of productive citizenship have been examined in poetry and artist for years. I guess this may just be my take on some of it. also, I feel like girls for cry of separation and separation requires risk, pain or both. This is why most people stop growing by the time they reach adult independence or even partial independence. My urge to escape the gravitational pool of earth may indicate and need to continue on the journey of independence, or at least the wonder of what might lie ahead.



MoonShooter

Acrylic

Contact Artist

Jennifer Masley She/her

@jennifermasleyclay

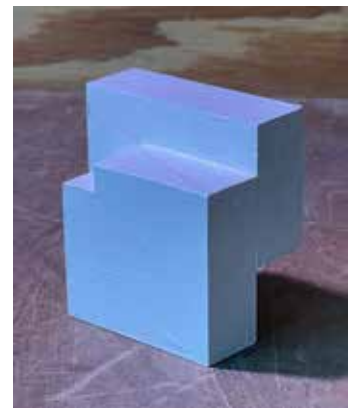
Artist Bio

Jennifer Masley (b. 1994, Temple, TX) is an artist, sculptor, curator and writer based in Akron, OH. She holds a BFA from Texas State University and has received her MFA from Kent State University. She has shown her work nationally with Roy G Biv Gallery, the Artist Archive of the Western Reserve, San Angelo Museum of Fine Art, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Sculpture X, and the CAN Triennial. She has received several scholarships to participate in workshops held at the Anderson Ranch Art Center in Snowmass, CO. She has curated exhibitions within the northeast Ohio region and NCECA.

Artist Statement:

These small sculptures began as material studies made from scrap materials. Within my studio practice these act as a source of play and break up any pretense/over thinking. They also act as mobile sculptures that anyone can own or interact with.

I want to propose a series of several small sculptures based on the pieces within this submission. They will be in various colors and textures. I can be flexible with quality or the space I can take up. I'd love to have a wall or table set up with 20+ of these around the same scale as the ones in the application.



Little 1-17

Wood, spackle, paint

\$20 each

Jessica Glowczewski She/her
[@p3nnydr34dful](#)

Artist Bio

Water Scientist, biologist, geologist, bone artist.

Celeste

Natural materials, fish tank, acrylic
\$250

Artist Statement:
She's a rescue.



Jihad C. Dennis

Artist Bio

Jihad Dennis is an artist, designer, photographer, writer, and videographer based in Akron, OH. A graduate of Pratt Institute, Jihad has produced work for SLAM Magazine, Milk Studios, and Redscout Agency. He started Jihad Paints in 2019 as a painting studio but quickly evolved to include web shows, music collaborations, and animation.

His artwork combines mixed media and digital tools to create memorable energized images of celebrities, friends, and family. He works to refine his craft, and views fellow creatives as friends, encouraging their continued creative endeavors.



untitled close up #2

Acrylic
\$700

Artist Statement:

These pieces show an evolution in my style with a constant focus on portraiture. Using abstract paint application I seek to create figures that are recognizable but obscured. The close ups of these figures create an intimacy with the viewer that I hope to build upon in the future.

Jordan Bell

She/her

Artist Bio

Hello I'm Jordan Bell, a printmaker with a focus in Screenprint. I have been dabbling more into mixed media works. I work with color relations and the vibrancies that can come across. I also play with transparency to enhance density and show the various mark-making.

Artist Statement:

I do mixed media works with a background of Screenprint. I focus on the transparency and vibrancy to not have the colors be overpowered. I use various mark-making to reference anxiety. I create a balance between steadiness and chaos, just enough to have breathing room.



Headache

Handmade paper, magazine cutouts, screenprint cutouts, markers, watercolor, ink, oil pastel, and yarn
\$300



Agoraphobia Brooch

Copper, screenprint embedded in resin, color pencil
\$100

Julian Curet he/him
@thecroppedlife

Artist Bio

My interest in photography began while I was a graduate assistant in the Myers School of Art at The University of Akron. At first, picking up a camera was a function of utility; however, that quickly morphed into a desire to learn more about the medium, the tools, and the art. I am fascinated with photography's multi-faceted existence as a business and an art form; as a way to capture truths, shape reality, empower the marginalized, tell stories, and convey memory. I wish I had found it earlier in life, but, nevertheless, the camera has become a welcome and dear friend that sees into my self as I look through it.



Free
Photography
\$500

Artist Statement:
free.
free seat, free ride.
is it freeing
to be, to go
outside is free.
have a seat.
be. go, free.



This Kind of Thing Doesn't Happen Here
Photography
\$500

Artist Statement:
This juxtaposition of nature and humankind is an unexpected and grotesque encroachment on our daily existence in our human-made landscapes. And immediately, one might think the vulture is the aggressor here. Yet, our deceased opossum friend is a victim of our presence. The vulture, in its natural state, helps to disappear the vulgarities that might haunt our sensibilities. However, for a brief moment, its skittish retreat (also from my human presence) is frozen into a reminder that our actions have consequences that must be cleaned up. What else have we wrought upon ourselves while placing the blame on others? What or who else do we ignore until it or they show up on our streets?

Juliana Castro She/Her
@unlikecrayon



Migrant Carriage
Wire, oil-based clay, Apoxie sculpt, acrylic paint, and oil and chalk pastels
\$300

Artist Statement:
This work is an appropriation of the royal carriage and is composed of the bodies of immigrants. In this work, I express how immigrants in society are used by the upper class to garner more power and wealth, while the immigrants are trapped in this fate for the lack of choice. Being an immigrant myself, I wanted to convey the feelings of discrimination while being powerless to change the system, urging for social change to take place throughout the injustices.

Justin Michael Will

he/him
[@JustinMichaelWill](#)

Artist Bio

Justin Michael Will is a visual artist living in University Heights, Ohio. With a variety of mediums, he uses illustration and typography as an extended language, blending color, line, and light to offer joy and whimsy.

Though he has studied at the Columbus College of Art and Design, Kent State University, and Cuyahoga County Community College, he's learned most through daily practice and sharing with peers. For almost 15 years he managed a retail art supply store in Cleveland, meeting countless artists and art lovers, engaging in conversation and a shared passion for creativity.

Justin has curated and installed shows at Heights Arts and FORUM artspace, and illustrates and designs cans, bottles, and marketing materials for Noble Beast Brewing. His work can be seen all over Cleveland, from murals to flyers, on gallery walls and gas station community boards.



Double Birds

Acrylic on Canvas
\$500

Artist Statement:

Two birds hangin' out because they're friends.



Crying Dancer

Acrylic on Canvas
\$500

Artist Statement:

The dancer cries from joy, moving along the waves in the sea of their motion. Also the dancer sweats A LOT.



Pot Head

Acrylic on Canvas
\$500

Artist Statement:

This person is a botanist.

Kalia Horner she/her

@kaliaartss

Artist Bio

Kalia Horner is a Hmong-American artist based in Northeast Ohio who pulls inspiration from her multicultural background, creating large-scale figurative paintings exploring ideas from cultural heritage as well as sexual and gender identity. Her passion for the expression of identity is an integral part of her life, while she has been exploring this content throughout her undergrad experience at the University of Akron. She plans to work towards an MFA after completing her Bachelors of Fine Arts with a concentration in Painting and Drawing. Using a variety of materials in her work, she culminates ambiguous imagery within her paintings and ties together her personal expression and relationships to identity, culture and sexuality.

Artist Statement:

My work looks to capture imagery that deals with life and sexuality, and how it exists within the Hmong and Western culture. I found it important to represent myself in my paintings, alternating between wearing traditional clothing and revealing nudity, relating myself to the relevance the culture has brought to my life. Mirroring these two versions of identity: traditional and vulnerable, represent both how one is expected to act and present oneself as an ideal woman in the Hmong culture, as well as existing separately from this community. Existing between both halves of the self is important to finding a mutual and unifying relationship between one's complete identity. Inclusion of different patterning, recreation of Hmong money paper, and additional symbolism, become a major contributor to relating the figure to the origin of culture, as well as finding parallels to ideas of western tradition. The patterning included alludes to different Hmong symbols used within textile works and embroidery. These traditional symbols can be interpreted similarly to familiar western symbols as well; symbols such as peace, unity, the heart, growth, etc. The representation of tattoos reflects the acceptance of this aesthetic within American culture, but opposes many Eastern cultures, including the Hmong community. Other symbols that appear within the work include things such as animals and items that may have some sort of dual interpretation within Western culture as well. The symbol of money paper appears only within the Hmong culture, but could equate to ideas such as physical and or spiritual wealth.



Untitled 2

Mixed media on canvas

\$350

Katarina Zuder

@katarina.zuder

Artist Statement:

I am interested in time philosophy and emotion caught in film stills. I expand on that interest in these works, while also letting mysticism inform my own mythology somewhat based in randomness.

And Nothing Without (She's The Moon)

Acrylic gouache, watercolor, pen, and marker
NFS

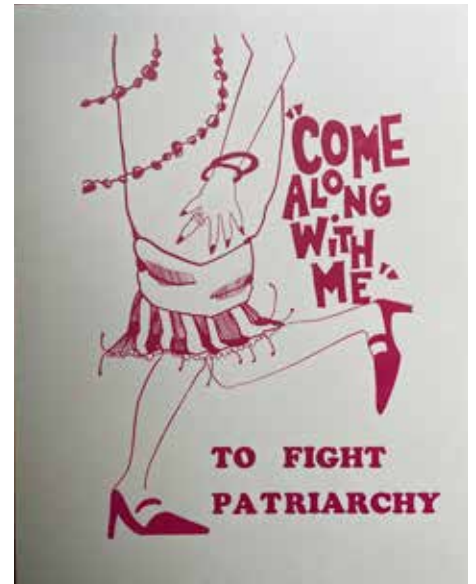


Katherine Ramsey she/her

@peelingceiling

Artist Bio

Katherine Ramsey is a non-formally educated printmaker and photographer, discovering her creativity in a new chapter of life. She has a passion for a good angle, the antiquity of wood type and solving the Tetris-like puzzle of a good lockup. Katherine prints out of Zygote Press in Cleveland, Ohio where she is also the letterpress intern.



Flap This

Letterpress
\$40

Artist Statement:

This was made in response to the attack on women's rights following the overturning of Roe vs. Wade in 2022.



Katherine Strobel she/they
@Legdotegg

Artist Bio

Katherine Strobel is an Akron watercolor artist who plays with the surface of her paintings before establishing the image. She emphasizes the role of objects and narrative as a feature of memory.

Artist Statement:

In my work I focus on the sensation of textures this translates into taking something figurative and translating a body or form into something more akin to a landscape. Watercolor is a material that offers a space made of veils and opacity. There is a quality to watercolor that reflects verbal storytelling and what is emphasized or hidden, so I tend to paint lived experiences and intentionally add or leave out features of the landscape or characters this study is more representational than my usual work, but it follows the same methodology as my more abstract works.

A study of Mickey

Watercolor
\$65



By her Pawed Hands

Watercolor
\$65



Downtown Akron: RESEARCH

Watercolor
\$65

Kelly Nicola Chiovitti she/her
Instagram @kellynicolachiovitti
Facebook.com/ArtsyFineArtStudio
tiktok @artsyfineartstudio

Artist Bio

While many artist will fit a frame to their work, I fit my work to the frame. All of my drawings are created with the picture frame in mind making a truly unique piece. I work with a local frame shop who would normally throw old frames in the trash, by giving them a second chance at life. This makes all frames, including mats and glass, repurposed materials when possible to support a more sustainable and eco-friendly approach to art. I live as eco-friendly as I can and that includes how I create my work.

Deranged Botany

Dry Media - Ink
\$700

Artist Statement:

A world full of bio matter, humans, animals, plants, can we all become insane?



Kit Palencar he/him
@palenkit

Artist Bio

Kit Palencar has been painting and drawing since he was just a wee child. Claiming to be born with a brush in his hand, Palencar's artistic parents were the catalyst in his professional creative pursuits. Currently serving as the Exhibitions Manager of the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center, Kit teaches at numerous colleges and institutions such as Ashland University, the Cuyahoga Valley Art Center, and the Canton Museum of Art.

The Tall Hat

Acrylic on Board
\$1,300

Artist Statement:

This Ranger stops along his travels to have a classic western showdown. The Tall Hat Outlaw is a notorious gambler and gunfighter who has many notches on his pistol to prove his ferocity.



Laicee Blackwell They/Them

Artist Statement:

My artworks are a queer exploration and imagined history of me and for myself, created with hope and desire to commune with others seeking connection. Until my early twenties, I was isolated from, and not allowed to connect with, queer community or history. By utilizing queer visual language as a foundation to construct these pieces, I explore a disjointed placement fueled by a deep desire to belong while always feeling on the fringe of society and queer communities. I draw on queer cultural tropes and historical aesthetic lore interwoven with my own personal experiences navigating popularized ideas of what the queer experience is or is expected to be. This practice of making has allowed opportunities for me to heal through the use of humor and the deconstruction of old, closeted woes.

Karli's Big Day Out

Cotton, chenille, various other hideously beautiful yarns, high fructose corn syrup, 80s playlist on repeat

\$1,500

(with understanding that it needs to be shown elsewhere)



Lauren Charlene Havel she/her

@colorofherhair

Artist Bio

My name is Lauren Charlene Havel, I am from Ohio but I have spent a good bit of time in Alfred, New York where I completed my BFA and MFA. My paintings tell funny short stories that find the whimsy and humor in the ordinariness of every day life.



Artist Statement:

As a figurative artist I am engaged with the body's complex and voluminous form. Beyond that, I am enamored with the casual and candid nature of human beings. My paintings tell sad, quirky, and funny short stories using painting techniques that are concerned with luminosity, mark making and surface. On a smooth surface, like Yupo paper or panel, the gestures of the body and expressive faces are constructed out of washes and apparent brushstrokes. I allow a line to represent a mouth and dots for eyes not as place holders but as suggestion; using very little information to express something as complex as human emotions. The simplistic shorthand language lends itself to humor and gives the subjects a playful and fresh appearance.

Smokin' Hot Ladies

Oil on panel

\$1,200

Layla Davis

@laylathleo

Artist Bio

By being raised alongside social media exposed me to the many expectations and hardships that I, a Black woman living in America would experience. Throughout my work, I create a retelling of these personal experiences by exploring their connection to my own self-awareness. Utilizing my body and a multitude of mediums while drawing influence from pop culture references, I create a series of uncanny fever dream works.

Say Ah

Ceramic
\$250



Liana Gonzalez

They/Them

@lxana_marxe_

Artist Statement:

Liana Gonzalez is a Studio Artist currently residing in Cleveland, Ohio. A recent Cleveland Institute of Art Alumni with a degree in both Drawing and Sculpture and Expanded Media. Their work predominantly takes the form of multi-part installations and objects that include found materials. Their work focuses on the transformational magic known as the life-cycle, and humans connection to nature and confronting our own mortality. They ask the viewer to tap into their inner child and give themselves over to magical ideas, by creating an enchanting experience that asks the audience to believe in the illusions. Inspired by the beauty of the Decorative Arts and Crafts movement and the accessibility of the do-it-yourself inventiveness and resourcefulness, their work transforms found materials into fantastical scenes.

Waiting (fawn sculpture)

found stick, resin, plastic pearls, found deer sculpture, acrylic paint, spray paint, paper doily, laser-cut butterflies, hot glue

NFS



Lilly Buttitta she/her

Instagram: [@lbuttittaart](#)

Tiktok: [@lillyannpaints](#)

Artist Bio

Lilly Buttitta is a Cleveland based realism painter with heavy focus on color theory, nature and figure painting. While she primarily uses oil paint on canvas or panel, she always allows for deviations into other mediums if her creative expression calls for it. Her work is both a reflection of the memories that feel the most a part of her, and observations of small moments most easily forgotten.

Artist Statement:

My work is both a reflection of the memories that feel the most a part of me, and observations of small moments most easily forgotten. As a survivor of childhood trauma and the memory gaps that obscure much of it, my art records the moments that feel important to me in an effort to remember—to memorialize places, people and the emotions attached to them.

Through my use of color and composition I create paintings that feel haunted, as if the viewer has stumbled into something private. A moody alternate reality where one must tread lightly. An ambiguous narrative up for interpretation that continues to evolve as I do. The full range on the color wheel rarely appears within one of my pieces, as most memories are altered in color by emotion —just as light changes our perspective of the world given the time of day and weather.



This Can't Be Goodbye, Can It?

Oil on Canvas
\$1,500

Lindsay Gryskewich she/her

@lindsaygryskewich

Artist Bio

Lindsay Martin Gryskewich received her Master of Fine Arts from Oregon College of Art and Craft and her Bachelors of Arts from Denison University. She has received numerous scholarships and attended Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts and a residency in Deschutes National Forest, Oregon. Her paintings are exhibited locally and nationally in spaces such as the BayArts Center near Cleveland, Ohio, Wasmer Gallery at Ursuline College, the galleries at Kent State University, Troy Laundry Building and Ford Gallery of Portland, OR, ArtReach Gallery of Portland, OR, and the Hoffman Gallery. She regularly exhibits at Troppus Projects in Kent, Ohio.

Lindsay Martin Gryskewich is also an educator and art administrative professional. Currently, she teaches full time in arts and Reggio Emilia classrooms at Old Trail School. A busy mom, her family lives and works in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Artist Statement:

Lindsay Martin Gryskewich's paintings explore space, color, pattern and materiality as the artist retraces influential surroundings. She creates a map of musings, day trips, collections of colors at twilight in the garden or perspectives from the family room window as she nurses her child. Using these details, her imagery honors place and holds simple, domestic and familial moments as philosophical, and at times escapist structures. Her work weaves together different moments of painting histories, tapping into styles and historic interior spaces as experimentations. Within rooms, backyards and neighborhoods, Martin Gryskewich explores phenomenology within objects, memory and place.

"I am interested in how we spatially orient ourselves and wander through the sites of our lives. Place is a fluid illusion: both general and detailed, permanent and temporary. Painting emerges as material amalgamation of the body's translations of memory. "



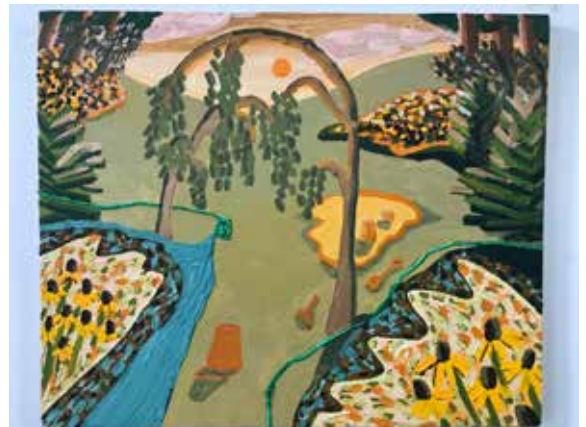
Area Rug Evening

Acrylic Media on Panel
\$450



Birds Eye View

Acrylic, Felt on Canvas
\$360



Sand Susans

Acrylic and Caulk on Panel
\$440

Maddie Robinson she/her

@maddie_rob

Artist Statement:

This past year I have spent more time outdoors than I typically do which has led to examine nature more intimately. In return, I have been inspired to create linocuts of different plants, animals, and objects that have stuck out to me. Toads are always interesting to find because they have the ability to blend in with their environments so well. They are also full of unique patterns and textures.

Toad is a linocut printed onto fabric which I then hand sewn onto multiple layers of fabric. I recreate an image of a toad because I am drawn towards the challenge of trying to replicate those texture and patterns through carving. I printed the toad on fabric and sewed it onto other pieces of fabric as a way to experiment with different types of materials other than printing paper.



Toad

Linocut, embroidery
\$50

Maegen Holm

@mud.crud

Artist Bio

I consider myself a small-batch potter making functional art. The years I have spent collecting knowledge and skill in ceramics allow me to make crisp work with clean lines and intense attention to detail. I create unique and fun pieces that are designed to bring a bit of intentional joy to the user's day.

Community

Ceramic
NFS



Artist Statement:

"Community", for me, is defined by my lived experiences as a person in the LGBTQ community. This functional art piece is designed so that the consumer can eat and drink from the work, a consistent way of fostering community within their life.

Maeve Billings

They/them
@maeve.billings

Artist Bio

Maeve Billings is an emerging painter from Cleveland (OH) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Art. They had their first two-person show at Waterloo Arts in Cleveland, collaborating with Bex Fuller to put on Collective Spaces in January 2019. Maeve has participated in group shows including the Waterloo Arts Juried Arts show and the 73 rd and 74 th Cleveland Institute of Art Student Independent Exhibition. They have been in various group shows in Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri. Maeve acted as the student committee chair for both the 74 th and 75 th Student Independent Exhibition. They have received awards including the First Agnes Gund Memorial Traveling Award, Cleveland Institute of Art Gund Family Scholarship, the Governor's Show Scholarship, the Ted Frost '88 Travel Scholarship, and the Cleveland Women's Club Scholarship.



Alice Can't Go Back To Yesterday

Oil on canvas
\$2000

Artist Statement:

"I can't go back to yesterday, because I was a different person then."
Alice in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll

This moment from my childhood is simultaneously so clear and obscured in my mind. My godmother snapped a photo of me, six years old, coming downstairs, and heading to ballet class. I've seen this photograph in the family album so many times. I remember ballet class, and heading to the local Safeway to pick up dinner afterwards. I even remember the parking lot of the studio. I've heard stories of me at this age, but I have no memory of it. How can I feel nostalgia for a moment that I myself can't remember? How do you grieve something you don't remember having?



Decadent

Oil on Yupo paper
NFS

Artist Statement:

Sphynx cats have risen to recent notoriety. Thousands of pet influencer accounts have popped up on Instagram, reels bursting with video clips of Sphynx cats in the bath, Sphynx cats sunbathing, and my personal favorite, piles of Sphynx kittens cuddling in a giant pile of wrinkled skin. Without fur, there is little to distract from the intensity of their gaze, or the wrinkles that ripple along their body.

Their naked, wrinkled bodies are evocative of the human form. Something about their vulnerability, grotesque presence, and direct stares place them in the Uncanny Valley of almost-human, but not quite.

Their hairless bodies remind us of human skin. Sphynx cats are photographed sitting upright on couches, wearing shower caps while they take baths, or in various human-like poses wearing hats and sweaters. Not only do they already look like tiny deformed humans, but we pose and photograph them in ways that reinforce this visual association. The Instagram famous among them live decadent lives, spoiled by their owners for internet clout.

Magdalena Board

Hellomagdalenaboard

I Don't Know Where to Begin

Acrylic
\$100

Artist Statement:
Happy to be here.



Malena Grigoli

@_mal_content

Artist Bio:

Malena Grigoli (b. 1999) is a multidisciplinary artist and designer based in Cleveland, Ohio. Informed by the political and aesthetic experience of growing up in the American Midwest and on the internet, Grigoli often works with found objects, printmaking techniques, and tools of architectural representation to investigate connections between spatiality and narrative, with attention especially on those connections as they are developed and documented in the digital realm.



divine protection

Handmade paper and oil-transferred ink
\$75

Margaret Stamm

@margasway

Artist Bio

Margaret Stamm is a visual artist, photographer and educator from Cleveland. She describes her work as a bucolic surrealism absent the nightmares of Freud. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is held by private, corporate & medical collections. You can view her work at University Hospital's Seidman Cancer Center as well as the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. In 2018 she was published in CAN Journal for her curatorial role at Shaker Community Gallery. She has exhibited work in Miami, New York, Poland and London.



Tulips

Acrylic on canvas
\$1800

Artist Statement:

A provincial tablespace becomes a collection of symbols that tell a story. Dissonant perspectives unlock the subconscious mind. The work begs the question, are the flowers in shadow or perhaps the pattern of the cloth?

Maria Uhase She/her
[@muhase72](#)

Artist Bio

Maria Uhase is an oil painter and illustrator living and working in Northeast Ohio. She completed a BA Studio Emphasis with a Minor in Painting and a Minor in Drawing from the Myers School of Art at the University of Akron (OH) in 2019. She creates surreal narratives involving combinations of plants, animals, and objects in the natural world. Much of the inspiration for her art comes from her daily experiences of the nature surrounding her home in the woods, traveling often to explore new environments, through her amateur research in various sciences, and learning from the people she knows and meets. She hopes to encourage people to form connections with each other founded in genuine altruism, empathy, and acceptance as they produce individual narratives in relation to her work, and as they discover the commonalities between them.



A Favor

Ink on paper
\$105

Artist Statement:

This image depicts a three-eyed rabbit skewered by two branches.



Perch

Ink on paper
\$250

Artist Statement:

This is an image of two conjoined Northern Flicker birds tearing apart. Leafy branches emerge from within the birds, and a third figure perches on a branch.

Mario Arteaga He/him
@mario.was.wrong

Artist Bio

Im Mario Arteaga, a jewelry metals and enameling Grad student at Kent State University, with a focus on bench Jewelry, 3D design and Fabrication.

Artist Statement:

The staircase is my own constructed version of Frank Ocean's Endless. The staircase is representative of a time in my life where the album was fundamental to my growth as a queer person, learning to understand the body I was in and the internalized feelings I felt. There are two dates inscribed inside of the rings. The constructed copper staircase is an object meant to be held between both hands when the rings are worn. The concrete pedestal and brass pillar is a representation of the environment I was in, in Chicago, with my familiar roots with concrete pouring and my isolation as the one person in my family who felt different. It was Isolating.



Endless (my memories)

Copper, brass, concrete
NFS

Marissa Cox She/her
@artistic.missa

Artist Bio

My name is Marissa Cox and I am going into my Junior year of college at Kent State university this fall. I am pursuing a BFA in painting, and my current obsessions are oils and portraiture of friends and family. Sometimes it feels as though the subjects of my paintings aren't "deep" or "important" enough for people to care about. I am constantly surrounded by incredible artists, and it is very easy to start feeling this way. But I also think that our individual lived experiences are important, and many painters begin by painting what they see around them. Painting to me is a medium by which I can portray the way I see my life and the world around me in a more personal lens than a camera could capture.



Collectible Memories

Oil on canvas
NFS

Artist Statement:

In a psychology class I took during my senior year of highschool, I learned that each time we recall a memory it changes slightly. In fact, our minds are so malleable that we can create new memories from photographs and dreams, and we never remember a tangible moment the same way twice. This fact haunted and frustrated me. The knowledge that I could not even remember my own life clearly was an annoyance at first. But then I began thinking of it as a blessing. My memories could not become stale or overworked. I could go back to them over and over and my past remained vibrant and interesting. "Collectible Memories" is a personal take on this concept.

Mary Clark

They/she
@tinycloudceramics

Artist Bio

Mary Clark graduated from The University of Akron with a BFA in Ceramics in 2016 and is currently working full time as a ceramicist in Portage Lakes, Ohio. They primarily make work under the name Tiny Cloud Ceramics, focusing mainly on functional work. Their pieces are inspired by a mix of kawaii culture and retro-futurism.

Artist Statement:

These vases represent a conversation had with a stranger at my senior show in 2016. He was very into my work, and then dropped the line "It's almost like it's art!" with such enthusiasm that I know he couldn't have realized what a backhanded compliment it was. But that's what happens when you choose a medium that has a functional purpose as well as an artistic one, I guess.



**Sometimes, a compliment
isn't as nice as you think**

Ceramic, gold
\$420

Maureen Chisholm

She/Her

Artist Bio

Maureen Chisholm is an artist who works in a mix of both metal and fiber arts. Her works are influenced by her upbringing in Tampa, Florida, often featuring hybrid palm tree people. She recently finished her BFA degree from Kent State University, concentrating in Jewelry/Metalsmithing/ and Enameling.

Artist Statement:

(Non)Lethal Yellowing Disease speaks to sadness and heartache through the form of a cheerfully colored diseased palm tree. Lethal Yellowing is a disease that can afflict palm trees and rot them from the inside out. I compare this to the feeling of unhealthy bottling of emotions, yet with a positive twist that the palm survives through hope.



**(Non)Lethal Yellowing
Disease**

Wool Felt
NFS

Maya Culley She/her
@sorry.fish

Artist Bio

I am a senior Studio Art Major with a concentration in Sculpture and Expanded Media. The majority of my work is emotionally expressive small-scale figures but I have recently been exploring themes of language, distortion and miscommunication in more abstracted forms.



All4u

Polymer clay, fabric, found object, ink
\$350

Artist Statement:

The common theme with all figurine-based work seems to be an underlying tone of existentialism. We prove that we exist by creating smaller versions of ourselves. We have the opportunity as children to practice real life scenarios with dolls. We see our aging faces reflected in the distorted forms of bronze figures. Our big human emotions become so evident when displayed in a miniature scale and external shape. This figure sits with a small body but the weight and depth of larger feelings. The green envy and jealousy seem to have escaped his chest. He's not quite falling apart yet, maybe he can scoop it all back in.



Crown

Hair, string, brass, polymer clay, razor blade.
\$75

Artist Statement:

While standards are becoming increasingly flexible, the decision to shave body hair is not often posed as an option for women. Everyday women face the many gimmicky advertisements, judgmental comments, and violent laws that tell them what to do/not do with their bodies. For this piece, I took my own hair and braided it into an anklet that the wearer now has the option to be adorned with.

McKenna Carder-Brunty She/her

@madebymckenna_studio

Artist Bio

McKenna Carder-Brunty is a 2019 graduate of the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio with a BFA in Painting and Drawing and a minor in Art History. Currently, Carder-Brunty is a secretary at a hospital creating artwork part-time and is planning to pursue graduate studies in the near future.

Artist Statement:

These works were created out of a need to make something that means nothing. Though its content is meaningless, the process of making these was important in furthering my artistic practice and mindset.



Untitled 1

Mixed media

\$60



Untitled 2

Mixed media

\$60

Megan Dardis She/her
[@megandardisart](#)

Artist Bio

Megan Dardis is an abstract artist working in Cleveland, Ohio. Dardis' paintings depict explosive events and waves of movement and motion, in which she combines geometric and linear elements with painterly brushstrokes in vibrant color palettes. In Dardis' work emotions are transformed into pigment and gesture capturing the in-between transient states of being. Layers of paint and mark are built up, covered up, poured over, scraped off, breaking down and regenerating all at the same time. The layers of application of paint tell the story of her physical process and emotional experience with painting. This personal process of painting takes shape as unknowable landscapes that are marked with the residue of experience and emotion. Dardis' work grabs ahold of the intangible and fleeting moments and emotions of the human experience, capturing them in their constant transformation, freezing them forever into a state of always becoming.

Dardis has participated in multiple group and solo shows, in the Cleveland and Akron areas of Ohio. Her work can also be seen at her studio and gallery, MDA Studio in Tremont, Ohio. Dardis has also painted a large-scale outdoor mural as part of a community centered project that she organized and executed, funded by a grant from The Fenn Foundation. Dardis' work has been featured in The CAN Journal, as well as cleveland.com. Dardis has a Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts from The Cleveland Institute of Art.

Artist Statement:

Growth is not a streamlined event, beautifully arching into perfection; it's messy, haphazard, it ebbs and flows. It is in the process of growth and transformation in which life is fully experienced. My work is a reflection of that process; the cycles of chaos, trauma, recovery, and restructuring from within the thick of it. My paintings depict explosive events and waves of movement and motion, in which I combine geometric and linear elements with painterly brushstrokes in vibrant color palettes. In my paintings emotions are transformed into pigment and gesture capturing the in-between transient states of being just after a moment of emotional impact. Freezing the momentum and movement of invisible forces of energy and emotion onto the canvas. The particles and debris of trauma frozen in a liminal place, caught in a phase of always becoming. Layers of paint and mark are built up, covered up, poured over, scraped off, breaking down and regenerating all at the same time. The layers of application of paint tell the story of my physical process and emotional experience with painting. This personal process of painting takes shape as unknowable landscapes that are marked with the residue of experience and emotion. The combination of linear and geometrical marks and shapes alongside gestural and painterly brushstrokes creates a visual language allowing expression of emotions that we don't have words to describe, and provides an conduit for the viewers own emotional interpretation.



Stay Composed

Acrylic and spray paint on canvas
\$700

Megan Stobaugh

She/her

@megan_r_s

Artist Bio

Megan is an Akron based artist whose paintings explore themes of psychological turmoil, pathology, and interpersonal relationships. She received her BFA from the University of Akron's Myers School of Art, and is currently pursuing a master's in counseling and art therapy at Ursuline College.

The Sick One

Oil on found object
\$200

Artist Statement:

This piece examines the relationship between siblings when one is chronically unwell: a relationship with nuances that range from love and support to fear and parasitism.



Megan Young

she/they

@sunparlorstudio

Artist Bio

Megan Young is a ceramic artist living and working in Cleveland (OH). Her work advocates for play, joy, and ritual in our everyday lives. She primarily makes functional wheel-thrown and hand-built pottery, glazed in bright colors and designed for regular use. She has exhibited work locally at galleries throughout Northeast Ohio including Summit Artspace, Bostwick Design Art Initiative, and SPACES Gallery. She is the recipient of the Fred Walker Writing Prize for excellence in writing, and the Gund Family Memorial Scholarship for academic and portfolio-based achievement. Young currently makes and teaches pottery out of her home studio, Sun Parlor Studio, in Cleveland (OH).

Nightstand

Glazed ceramic
NFS



Artist Statement:

I believe in the value of play and joy in our everyday lives, and that we don't necessarily need more objects but that the objects we do have should make daily life more sacred. I appreciate ceramics' ability to facilitate community and everyday rituals, which are so essential to our wellbeing.

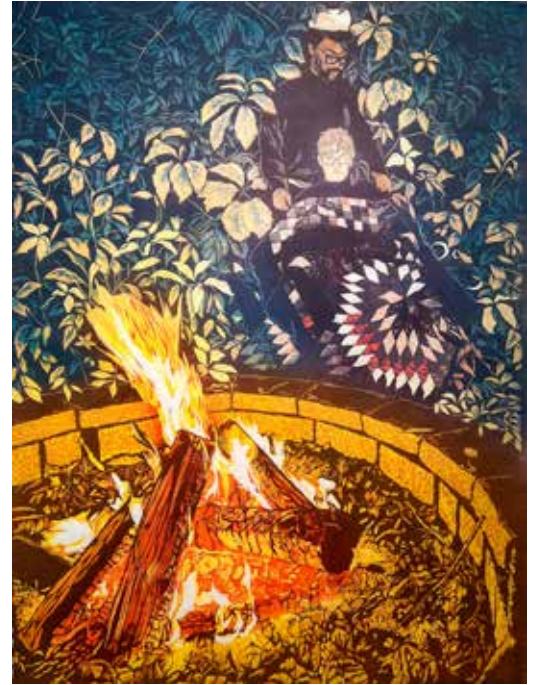
Meryl Engler she/her
[@meryle_art](#)

Artist Bio

Meryl Engler grew up in Huntington Beach, California and moved to Akron, Ohio fall 2019. Meryl attended Syracuse University where she studied sculpture, printmaking, religious studies and history, while also competing on the women's rowing team. Next she went to graduate school at University of Nebraska-Lincoln for studio art with an emphasis in printmaking. This is where she developed her love of colorful woodcut prints, often using pattern and repetition. She is inspired by hidden landscapes in our environment and the relationships we form to it and each other. In 2022 she started working at the Morgan Conservatory and learned Eastern and Western papermaking techniques. She has shown both nationally and internationally. Meryl seeks to push the limits of printmaking and combine different art mediums in new and exciting ways.

Artist Statement:

Each one of my series of works chronicles a relationship, either with a person, place, or specific time period of my life. I find that I remember things in landscapes, especially the truly "human moments." The moments that transcend me and my life, like sitting around a bonfire at night, exchanging stories like people have been doing for thousands of years. In woodcut, every carved mark tries to make sense of a memory. The way I approach woodcut allows me to be rash, intuitive, and thoughtful throughout the different stages of the process. Controlling the gouge as it cuts through the wood requires focus and the full presence of both mind and body. There is a heightened level of intimacy with each mark as I spend time carving around it, much like the intimate human moments I am working from.



**Every Year They
Grow From Nothing**
reduction woodcut
\$1,000

Michael Buebe He/him
[@michaelbuebeart](#)

Artist Bio

Michael sucks. But, shows up for important events.
So, who's to say.

Artist Statement:

Nope



Untitled
Oil
\$400

Mike A. De La Rosa He/him

@Mike.a.delarosa

Artist Bio

Mike A. De La Rosa is a Venezuelan American artist based in Kent Ohio. He completed his BFA at Hunter college and his MFA at Kent State University. His work deals with interactions between individuals and hegemonic history (the big and the small). The recent paintings explore fantasies of power, both benevolent and malevolent.

Artist Statement:

This painting is based on a 1400 fantastical painting depicting Saint George heroically slaying a dragon. It questions the legacy of violence legitimizing our heroes and our cultures bloodthirsty associations of losers and winners.



Saint George Slaying his Dragons

Acrylic, oil pastel, charcoal, oil enamels, crayon and dirt
on masonite
\$4,500

Mo Clay He/him

@noclaymoclay

Artist Statement:

This painting is a portrait of my recently adopted Miniature Dachshund, Smidge. Her and Ginger and my companions and the main reasons I get up each morning. Dogs have been companions to humans for centuries. They have been important to people for work, play, and plain ole companionship. This painting is sadly a part of the life of Smidge, who suffers from seizures. While we work to lessen the number of seizures she has, she is currently having at least one a week. All we are able to do is stay by her side until the shaking stops. This picture was taken moments before she started seizing more violently. She was staring straight at me with her forelegs stiff and her eyes wet. The painting is made up of fast brushstrokes similar to how seizures take hold, with only portions of her body being fully rendered.



Seize and Desist

Oil on canvas
\$4,500

Monica Pirie She/Her
[@justpretend_studios](#)

Artist Bio

Monica Pirie is a painter & sculptor based in the Midwest.

Artist Statement:

Busy Dreaming X The Revelation series collaboration.

Caught in the Dream

Acrylic and sumi ink
\$65



Moo he/they
[@_micahmoo_](#)

Artist Bio

Moo is a Queer, Jewish, Artist and Queer Community Builder working out of Cleveland, Ohio. Moo has shown work nationally and internationally. Moo's work consists of multimedia paintings and installations based in queer validation, celebration, and exploration. They conduct an artist interview series, Moo With The View. Recently completed season 1 that launched with a group show held at Summit Artspace in January of 2023. Moo runs several Queer focused events out of the Hildebrandt Artist Collective which they are a member of.

Artist Statement:

I make work based in my experiences and trying to process them. This extends to my queer identity, Jewish identity, trauma and joy, and how I interact or connect with other people who are also navigating life. I explore these ideas separately from one another — for now. I am attempting to understand them as individuals, as unique characters in my own story.



Untitled Hanging Work

Acrylic and yarn on canvas
NFS

Natalie Deely She/her

Artist Bio

Hello my name is Natalie. I was born in Thailand and I grew up in Australia. I like riding my bike and going barefoot at the waters edge.

Artist Statement:

I almost dropped out of college but decided to take a drawing class instead. My teacher really pushed me on this one and I am glad for it. The tinted paper affected the way I was able to use the charcoal. It's funny how there is always something new to try, even with something as familiar as drawing. What is something unexpected that you are grateful for?

Life Model from Drawing I

Charcoal on tinted paper
\$100



Natalie Grieshammer Patrick she/her [@meta_greasy](#)

Artist Bio

Natalie Grieshammer Patrick is an arts administrator and artist living in Akron, OH. She currently serves as Director of Artist Resources at Summit Artspace, where she leads and implements artist-serving initiatives, including exhibitions and artist care programs. Passionate about the arts in Northeast Ohio, Natalie has been an arts-leader for over 5 years and has worked in a variety of roles in local organizations. Natalie has been a fiber artist for over 10 years. She employs sloppy craft and non-traditional materials to create large scale weavings that highlight feminist concepts. Her artwork has been shown throughout Akron and Cleveland and has been featured in local publications. She is also a partner and strategic advisor at Akron Recording Company, which she founded with her husband in 2017. Natalie holds an M.A. in Arts Administration from the University of Akron and B.F.A. in Fiber and Material Studies from the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Artist Statement:

Fiber processes allow me to explore personal and universal feminine identities through the world of materials, iconography, and textile history. My work aims to validate and celebrate femininity. Surface seduction, unrestrained craft, and decoration are a means of overturning cultural structures imposed upon feminine bodies and people.

In this artwork I was exploring how the myth of virginity has been used as a means to assign value to women and girls, ultimately leading to control and abuse.



Angel Hair & Baby's Breath

Silk and cotton yarns, streamers, beads, and found object
\$350

Nathan Manthey

@cooke_adjacent

Artist Bio

I am a visual artist specializing in drawing, ink-work, and painting. Most of my work focuses on themes of failure, labor, and pop-culture.

Artist Statement:

Gamer is a visual depiction of the feeling of being immersed in an experience. On the one hand, you control the actions of an avatar performing superhuman actions. Then a simple wiggling of your toes or spilling of your coffee can bring you out of that experience and leave you feeling feeling limp and blob-like.

Gamer

Colored Pencil on Paper, Acrylic on Paper and Acetate

\$800



Nova she/they

@starcatcher_studio

Artist Bio

Nova is an artist from NE Ohio. They graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2020 with a BFA in Illustration with additional concentrations in Art Education, Design, Creative Writing, and Art History. They have begun working towards their Master's in Art Administration from Akron University. Polymer clays, various paint types, dry mediums, and digital art are their favorite means of art making. Their design brand, Star Catcher Studio, is inspired by nature, magic, and color. Their designs are meant to encourage the embrace of playfulness and calm. Their cheerful art is their way to find healing through their work as they struggle with a panic disorder and other ailments. "With so much going on in the world, it makes me feel at peace to know I am capable of creating and sharing my joy."

Artist Statement:

This sculpture is an embodiment of my path to healing. It takes time to bloom and find your inner light, but that joy inside of you is beautiful. That joy is yours. Imagery is inspired by The Little Prince.



The Stars Are A-Bloom With Flowers

Polymer Clay, Paint, Resin

\$95

Nyki Fetterman

She/her
[@nykimakes](#)

Artist Bio

Nyki Fetterman is a mixed-media Artist living and working in Kent, OH. When she's not making art, you can find Nyki in the woods, looking at bugs, or foraging! Nyki has exhibited work at Praxis Fiber Workshop, Waterloo Arts Gallery, Summit Artspace, and various other galleries around the Northeast Ohio region. Nyki is the November 2023 Artist In Residence at Akron Soul Train, where she will be completing work for a large-scale art installation on view in January 2024.

Artist Statement:

This body of work is about the absurdity of living in America right now, and the small, funny, frivolous, pretty, and hopeful every day moments that make life worth living even in the darkness. I use mythic symbolism to impart narratives of power imbalances, problems with late stage capitalism, navigating queerness, and the feeling of constantly trudging two steps forward and one step back. This imagery is juxtaposed with hopeful rhetoric and silver linings. The goal is making each piece a battle between good and evil, where good prevails in the end.



Busting Out
Mixed Media
Bugs \$20 each
Piece underneath NFS

Patrick Ronan

he/him
[@patrick.weaves](#)

Artist Bio

I am a Philadelphia, PA native living and making work in Cleveland, OH. My work is an act of condensing personal symbolism into a format that is both straightforward and commemorative. I make work to process my understanding of my own survival- from grief, abuse, religion, queer experience, etc. I am interested in techniques with a will of their own, allowing room for an element of chance or surprise.



How Long Does It Take?
cotton, silk, dye
NFS



This Isn't Funny Anymore
silk, dye
\$2500



Rumination:Wait
silk, dye
NFS

Phoebe Yao

@pheobey_

Artist Bio

Phoebe Yao is a recent graduate of Aurora High School will be studying in the combined degree program at Tufts and SMFA in the fall. Her art mainly aims to capture different aspects of the human condition, experimenting with different ways to visually represent moments in time and also the human perceptions of reality. She works mainly in acrylic paint on canvas, which she began learning and working with in the Summer of 2022. She is most active with her art on instagram at @pheobey_, where she also posts many of the sketchbook studies she can be found doing daily.

Artist Statement:

ViSAGE is originally part of a series called the Six SAGES. Each piece was titled after a key concept of the human experience that incorporated the name "Sage" in it, a pun on the name of the figure depicted along with the idea that sages are profoundly wise people. ViSAGE is a piece criticizing commercialization in the market today and how magazines are a vapid and also rapidly fading medium of it. It is modeled after a traditional magazine cover and is a commentary how despite the main focus of magazines being to sell products like clothing or jewelry, their covers are typically more dominated by a famous or photogenic face than the good itself. The faded text features sarcastic "article" names and contents criticizing the capitalistic and commercialized system and its effects on how society treats buying things. Additionally, March 9th happens to be the original publication date of Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations, commonly regarded as the pioneering text of capitalism. All the print text appears dilapidated to communicate how even at the forefront of advertisement and trends, magazines are already a dying medium, with social media rapidly replacing its relevance. This is contrasted by the clarity of the face, signifying that even though the medium is dying out, the use of the photogenic face prevails, and that superficial marketing and commercialization is simply adapting to the technological era rather than fading out.



ViSAGE

Acrylic and Printer Ink on Canvas

\$1,200

Rachel Faber

She/her

@leaf_litter_studio

Artist Bio

Rachel is a designer, illustrator, and painter living in Cleveland. She takes inspiration for everyday objects and the outdoors.



Breakfast

Acrylic on canvas

\$350



For Compost

Acrylic on canvas

\$250

Raymond Oster

They/Them
[@Shiny.Rock](#)

Artist Bio

Queer artist who makes pretty much anything that comes up in their mind no matter the medium, heavy focus and love for surrealism I try to put as much of myself as possible in my work.

Artist Statement:

Honestly just a huge big piece that has everything that was really going on in my mind december of 2022. A lot of the insects and plant pieces were very much prevelant things stuck in my head that I needed to get down.

December 2022

Oil, canvas and cut pieces of plywood
NFS



Ricki Dénes

She/Her
[@ricki.tikki.tavvi](#)

Artist Statement:

Quite honestly, this print is a goofy experiment I did for shits and giggles. I woke up one day, and thought to myself, how could I make lithography accessible to some of the kids I teach? And what better way to get anyone interested in the tedious and challenging lithography process than by using Coke-A-Cola? Then one might ask, why a ballerina cat? To that, my statement is cats are purrfect, and those who can dance are neat. And voilà, this artist now has a series of caffeine-addicted ballerina cats.

Purr-ouette
Coke-A-Cola Lithography
NFS



Robert Pierson Mr

[@pobpiersonart](#)

Artist Bio

Robert ("Bob") Pierson grew up in Bath, Ohio, and has been teaching art at his alma mater, Revere High School, for the past 27 years. Before teaching, he held a number of creative jobs that he was able to do with his B.F.A. from Kent State University. He created scenery part-time at the Carousel Dinner Theatre while bartending. He worked in the visual merchandising department at the May Company in Cleveland and spent five years in the display department at Arhaus furniture. He then earned his teaching degree from Kent State University and obtained a job teaching high school art. "It is the best decision I could have made," Pierson said.

As an artist, Pierson likes the idea that a still life can give reverence to a person, place, or time. He sees many of his compositions as portraits. His intent is to investigate the concept of collecting, or, in an extreme sense, hoarding, and the specific difficulty of letting go of objects that are meaningful. His still life compositions are often filled with nostalgia.

Raft of the Medusa

Acrylic
NFS

Artist Statement:

My work focuses on nostalgia and the aspects of collecting, even hoarding



Robin He/him

[@Robin.photo_](#)

Artist Bio

As a photographer I carry my camera everywhere I go. The goal is to capture the moments people don't always think to appreciate.

Albany
photography
\$65 paired



Artist Statement:

My work focuses on nostalgia and the aspects of collecting, even hoarding

Ryan Natal He/him
[@film2table](#)

Artist Statement:

The juxtaposition of nature and man has always fascinated me. Nature seems to beautifully contrast that of human creation; exhibiting vibrant colors, organic shapes, and complex patterns while human structure displays that of sterility, rigidity, and unapologetic simplicity. I attempted to capture this collision on photo film - a medium that produces characteristics like grain, lens softness, and general imperfections. I believe this accentuates authenticity and makes it feel like you're looking back into a memory.



Bloom
35mm film
\$35

Saliha Muttalib She/They
[@saliham_art](#)

Artist Bio

Saliha is a multidisciplinary artist based out of Cleveland. She is a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a major in Public Relations and a minor in Art. Her work encompasses 2D painting, mixed media, found objects, acting, improv, dance, spoken word and creative writing. Painting are abstract and unplanned intuitive downloads. Just like doing live improv, every decision is in the moment and mistakes do not exist. Most of her artistic work explores the longing for connection, spirituality and loss.



The Healer
Acrylic on Canvas
\$500

Artist Statement:

Part of The Ancestors Are Watching Collection, 'The Healer' showcases the themes of the collection. An ethereal and kinetic being traveling through consciousness, space and time with a purpose.

Sam Bittaker

He/They
@sambittaker

Artist Bio

I live in Akron, Ohio. Akron isn't a major city, nor is it the country. There is a unique interweaving between the city and nature. The transitions from nature to urban can be abrupt, subtle, and sometimes even indistinguishable. When I was a kid, there was a park near my house where my friends and I would go. For us, it seemed like we were in the heart of some distant, secret forest. In reality, it is a crappy little park surrounded by developments. Only when we looked closer at the ground and found old pottery and household items, or looked up the hill to all the houses, did we recognize where we actually were - rather than where we perceived we were. I am interested in this interweaving, illusion, uncertainty, and sense of place.

Artist Statement:

Recently, I am going back and forth between painting and Photoshop. I start with photos I take or find and create a new chaotic space. I either transfer the image or project the image onto the canvas to begin painting. I find ways for the painted layers to add disruption as well as to harmonize the different elements. Then I take photos of the painting and the process repeats itself - an interchanging dance between physical and digital. The paintings will belong in a physical space and be part of a network - removed from their former context onto whatever screen the user has found them. I am interested in paintings existing in various formats (Physical, Virtual, and Mental).



Untitled 1b
Acrylic Transfer & acrylics
\$150



Auto-Blend 1a
Acrylic transfer & Oil
\$850

Sarah Lacey she/her
@SpillProofLiquid

Artist Bio

Sarah Lacey graduated from Myers School of Art at The University of Akron in May 2021, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Photography. She was in the Honors College and graduated Summa Cum Laude from The University of Akron. Her work has been exhibited in multiple shows including The University of Akron, the 83rd Juried Student Exhibition in the Emily Davis Gallery and two exhibitions hosted by the Folk Photo Association in Folk Hall. The body of work created for her Honors Research Project, The Richard Hansen Kidnappings, was exhibited in the Projects Gallery of Folk Hall at The University of Akron in October of 2020.

Her photo work is made within the realm of parafiction, where the work itself is fabricated and false but is presented as fact and reality. The inclusion of appropriated imagery and artifacts with the help of artificial intelligence creates an experience that feels real and believable. The work is presented as mostly photography and mixed media shown in an installation style.

In addition to her photos, her stylistically repetitive hand work focuses on a drippy, slimy pattern in various color palettes. She typically creates 3 to 4 color designs with graphic linework and flat colors. She is inspired by Japanese style and anime (Jojo's Bizarre Adventure specifically), psychedelic 70's styles including shag carpeting, psychedelic designs and themes and concert posters, especially rock concerts. She focuses on craft-type art and handmade methods including sewing, DIY clothing/style/aesthetic, latch hook rugs, etc.



Distortion Mystery

Acrylic Painting

\$585

Artist Statement:

My work focuses on drippy, slimy patterns in various color palettes with graphic linework and flat colors. I'm inspired by Japanese style and anime (Jojo's Bizarre Adventure specifically), psychedelic 70's styles including shag carpeting, psychedelic designs and themes and concert posters, especially rock concerts. Overall, my work focuses on craft-type art and handmade methods including sewing, DIY clothing/style/aesthetic, latch hook rugs, etc.

Sebastian Schenz They/Them

@grossbleh

Artist Bio

My work stems from a young love of readymades and early discoveries of homoerotic artists such as Touko Valio Laaksonen (Tom of Finland), Dade Ursus, Harry Bush, Keith Haring, and Marcel Duchamp. Over the years of my life, I have developed a deep practice of collection. I focus on objects that connect to queer culture such as horror memorabilia, pop culture, and found objects. Some of these items are cut from books and magazines, others are sourced from thrift stores and clothing stores, etc. Many of these objects are common in the heteronormative world however carry innuendo or code to the queer community such as handkerchiefs, leather gear, jockstraps, uniforms, and more. Common motifs are text pulled from vintage porn magazines that trigger stereotypical gender roles, genitalia, queer-coded garments such as jockstraps and bandanas, stickers, and other craft items relating to childhood. By using this collection as my main medium I am exploring queer memorabilia in a fine art context. To that point referencing things of the art historical world and its history and its motifs.



Dude You Gonna Smell That?

Found Object, Photography
NFS



Jockstrap I

Stickers
\$50

Artist Statement:

One from a series of exploring different mediums and the iconic shape of the jockstrap.

Shannon M Welsh she/her
@shannonmwelsh

Artist Bio

Shannon Welsh's work exists in a state of transition, a state of being that is and is not. The idea of existence, of being here and being present, is both a physicality of being alive and the internalized process of that. Her work explores the idea of existence and being "here" as being an experience of past, present, and future. She plays with the idea of what we experience being both clear and hazy while existing in a space that is both occupied by others and devoid of anything but a single memory. Her paintings are emotional perceptions of something that is at once familiar and out of our grasp.



The Struggle to Forget (Twin II)

Oil on linen
\$350

Artist Statement:

"The Struggle to Forget (Twin II)" is a part of a two-piece set that explores the intersection of presence and memory using negative space and color theory to touch on existence being immaterial and material in the same breath. It plays with the idea of imagery taking on different meaning in different context as it forces the viewer to accept fate.



A Sun-drenched After

Oil on linen
\$350

Artist Statement:

"A Sun-drenched After" explores the intersection of presence and memory using negative space and color theory to touch on existence being immaterial and material in the same breath.



The Struggle Against Forgetting (Twin I)

Oil on linen
\$350

Artist Statement:

"The Struggle Against Forgetting (Twin I)" is a part of a two-piece set that explores the intersection of presence and memory using negative space and color theory to touch on existence being immaterial and material in the same breath. It plays with the idea of imagery taking on different meaning in different context as it forces the viewer to accept fate.

Stephen Tornero

He/Him
[@stephenweaves207](#)

Artist Bio

Stephen Tornero is an artist and teacher from Canton, Ohio. While working towards a Masters in Art Education at Kent State University, he had the chance to study weaving, and fell in love with this practice. Working in textiles allowed for the combination of vibrant colors, texture, pattern and transparency that was not successful in other media. Stephen currently teaches visual art and fashion design to 7th and 8th grade students at Plain Local Schools. While these two practices don't always intertwine, he believes that a strong art practice and a strong teaching practice enhance each other.

Artist Statement:

In my job as a teacher, much of my time is devoted to my students. I am trained as a weaver, but this requires a lot of planning and equipment. During covid "lockdown" I used this process of drawing and weaving with transparent materials to mimic the types of designs I would create on the loom. I draw repeated designs on the vellum and then weave the layers together, which creates more repeated designs that blend with each other. There is also the added therapeutic, kinesthetic act of weaving that helps me to meditate during the process. Drawing, cutting, weaving, and sewing the edges of each piece is a simple task that come together to create these small but dense works.



Partly Sunny

Frosted Mylar, Acrylic, Paper, Thread
\$75



The Max (Purple)

Vellum, Paper, Acrylic, Thread
\$75



The Max (Yellow)

Vellum, Paper, Acrylic, Thread
\$75

Susie Lilley she/her

Artist Bio

Susie Lilley graduated from the University of Akron in 2012 with a BFA in Photography and a minor in ceramics. She is actively pursuing both mediums and has had a number of juried exhibitions in her resume, including a show opening June 9th at Summit ArtSpace's Social Justice ArtWalk premier. She enjoys the outdoors and finds photographing details that most would overlook.



Artist Statement:

The morning sun has a way of illuminating nature in all its glory. I am fascinated by water drops and how they sparkle, but more, how they give us a view of the world through their unique lens. I can never seem to get close enough to capture that world, but I will keep trying!

Sweet Pea

Canvas Print
\$125

Sylvia Sykes she/her

[@sylviapaints](#)

Artist Bio

Sylvia Sykes is a Portrait artist from Akron, OH who works in acrylic, oil and digital mediums and tends to focus on African American, community and women subjects in both caricature and realistic styles. Sykes has had a compulsion for creating portraiture since she was 3 years old and attended a performing arts school for 5 years. However, her higher education at The University of Akron was based in psychology and sociology which influence the interpersonal, social and community themes within her work. Sykes uses art as a practice in strengthening her sense of identity having struggled with belonging as a biracial person. She believes in the therapeutic use of color and tends to use bright hues and bold outlines in her work. Since 2019 she has been committed to prioritizing her art as a career and placing her humanitarian values at the forefront of any alternative employment. She is currently increasing her work in the community and working at a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of seniors in Northeast Ohio.



Adam

Acrylic
\$250

Artist Statement:

This piece was originally created to mirror the painting "Eve" in my solo exhibit The Equinox. This exhibit celebrated Balance via 12 pairs of artworks that showed two sides of something within the human experience that serve as counterweight to each other. These pieces were not created as religious commentary but rather a highlight of the balance needed to navigate every relationship. Adam & Eve's story is usually noted for its themes of deceit, betrayal and disobedience. But I think people fail to see the opposite side of that coin; This is (arguably) the first Western love story. It highlights partnership, empathy and compassion both from God and with each other. Having Adam hold the apple could suggest that he was the true offender of the story. However, my true aim with this was to merely shift perspective of the story in general. I want the viewer to re-examine their thoughts on the narrative in order to find the Balance that exists within their legacy.

Taylor Pittl Clapp she/they

@clappforart

Artist Bio

Taylor Clapp- a graphic designer and artist that loves nature, animals, and creating.

Taylor grew up in rural Ohio and has always been interested in pursuing a life in the arts in some way. After earning her BA in Graphic Design from Central State University she moved to Akron, Ohio with her spouse and cat. They quickly fell in love with their adoptive city and now are settling down and filling their home with more pets. During her first few years in Akron, she had the pleasure of working with multiple local organizations in art related jobs. In November of 2020 she decided to officially start freelancing and created her own company, Clapp for Art, LLC. This has allowed her to work with many organizations large and small including Wigs for Kids and Summit Artspace. Taylor also serves on the board for Summit Cycling Center and is one of the co-organizers of the Groundhog Show in Portage Lakes.



Their Mask

Color pencil on toned paper
\$150

Artist Statement:

This is a 30 minute study from a queer live drawing session hosted at Hildebrandt Artist Collective.

Additional details on mat (not pictured above) are sketches of model's tattoos.



The Tear Alchemist: Beware of the Golden Hearted

Acrylic and fabric paint, fabric (cotton?), and thread
\$750

Artist Statement:

If only I could use my tears as currency.

This piece is an experiment of multiple styles I have been working with lately. Most of my paintings touch on mental health and my relationship of anxiety and for some reason blues and oranges are the colors I associate with those feelings. This fabric was intended to be turned into a quilt about mood swings but ended up as this melancholic dream.

Tirzah Legg She/They
@tirzahlegg

Artist Bio

Tirzah Legg is a queer sculptor working in ceramics and mixed media. She was born and raised in Saucier, Mississippi, a small town in the Deep South near the Gulf Coast. After receiving her Associates degree of Art from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, she went on to obtain her BFA at the University of Southern Mississippi, and MFA at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

Tirzah is currently living and working in Oberlin, Ohio full-time as Gallery Director, and part-time as a Ceramics Studio Manager and Ceramics Instructor for the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts (FAVA). She recently served on the Nominating Committee for FRONT International's 2022 Art Futures Fellowship, as well as the Public Mural Committee for the City of Oberlin in partnership with FAVA.

Her work has been shown nationally at the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) conference, at SPACES Cleveland, Kent State University Downtown Gallery, and the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Arts Center.



Artist Statement:

Tirzah's installations and sculptures often include found and slip cast objects, and meticulously hand-sculpted works. Conventional functions and pre-existing notions of our experiences with familiar objects are transposed through fragmentation and abstract, sometimes surreal, representations.

Many works address internal conflict with identity related to anxiety and trauma, and not only societal expectations but also the expectations inflicted by oneself. Objects and fragmented body parts often take the place of the traditional figure in what can be viewed as an abstract approach to portraiture. They are glimpses into the psyche, an ambiguous narrative of the artist's life experience, encompassing both its small joys, and subtle disappointments, in the shadows of truth.

"Questioning the Questions": Endless options and possibilities, wrong or right, often create an anxiety induced paralysis of choice. The hands pointing accusingly at and away from the mirrored viewer show that there is only one person responsible for making the choice. The spinning wheel, frozen or processing, ultimately never reveals a singular answer, instead it points to everything, everywhere, all at once.

Questioning the Question

Ceramics and mixed media

\$1,000



In Transit

Painting
\$150

TJ Benisch

@Tj.benisch

Artist Bio

My name is TJ and I am 18 years old. I enjoy helping and staying active within the Akron community. I find happiness in soaking the sun, going on runs, and surrounding myself with people!

Artist Statement:

Many people in the Akron community have used the Akron Metro bus. If not used them, have seen them around multiple parts of Akron. During fall, I took my phone out and decided to capture the inside of the Number 1 bus to Fairlawn. Within the painting you will see the diversity between the people and the pause of bustling life.



Torch (I Have a Fear of Moths)

Alabaster, Light bulb, Straw
NFS (contact artist)

Artist Statement:

Drawing from memories of family vacations in the woods, Torch reflects a flight path of a moth attracted to a light source.

Wes Thompson

he/him

@wes.t.art

Artist Bio

Wes Thompson is a sculptor and BFA Candidate at The University of Akron. His sculptures explore memories in natural forms and common objects.

Thompson has been awarded for his participation in the Emily Davis Gallery's 86th Annual Juried Student Exhibition, earning second place, and Hope Hickman's Groundhog Show, earning an honorable mention. After earning two scholarships in the Myers School of Art Studio Scholarship Contest, Thompson was awarded one of twelve Folk Charitable Foundation Venice Biennale Travel Grants, one of the school's most prestigious awards.

Thompson has an upcoming exhibition at KINK Contemporary in the November of 2023.



What is The Groundhog Show?

The Groundhog Show was an idea that came to Hope Hickman (local artist) in the spring of 2021 to have an art show/party in her father's warehouse celebrating socialization, domesticity, and relationships. The show got its name because it is as if us artists are popping our heads out "post-covid" and claiming back the summer. Hope made a quick story on Instagram sharing the idea and Taylor Clapp (local artist/graphic designer) soon joined the project to assist with the logistics of putting on an exhibition. The dynamic duo now co-curate and organize this passion project celebrating the artists of NE Ohio for its third year in a row.



Booklet Design by:

Taylor Clapp

Graphic Designer & Artist

Clapp for Art, LLC
clappforart.com