

Exhibition Texts

Alina Schwartz

Name: **Underdressed**

Medium: Block Print

Size: 30cm x 23cm

September 2019

Exhibition Text: Underdressed is a block print on linoleum, and was inspired by the Victorian painter John Simmons, and the Studio Ghibli film, "Secret World of Arrietty". It showcases the struggles of women in the 19th century and the toll it took for women to constantly succumb to societal pressures. The fairies represent an innocence usually lost through time and appreciation of raw humanness.

Name: **Budding Love**

Medium: Dry Point

Size: 20cmx25cm

October 2019

Exhibition Text: Budding Love is a dry point print, inspired by Alphonse Mucha's Flower, and flower symbolism. The piece represents the feelings you experience when you realize you love someone, as well as the happiness your loved ones enable you to feel through genuine affection and care. The flowers used in the piece, lavender, lily of the valley, and rose, represent devotion, pure affection, and love.

Name: **Fated**

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

Size: Three 30cmx61cm canvases

November-December 2019

Exhibition Text: Fated is a self-portrait triptych painting that illustrates the path to self acceptance and love, and how your insecurities act as an obstacle to that goal. The red string of fate connects both my past self and my present self, and shows a manifestation of insecurities as "devils", pulling the string taught; I took inspiration from Frida Kahlo's Las Dos Fridas for this. The bright colors in my piece are inspired by the Fauvist art movement.

Name: **Madame Veto Herself**

Medium: Colored Pencils

Size: 30.5cmx40.6cm

November 2019

Exhibition Text: Madame Veto Herself is a diptych illustration depicting the values of everything and nothing, and how you are most fulfilled when by yourself. My piece is inspired by the life of Marie Antoinette (nicknamed Madame Veto for her low public appeal)

and by the dramatic styles of the Rococo art style. The first half is meant to show how when you have "everything", you feel the most unsatisfied because you are simply surrounded material items. The second Illustration illustrates the physical "nothing", where you are with yourself and your thoughts. This is the point where you feel the most fulfilled.

Name: **Ascension of Venus**

Medium: Watercolor on Watercolor paper

Size: 48cm x 60cm

February 2020

Exhibition Text: Ascension of Venus is a watercolor illustration of my own version of the Birth of Venus, by Botticelli. I used his piece, as well as the surreal and dream-like style of Japanese artist Aya Takano, to recreate the classic scene in a new way. When brainstorming for this project, I knew that I wanted to combine the styles of my two inspirations. I want Ascension to serve not as a sequel of the piece by Botticelli, but as a recreation of the painting in a way that would further push the myth of Venus and accentuate the dramatic structure of all of Greek mythology.

Name: **In A Dream**

Medium: Watercolor painting

Size: 48cm x 60cm

February 2020

Exhibition Text: Ascension of Venus is a watercolor illustration of my own version of the Birth of Venus, by Botticelli. I used his piece, as well as the surreal and dream-like style of Japanese artist Aya Takano, to recreate the classic scene in a new way. I admire the styles of both artists respectively, and when brainstorming for this project, I knew that I wanted to combine the work of them both. I want Ascension to serve not as a sequel of the piece by Botticelli, but as a recreation of the painting in a way that would further push the myth of Venus and accentuate the dramatic structure of all of Greek mythology.

Name: **Chosen Family**

Medium: photographs, taken on a cyber shot sony camera

August-September 2020

Exhibition Text: Chosen Family is a photography series from summer 2020. The series consists of nine photos, meant to highlight the development of the teenage identity and the expression of that through clothing, hobbies, and interactions with others. I wanted to photograph what it's like to go through life changes that influences our generation. The project also features an interview question that had a handwritten response. I am inspired by the work of Adrienne Salinger and Olivia Bee, two photographers who have used their camera skills to capture the essence of what it means to be young.

Name: **San Francisco Travels**

Medium: India ink on paper

Size: two 11cmx9cm sheets of paper

October 2020

Exhibition Text: San Francisco Travels is a diptych illustration made with India ink. It features two different locations around the city of San Francisco, drawn from photos I took while I was there. In both parts of the diptych, I drew myself in, to invoke the feelings I felt while interacting with the environment. It's inspired by Xiao Yuncong and Georgia O'Keefe, two artists skilled at creating scenery using ink and paint. The purpose was to explore the idea of fitting in with your surroundings, and how I felt in such a big city, versus living in Milwaukee.

Name: **A Final Glance Inwards**

Medium: Acrylic paint on canvas

Size: 91cm x 91cm

December 2020

Exhibition Text: A Final Glance Inwards is a self portrait completed in December of 2020, and it is the last project of my high school career. I wanted Inwards to represent a final landmark of how far I've come, not only as an artist, but as an individual as well. It is inspired by the expressionist artist Egon Schiele, as well as the contemporary Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara. This painting is meant to represent my personal growth over the past four years and how my experiences as a young woman has shaped my identity.

Name: **Untitled**

Medium: Ink pen on paper

Size: 18cm x 20cm

July 2020

Exhibition Text: This piece is a illustration created by stippling. It was created during the summer of 2020, as a part of UW-Milwaukee's ArtsEco drawing program. The purpose of this piece was to practice using different illustration techniques besides simple lines, in order to improve proficiency. There was no specific inspiration for the piece, other than my instructor's work used as example in the program. I am very satisfied with the outcome, and I believe that pointillism is a great way to build contrast slowly, and the finished product is always pleasing to the eye. This piece took twelve hours to complete.