A COLLABORATIVE ART SHOW

March 30th—April 10th, 2015 | UAA Consortium Library

[INSERT] REALITY
[insert] REALITY

UAA ART491 senior seminar exhibition
MARCH 30 - APRIL 10 2015
INTRODUCTION

The UAA/APU Books of the Year program is proud to collaborate with Senior Seminar art students on “[insert] Reality.” Their work demonstrates the ability of art to portray multiple layers of interpretation, and illustrates how learners can be actively engaged in discussion of contemporary social issues through artistic expression.

The books selected by faculty serve as the catalyst for discussion of larger issues of local and international significance.

We hope you enjoy this catalogue of outstanding images, and discuss the underlying messages with your friends.

PREFACE

“Insert” means to place, put, load, lodge, or install something into another thing. “Reality” as we know it means real life, actuality, or the state or quality of [something] having existence or substance. In the case of propaganda and society obtaining information from social media, our definitions for both insert and reality must be challenged. When issues are broadcasted on both a digital and global stage, how can we be certain what is truly real anymore? In what should we insert our trust? In addition to this, we must question what is being inserted here; is it truth that is being placed in us? Are we the inserters of information or the receivers? Who is doing what and what does it all mean for us as a society?
“But are they roses if they don’t smell like roses? What if they don’t look like roses?”

“It doesn’t matter, what brand are your roses?”
"I Don’t Know A Louis Vuitton"

34” x 17”

ACRYLIC SCREEN PRINT ON COLD PRESS PAPER
The advertising tape plays over and over; endlessly blathering until it becomes background noise.
Scripted Reality
12” x 22”
WOODBLOCK AND STENCIL PRINT
It only takes a single grain to tip the scales in your favor.
Pushover
17” x 11”
DIGITAL ART
Photoshop is a girl’s best friend.
Expectation

11” x 14”

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Art is not journalism, but it can be something more than journalism.
Symbols of Our Democracy
28” x 22”
AEROSOL PAINT AND $45 ON CANVAS
Coffee houses have been the center of social interaction from newspapers to social media. Who benefits the most from “Fair Trade”?

Ray Dummar
@raydummar
Heidi Hanson
@hewinc_com

There is always pressure to be better and perfect. Why?
Perfect
12” X 13”
MIXED MEDIA

Subliminal
14” X 11”
ACRYLIC AND PHOTO
Whatever input, there is output. Whatever is fed to us is regurgitated. In the end we are all drowning in info where fact and fiction are alike.
Student Debt  
8 1/2" x 11"  
WATERCOLOR AND INK

Regurgitation  
8 1/2" x 11"  
WATERCOLOR AND INK
"Reality"; the world or the state of things as they ACTUALLY exist, as opposed to an idealistic version of things #media #askquestions
Operation Becoming American
8 1/2” x 11”
GRAPHITE

Of Course
8 1/2” x 11”
GRAPHITE AND COLORED PENCIL
Victoria Maxim
@torijene

Always sacred. Always vigilant. Always Watching.
Oppression

8 1/2" x 11"

MIXED MEDIA
"She got a TV eye on me."

Stefanie Vigoren
@teffle_junesnug
Static

11” X 17”

INTAGLIO MIXED MEDIA
Jay Baldwin

My art is an attempt to arrange and interpret my own life experiences, in an effort to make sense of shifting environments. I take inspiration from my surroundings, which are constantly changing by nature. I like to push the limits of the mediums I work with; I use experimental techniques whenever possible. I believe my inspiration and my experimentation both help to constantly further my aesthetics. I bridge the gap between digital and physical, often implementing both processes in the same project. The flexibility of a digital medium compliments the richness of tactile processes in a way that I enjoy and find great pleasure in. I am fascinated with the expression that can be found from line, texture, color palettes, and detail. Often I find these details can be the most effective at communicating larger ideas I like to ponder in my work. I won’t tell you what to take away from my art. I only hope that this work can captivate and stimulate your senses.
Edmar Carrillo

Edmar Carrillo is a graphic designer based in Alaska. Much of his inspiration is drawn from pop culture and current events. Our reality is created by our day to day interactions with those around us. It can be difficult to imagine a reality beyond your own. In the piece *Pushover* Edmar illustrates western media’s influence on the average American Consumer. The artist encourages viewers to seek the stories beyond those that are fed to them in easy to digest bits. Instead dig into subjects with more substance.

Susan Bybee

Susan Bybee was born in Fort Collins, Colorado and has lived on the East coast as well as the Mid-West. She currently lives and works in Anchorage, Alaska. Susan is a printmaker who mainly works with color and abstract design to produce woodblock prints on Japanese paper. The print for Insert Reality shows how the media plays advertisements as well as informational “tapes” over and over until their message eventually becomes a part of our every day conversation. Some conversations are benign but others create tension and have adverse affects. What we listen to influences our values and makes a difference in our thoughts and actions.
Will Dowd is an Alaskan artist and designer working in a variety of media and subject matter. Influenced by social protest posters, graffiti, and conceptual art, the piece for this show titled *Symbols of Our Democracy* is meant to invite reflection on the relationship between money and politics. To love this country is to wish for it to be better for all people living here, not to live in the blind ignorance of American Exceptionalism.

Jennifer Chavez

Jennifer Chavez is a photographer who was born in North Carolina. She enjoys photographing a variety of subjects from weddings and newborns, to more conceptual creations from her mind. When it comes to conceptual photography, Jennifer considers herself to be a self-portrait artist. Most of her self-portraits contain an element from the idea that the modern day notion of beauty is completely unrealistic and ridiculous. The photo created for *Reality* is a culmination of this theme, and seeks to poke fun of the craziness of what is required of Jennifer’s almost daily “natural” makeup look.
Ray Dummar
Born in Nevada and joined the Navy in 1984. Ray then spent the next 27 years flying in several variations of the P3 Orion and managing the Navy Water Survival School. The next adventure was obtaining a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art. This photograph self-portrait titled Margitte’s Coffee is from a series of self-portraits. The concept was to take images from art history and replace one of the items with a coffee related item. This photograph utilized the idea of Rene Magritte’s The Treachery of Images. It is also a statement about the commercialization of the coffee industry and draws attention to the social implication of the disparity between the price paid to the farmers growing coffee and the price charged to the consumer.

Heidi Hanson
She was born and raised in Anchorage Alaska. As an Alaskan artist she incorporates both the traditional and non-traditional Alaskan subject themes. As a result, she has found a voice of her own and hopes to carry it with her no matter where the road will lead. Art is an extension of one’s self and a mirror of your own identity. She sometimes likes to have an image in mind before making the piece. The creating process entails constructing a piece that will naturally take over and the results of the piece will be of an intuitive nature.
I was born and raised in Alaska in 1992, and I have been drawing ever since I could pick up a crayon. I enjoy telling story through art, and I’ve always felt my pieces carried some sort of narrative. With this exhibit, I wanted to show how propaganda can effect our communication. The piece entitled “Student Debt” deals with the conflict of how people define success, and how they are pressured get it at all costs. For the piece entitled “Regurgitation”, this concept is based on how information from the media is regurgitated. The media says what to think, force-feeds it to their audience, the audience spews the information out only to have the media force it back down their throats once again.

The surrounding world helps to influence her art. It is the Art teachers from childhood through College who have driven her passion. At UAA she’s earning a BA of Arts in art in painting. Her experience outside of UAA includes three First Friday shows in Anchorage. Because she always experiments, she doesn’t have one “style”. Her philosophy is that in order to understand oneself as an artist, you must first learn to fail, problem solve, then discipline. Her opinion of propaganda and social media is that it’s necessary for society to learn how to question what they are told; her pieces thus serve as a social commentary. She believe it’s her purpose to express herself and possibly compelling others to discuss their views. Erika hopes to share her perspectives of reality with her audience in order to help them challenge the way they view the world.
Stefanie Vigoren is a graphic designer and senior at UAA. While she uses computers in her professional work, she also enjoys the tactile experience of printmaking and other hands-on processes. Her piece, Static, focuses on addiction to technology and the idea that as media-spewing gadgets become more pervasive, we run the risk of becoming trapped in their version of reality.

I would describe my artwork as a combination of images to create a dreamlike story, to fill the viewers mind with a sort of surreal and yet all too familiar feeling. I tend to use magazine cutouts and utilize them in different ways to achieve this affect, as well as using paint, chalk pastels, and other mediums in my work. My piece in the show (insert) REALITY is meant to convey the brutality and injustice in totalitarian societies, like in North Korea, as well as the feeling of being always watched and the oppression our society and media faces in modern day America. While I've just recently been experimenting with this sort of work, I have been doing collages from a very young age. Collaging has always been a way to express myself, and I am thrilled with the new ways I have learned to utilize the medium. I look forward to showing my work in this show and in more shows in the future, as well as learning more techniques to convey my message.

Victoria Maxim

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