UAA Art491 Senior Seminar Art Exhibition
March 26-April 6, 2018
UAA/APU Consortium Library 3rd Floor
Introduction

The UAA/APU Books of the Year program is proud to collaborate with Senior Seminar art students on “Stratum.” 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.

Negotiating Identity

“Identity” is a fluid concept, molded by experience and circumstances. The identity we present to the world varies with the needs of the moment. In the works presented here you will find a glimpse, temporary and incomplete, of passing identities in a past moment.

Stratum

noun | stra\•tum | \strä-t\m, ‘stra-\ plural strata | \strä-t\, ‘stra-

1 : a bed or layer artificially made

2 a : a sheetlike mass of sedimentary rock or earth of one kind lying between beds of other kinds
   b : a region of the sea or atmosphere that is analogous to a stratum of the earth
   c : a layer of tissue • deep stratum of the skin
   d : a layer in which archaeological material (such as artifacts, skeletons, and dwelling remains) is found on excavation

3 a : a part of a historical or sociological series representing a period or a stage of development
   b : a socioeconomic level of society comprising persons of the same or similar status especially with regard to education or culture

4 : one of a series of layers, levels, or gradations in an ordered system • strata of thought

5 : a statistical subpopulation

—Merriam Webster Dictionary
Dave Berry

Dave Berry was born in 1980 and has wandered through a wide variety of abodes, professions and fields of study. This peripatetic existence has created a very nebulous sense of self, reflected in his unwillingness (or inability) to assign a specific meaning to his own artwork. Dave’s work strives for beauty rather than significance, on the theory that beauty is longer-lasting and less prone to turgid academic analysis.

Pick a Card explores the idea of variable identity—the concept that any individual has a range of personal attributes which we put on or discard to suit the circumstances. A single person can take on a wide array of roles, depending on what others around us may wish (or need) us to be.
Grant Deussing is a graphic designer and artist from Anchorage, Alaska. Apart from computer graphics, his main mediums of choice are paint, graphite, and clay. As a child, Grant moved all around Alaska, birthing an eclectic art style inspired by the state’s splendor. Grant uses art to express his feelings about the world and to inspire others to brighten the world through design.

People are complex creatures with a multitude of layers, many of which often remain hidden and embedded deep in a person’s innermost being. As time passes and people grow, we are molded by our individual experiences like these “layers” that stack and develop as they evolve us throughout life. In *Hiding in Plain Sight*, I explore the essence of this stratum in human nature and the various layers concocting character using different hues and shapes to denote these unique experiences.

**Hiding in Plain Sight**
2018
57” x 33”

Acrylic and glow-in-the-dark paint on paper
Anita Laulainen

Anita Laulainen is a graphic designer and photographer. She seeks out opportunities to create works of art that convey emotions and ideas. Her inspiration comes from the world around her, and the stories she tells through her work reflect her experiences and observations. Her motivation comes from her endless need to create—and her desire to gather new perspectives and narratives to integrate into her own story.

As an artist, I depict the world from my perspective. In this piece, I represent how I see myself. I perceive myself to be an individual with layers, intricately woven and interconnected. I show the simplicity, yet elaborate complexity, of how my layers relate and conflict with each other. Through this piece, I show how I have come to accept my layers for what they are, for all together they make up who I am and guide my identity as I navigate through life.

Layers
2018
20” x 16”
Digital art
I was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska and now attend University of Alaska Anchorage.

I created *Reflective Phase* as a way to embody one's negotiation of identity. Identity is our self; we change and grow externally and internally, for better or for worse, and are defined not so much by what came before as by what remains for the next stage of development. The origin of the artwork came from the idea of layers of identity, a mirror reflecting oneself over change hence evidencing ongoing negotiation and change in identity over time.

*Reflective Phase*

2018

11” x 8.5”

Digital art
Anya Gudimova is an artist originally from Russia, currently living in Anchorage, Alaska. Her practicing medium is mostly oil paint and photography. Her inspiration lies in the sensuality and beauty of everyday life, drawing many concepts from the Romantics. Anya is currently in her fourth year at UAA working on a major in Fine Art and minor in English.

I am still going through the process of finding myself, and I have found that there are so many different sides to me. Each element that I am aware of fits like a puzzle piece to make a whole. This painting summarizes that in a visual way.

Untitled
2017
60” x 48”
Oil
There is no better way to express myself, than through art. I love how I can amplify a feeling just by getting messy with a few mediums. I like to challenging myself with new types of art and style to develope more skills. I am a perfectionist and I like trying to push my limits of what I can and cannot do.

Being myself can be hard because often, there are people I want to impress or be what they want me to be. Being a 23 year-old female, society doesn’t seem to like me in my natural state. And my weight is everyones business. My apperance has been a battle for me for the longest time. The sculptor is reflecting on how I feel like ripping myself apart sometimes because I could never feel happy with myself because someone else’s opinion of me would be lingering in my mind.

The painting is me now, still struggling with internal insecurities but knowing that I can not please anyone and trying my best to love myself the way I am and starting to not care what people think of me.

**Body Image**

Painting: 24” x 18.5”, 2018
Sculpture: 14.5” x 13.5” x 32”, 2016
Clay, acrylic and digital art
Bryce Ehmann is a sculptor living in Alaska who works primarily with metal and wood. He likes to try and create the things that he sees in head and try to portray himself in his work. Bryce is finishing his last semester of school at UAA and will be graduating with a BA in Art and a minor in History with the plan to continue and get a Masters in Art Ed.

We all wear masks and only show people what we want them to see, which is only a small piece of who we really are. Our identities are made up of many different things that have happened to us throughout our lives and everything plays a part no matter how small it is.

My piece is an emotional piece that I made to help myself try and let go of the loss of my best friend. Showing that how I really feel inside (torn, sad, and broken) and the fact that I have been trying to hide the loss and letting it control me instead of accepting the loss and moving on. Half my face is showing emotion while the other half is trying to hide it, just like we struggle to do every day for different reasons.

How I Feel Inside
2016
20.5” x 24” x 18”
Cast aluminum
As an artist, I like to draw from my emotions, interests, and experiences to create unique pieces. My art is not just something I like to do; it is a major part of who I am as a person. It has allowed me to share things with others when I can’t use more traditional means and taught me more about myself than I would have found out otherwise. I want to use my work to reach out and inspire others. It is my hope that my work will encourage others to be true to who they are, to have courage to take risks, and to reach out to others as well.

This piece is inspired by several layers of my identity and personality. The roses mark my June birthday, the butterfly represents my passion for autism awareness (having autism myself), and the horse skull mirrors two of my favorite art subjects: skulls and horses. Horses were my very first attempts at becoming an artist; they were my first subjects and still remain a large interest of mine. As one with leanings towards the gothic, I love to draw skulls; they possess a beautifully macabre grace and form that I find very fascinating.

**Beautiful Endings**

2018
18” x 24”
Acrylic on canvas
Jacqui Lockman

Jacqui is a graphic designer who works professionally with PowerPoint. She started her art background in painting and drawing but was drawn to the practical applications of design and visual problem-solving. You can see her graphic-based background coming through in the piece's high contrast black and white lines and graphic-based subject.

This piece is a self-reflection of how, as a student in life, I negotiate my existence between this fast-paced modern world and my abilities and perceptions as a human. *Input Stratum* was created from the theme of the art show, but it also represents how I use my abilities, which some would call a disadvantage, to my advantage. I found a way to represent this through the vibrant colors layered and mixed on the canvas. This work shows the different inputs and ways that an individual with ADHD and dyslexia can decipher and make sense of all of the noise and color around them.

These concepts are represented in the colors and sounds that can be seen in the painting. The piece moves around the graphic figure that is encased in a silver and gold metallic lining. The figure ultimately shows how much dimension can be brought to a two-dimensional flat figure. When viewing, lose yourself in the minutiae of the layers of this piece.

*Input Stratum*

2018

20” x 20”

Acrylic on canvas
Amy Martin is a printmaker and sculptor who likes to incorporate everyday materials, school supplies, and found objects into her artwork. It is important to her that her audience has a sense of recognition of the materials used and that they are accessible and relatable to anyone wanting to make a similar artwork. The price and access to the best art supplies should never be a deterrent in creating art. She started with crayon portraits and then moved into ceramics, sculpture, and printmaking while focusing on the subjects of mental health, family and politics.

A seemingly endless supply of Crayola crayons, typing paper and Bic pens allowed me the freedom to explore my imagination. My creative drive was born from those simple art supplies and the repetitive nature of my artistic process. My piece Reflection embraces those humble beginnings by using similar, ordinary art supplies and a repetitive background.

Television, pop culture and a dose of Japanese traditions were the basis for my thought process. I was influenced by what I saw on tv and how it contrasted to my life at home. Nothing was familiar but it was all interesting and formative. The images reflected in my sunglasses are some of those influences.

**Reflection**

2018

30” x 20”

Spray paint and collage
Becka Olson is an interdisciplinary artist, living and working in Anchorage, Alaska. Through text, drawing and painting her work explores cultural and societal structures — in hopes of breaking them. In addition to being a practicing artist, Becka works as an education intern at the Anchorage Museum. In this role she creates teacher resources and curriculum involving subjects such as belonging in the north, and Indigenous, female, and queer identities of contemporary artists. Becka will graduate from UAA this spring with a BA in Art and a minor in History, continuing her education this fall in a MA in Museum Studies.

In America we are defined by our current leader, who we chose to represent us as a country. When Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, I could no longer stand by this accusation. As stated by Lindy West: “Mr. Trump has no intention of representing me, my family, the people I care about... It is a stretch to call him anyone’s president but his own... I live in the America that won — the America with art and empathy and a free press and fierce protest. Not my president, not now, not ever.”

I Am Not My President
2017
17” x 11”
Acrylic on paper
Patrick Romain is a photographer based out of Anchorage, Alaska, studying photography at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He primarily shoots portraits almost exclusively on film.

This piece is my interpretation of the duality of man. We are all made up of different pieces and those pieces culminate into one person.

Untitled
2018
15.5" x 12.5"
Film photograph
I’m an artist that loves learning new mediums and mixing them together with what I already know to make pieces unique to my journey negotiating my identity. My inspirations from diverse interests in things like world cultures, fandom, gardening, gaming, and music inform my ever changing aesthetic.

My piece explores how I have negotiated my identity by combining where I come from with where my interests have grown since. Labor Omnia Vincit takes the form of a traditional Japanese hair ornament called a Kanzashi, but is composed of various symbols of my home state of Oklahoma. A fragment of honeycomb for the state insect, a supporting platform of strawberry leaves for the state fruit, and several other pieces all rendered in the copper and sterling silver of my current study of metalsmithing.

**Labor Omnia Vincit**

2016

5” x 8” x 2”

Copper, sterling silver and bone
Thanks and Acknowledgements

SUPPORT
UAA/APU Books of the Year
UAA Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence
UAA Institutional Effectiveness, Engagement and Academic Support

HOSTING
UAA/APU Consortium Library

INTRODUCTION
John Dede
Libby Roderick
Shawnalee Whitney

CATALOG DESIGN
Anita Laulainen, Grant Deussing and Dave Berry

EDITING
Herminia Din

ARTWORK
Senior Seminar Art Students

PUBLISHING
University of Alaska Anchorage

PRINTING
UAA General Support Services