RECONNECT: reflection | deflection | harmony
Introduction

The UAA/APU Books of the Year (BOY) program is proud to collaborate with Senior Seminar art students on this exhibit entitled “Reconnect: Reflection, Deflection, Harmony”. The BOY program brings faculty, staff, and community members together to understand common themes, serves as the catalyst for discussions of larger issues, and provides creative venues for people to express their interpretations of those issues in different ways.

The theme for 2020 is “Building Community Resilience”, and this exhibit addresses the all-important issue of climate change in our world. The students’ work illustrates how learners can be actively engaged in discussion of contemporary social issues through artistic expression.

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

- Libby Roderick
About The Exhibit

This exhibition is about Global Warming and Pollution. As you explore our exhibit, we hope you will find ways to reconnect, reflect, understand the deflection, and come into harmony with the challenges we all face on this paper thin slice of air covering a giant earth which is our only sustenance. From our amazing ocean creatures to our beautiful landscapes, we must examine our own morals and excuses, get past them and work with the earth instead of against it.
My name is Chris Caples, I create ocean animals in metal. I’ve enjoyed a fascination with all things nature oriented from childhood. The works are made by pounding metal sheets and wires into recognizable forms of ocean creatures, my favorite animals. I work mostly with copper brass alloys and copper wire for the time being. I can’t say that I’ve been particularly influenced by any single artist, although I know of many. I work mostly from just what I feel about the shapes I’m seeing. I use natural materials, stones, ocean pieces to complement the overall feel. These objects have been collected on ocean walks over many years. My message is just that these are our beloved animals, rare and meaningful. They fit well into this exhibition because other than ourselves, they are who we are fighting for and who we stand to lose. Global warming is a death sentence to many of these creatures and we need to get our act in gear.
Rebekah J. Coe

I’ve been creating work that investigates the connection between changing events and the individuals affected. Through this work, I hope to show that environmental issues can be discussed through depicting individual or shared experiences. To experience nature is to observe change. If we are to understand where we fit in this fluctuating world, we’ll need to reconnect with the circumstances that brought us to where we are and where we’re going.
Alec B. Hernandez

The type of work Alec likes to create is visual identity, marketing materials, product packaging, magazines layouts, photography, and photo editing. These are somewhat he enjoys designing and creating. He is constantly working on perfecting as well as developing new techniques to master his skills. He works in many mediums such as drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpturing, photography and digital. Alec is also interested in learning motion graphics to create a visual effect, animations and other cinematic techniques to bring life to their creations. His favorite artist is a talented graphic artist, Aaron Draplin, who has inspired him. Draplin has worked with thousands of companies by coming up designs for logos. Most of Alec’s work/projects relates to what he loves to do such as skateboarding, snowboarding, outdoors, and things that he finds interesting and inspiring.
Jinseok Jang

I have been learning various graphic design skills in UAA, and it is so interesting that there are so many fascinating designs that I can simply create with diverse software. These days, photos and illustrations can be efficiently created and enhanced in terms of visuality, and I realize it often pleases not only my eyes but also others’. I usually work with various photos to improve the message contained in photos. I want to practice more graphic design skills so that I can satisfy both me and people from my community.
Hayoung Kim

The most important thing in design is expressing the ideas outwardly through art. In my experience, a helpful place to give many ideas to her is at an art gallery. By visiting other artist’s gallery, I gain various unique ideas toward various cultures that I never exposes to, in which leading me to having a different point of perspective. I am an artist who is able to show and express the invisible emotion through artwork. Not just showing great artworks, but helping people become brighter through their hardest and difficult time. Since all people have different perspective, they interpret same artwork differently. All artists have to contain a story that they want to express towards the audience not just from the artist’s point of view, but towards the audience point of view. Besides, all artists have a different talent for each of their own individual art style. They represent their art through an expression of color. I have a color that I express, and that is “Light”. I paint brightly on people’s dark heart due to hardship in their lives. I am an artist who want to make people’s mind comfortable and give them a bright hope through my artworks.

In Pursuit of Hope
Digital Painting
5.5” x 8.5”

In Pursuit of Hope
Digital Painting
5.5” x 8.5”
Claire V. Kudyba

In a world that disregards beauty less and less, it seems more important than ever to bring this value to a society that craves authenticity. I believe beauty touches the soul and teaches the truth. Therefore, it is the aim of my artwork to impart some fraction of the value to the viewer, whether this be through imagery, line, composition, or color. When I create a piece, I often infuse one or more of these aspects into my work, selecting whichever one, or ones, that will have the most impact upon the subject matter. If nothing else comes from my work, I hope to convey an experience, create a connection, or spark a thought, even if it may be brief, that looks to the beautiful.

The Peace of Saint Francis
Watercolor, Colored Pencil
11” x 11”
Austin Magalong

Marine debris, also known as marine litter, is a global problem and a big threat to the environment. Huge amounts of plastics, metals, rubber, and many more other man-made objects are discarded into the marine environment every day. This is causing major damage to the marine ecosystem and is one of the most widespread pollution problems on earth. In my artwork I wanted to show both view of an oceanic environment above the water and below. The above view of the oceanic environment shows a beautiful and peaceful look that most people see when looking at the ocean. The below view shows how the ocean has been treated with all the garbage and litter caused by humans. Oceans have been neglected by us humans and its causing destruction and problems to the environment. Even though we may not live in the ocean, as a society we must take care of it. If we don’t, we may lose all the beautiful/helpful aspects our oceans provide us.
Katherine L. Massong

As humans, we all leave footprints on this earth, whether physically or metaphorically. These footprints can be ones of change and growth, or ones of destruction and carelessness. As an artist in this current society, my hope is to make conscious steps that help erase footprints made in ignorance, ones that have negatively impacted the planet we call our home, and make way for a more conscious and purposeful approach to our everyday life. My art is one of the ways in which I am able to share this message, creating pieces that encourage us all to look within ourselves and then turn our focus outwards, considering our actions and priorities in a world that so desperately cries for help.
Stefanie D. Matthew

Every once in a while, I like to reconnect with nature. I love to breathe in the musky smell of decay mixed with the fresh smell of regrowth. The sound of the forest surrounds me in a comforting blanket of peace. In the silence of the forest, I love to hear as animals scurry around me, and the birds sing their songs of joy.

To hear the rush of the river between the rocks below my feet, and the feeling of the cool water washing over my fingers as I sit upon the eroded rock. As I jump from rock to rock leaving wet footprints on the cool dry rocks behind me, I can’t help but think, “this is where I belong; this is where I feel most at home. Lost among the rock and the trees that canopy above me.”

“And into the forest, I go, to lose my mind and find my soul.” -John Muir
Morgan A. Porter

As we sail through life our boats that we build get bigger, stronger, faster. Eventually we reach a point where we crash, the ship we hold so dear turned into a pile of broken wood. And from the shipwreck, we begin to walk, as it’s the only thing we are left to do. We leave the ship behind, but the memories are never forgotten.
Mya D. Rivera

Hueco, meaning holes or void, is a home for birds. In this area, we are co-existing with these animals, which is allowing us to reconnect with nature. It is a place for peace and reconnection. We are in a world full of tragedies and technology, it is essential that we, as a society, once in a while, step out of our everyday lives to enjoy the beauties we come across in the world. This is not only a place for harmony but one full of possibilities. From a personal point of view, you may only see holes, but that void is filled with mysteries. Where does it end? Where does it lead? This leaves you with a sense of magic, due to the different imaginations you can create when you look at a structure full of history. That is one of many beauties of human life and the nature that has overgrown it.
Milo M. Stickle-Frizzell

My work primarily focuses on broken things. Regardless of the medium, my work usually evades the traditional opinion of beauty. This is not to say that I do not consider what I create to be beautiful, but rather I do not expect another to assume that it is by their definition. By pursuing the conventional anti-beauty I hope to find some form of truth. This is not a new idea but it is one that I find emblematic of my personality and personal history.

There is an edge. However sometimes it may be perceived as dull.

I work in a variety of mediums, although when it comes to visual art I primarily draw. These drawings are through either ink and marker, graphite, or digital. I also work as a programmer and as a result there is frequently an overlap between my software and my visual works.
Christine Caples resides in Anchorage, Alaska. She works in metals and natural materials, preferring to work with things related to the ocean. She has a foot in both art and journalism, an avid photographer, she enjoys macro photography as well as all the forms nature has to offer. Her photography and her writing have been in many publications covering bands, engagement photos, and so forth. Her thirst for news stories is insatiable. She taught Lindy Hop Swing dance for a few years and has dallied in painting, and jewelry making, but prefers creating gorgeous ocean creatures the most. Known for her strange sense of humor, many of her works have a hidden message, some are overt messages, some are more subtle, but some are just pretty. She also expresses herself more practically, in the form of decorating and throwing creatively embellished parties. She started taking art classes in the late 2000s and has worked it around a family and full time job but as the children grow and she reclaims more of her time, she can finally focus more on her passion of art.

As both an experienced painter and wood sculptor, I am constantly learning about different forms whether it's getting the right highlights and shadows in an oil painting or deciding which features to render in full in detail from a wood piece. I started seriously pursuing art in 2014 when the landscape and seasoned but sweet characters in Homer, Alaska, where I grew up, inspired me to share my local perspective through different mediums. My first gallery piece was a cottonwood carving of five salmon forcing their way up stream. This naturalistic style is a characteristic that threads throughout my work. People were so intrigued by the motion and narrative in the carving that it was the first in the show to sell. Since then, I've been finding other mediums where I can create this expressive quality. Developing my skill in painting, I've learned how to recreate highlights and shadows in a way that emphasizes the form. Now nearing the end of my degree in Painting, with a minor in Professional Writing, my goal is to create work that goes beyond Alaskan scenery, focusing on a more individual perspective.
Hayoung Kim

Hayoung Kim is an international student from Republic of South Korea. She is senior in University of Alaska Anchorage. Her major program is Bachelor of Art, Graphic Design. She has a dream to become a designer since she was 14 years old after her teacher in middle school recommended her to go into an art program. She was middle school student. She participated three art contests through the art programs. As she is learning design, she thinks that the most important thing in design is expressing the ideas outwardly through art. She believes beauty can be found in everyone and everything, from the seemingly insignificant, to the villest and most rejected of subjects. It is her aim to shed light on this hidden beauty in her art. Especially captivated by sacred art in Catholic Churches, Claire hopes to study Catholic sacred art in order to create artworks for the parishes in Alaska. When not studying, Claire works as a barista while living at home with her family in Palmer, Alaska. After graduation from the University of Alaska, she will embark on a one-month mission trip to Magadan, Russia.

Claire V. Kudyba

Claire Kudyba is a Senior at the University of Alaska Anchorage, set to graduate spring 2020 with a Bachelor of Art and a Minor in English. Although her concentration is Drawing and Illustration, she dabbles in other mediums like painting and ink. She believes beauty can be found in everyone and everything, from the seemingly insignificant, to the villest and most rejected of subjects. It is her aim to shed light on this hidden beauty in her art. Especially captivated by sacred art in Catholic Churches, Claire hopes to study Catholic sacred art in order to create artworks for the parishes in Alaska. When not studying, Claire works as a barista while living at home with her family in Palmer, Alaska. After graduation from the University of Alaska, she will embark on a one-month mission trip to Magadan, Russia.

Austin Magalong

Born in California, Austin Magalong was raised in Alaska since he was a one year old. Currently living in Anchorage, Alaska, he spent most of his life growing up in a small town on the Aleutian Chain called Unalaska, Alaska or also called Dutch Harbor, Alaska. He is currently enrolled at the University of Alaska Anchorage majoring in the Arts with an emphasis in Graphic Design. The Spring semester of 2020 is when he’ll be graduating. As a graphic designer, Magalong has been professionally designing for more than two years. He has designed many logos, posters, t-shirt graphics, pamphlets, and catalogs. His preferred projects to work on are logos, posters and t-shirt graphics. When designing graphics, he designs both for a company as well as freelancing.

On his free time Magalong enjoys making digital art and playing video games. The digital art that he makes are usually vector based and are inspired by cartoons, comics, and street art. Besides digital art, he also works on his photography.

Katherine L. Massong

When I was a young child, my dad used to show me his sketches; notebooks filled with pencil drawings of my mother, airplanes, and animals. Days spent staring at my father’s sketchbook slowly turned into days where I picked up the pencil myself, and then the paintbrush, and then any other medium I could get my hands on. Creating life and emotion upon what once was a blank lifeless page has been my passion ever since. When I’m not painting, sketching, or taking reference photos, one can typically find me with a mug of tea in my hand while completing various types of homework or on the search for my next adventure. Whether that be spending the summer in a country abroad or just hiking old trails near my childhood home, I am always on the lookout to grow and expand my horizons.

About The Artist

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Palmer based photographer, Stefanie Matthew, has been polishing her landscape photography skills for the past few years. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Anchorage and plans to finish her degree December 2020. Originally a portrait photographer, Stefanie decided to expand her knowledge of photography into the subject landscapes.

Stefanie's progression into landscape photography originated when she moved to Alaska. She had always loved photography but began to have an unexpected fascination with mountains of the Matanuska Valley and their vastly majestic beauty. Her fascination with nature allowed her to challenge herself to capture the perfect image whether it be skillfully stretched over the edge of a mountain or in the middle of a river perched expertly on a small slippery rock.

I started painting when I was around 7, found so much joy in the art of creation, that I continued to practice and get better. Throughout High School I stayed after school almost every day and contributed to large set pieces for school plays, the largest being 5 panels wide. I eventually determined that art was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and it’s why I chose to pursue a degree in art. Art has given me so many new opportunities and experiences and am forever grateful for it. With my degree, I plan to pursue a career in art.

Hello, my name is Mya Rivera. I am getting my Bachelor's in Art with an emphasis in printmaking. My art style is a mixture of Tim Burton and Jamie Hewlett, who are artists and creators that I look up to due to their unique art style. Dancing is another art form that allows me to express myself. If I am not with my friends or working, I enjoy making bags and shoes. In my spare time, I also enjoy hanging out with my three sisters. I am from New York City, but I call Alaska my home since I have been here for about ten years. My next step is to get my master’s in museum studies and maybe even start my own business for dance or have a place where I can sell my Art.

Milo Stickle-Frizzell is a student who works while attending UAA full time. He is currently enrolled in both the Art program and the Computer Science and Engineering program. He will receive his first degree and minor this semester (if all goes well) and his second degree next year.

In addition to being active in the Anchorage art community, he formerly ran and created UAA's animation and cartooning club The Hickory for Animation and Cartooning and curated its show The Hickory Cartoon Show, which debuted in Fall 2018.

He has been spending time recently working on creating private projects, including comic books, video games, and various computer programs. His most recent designs have been a prototype for a text adventure RPG called Superconscious and a Star Wars themed ARG which allows players to participate in DND-like tabletop adventures in between geocaching events.