Eyes to See
Ears to Listen
RISE RESILIENCE
Eyes to See, Ears to Listen

Rise Resilience
The UAA/APU Books of the Year (BOY) program is proud to collaborate with Senior Seminar art students on this exhibit entitled “Eyes to See, Ears to Listen: Rise Resilience”. 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 art was created in response to the BOY theme “Building Community Resilience”, which challenges us to address chronic stresses like homelessness, poverty, and racism, as well as acute shocks like the wildfires, flooding and sea level rise wrought by climate change. 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
Director, Difficult Dialogues Initiatives
Chair, UAA/APU Books of the Year
This exhibition is about the many issues that surround us in our everyday lives. Namely, the main topics of climate change, social justice, inequality, etc. As you explore our exhibit, we hope that you can join the conversation and keep the dialogue going. We hope that you as the viewer will keep your eyes open to see, your ears open to hearing, and rise with resilience to keep fighting for what you believe in.
The Peacock represents various symbols in different cultures which include wellness, vanity, freedom, liberation, and luck. In Native American symbolism, the peacock represents wellness, splendor, and poise. The feathers have great importance in healing rituals. In addition to wellness, the peacock is also seen as a symbol for self-confidence, self-esteem, dignity, pride, and beauty.

Last summer, amidst the first lockdown, I was in the mood to create a piece for my home that would uplift the dampened spirits of members of my family due to the rising cases of COVID and the growing social restrictions. Unbeknownst to many of us, it was just the beginning of a long journey of a new socially distanced way of life. I chose this painting to be included in the Books of the Year exhibit as wellness plays an important role in rising up and being resilient during difficult times, more than ever, many of our mental and physical health are being tested with the COVID-19 pandemic. The peacock’s representation of wellness is a critical reminder for us to take care of our bodies, our minds and one another.

Bea Barth
A Vicious Cycle is inspired by a cause and effect of global warming and the recycle symbol. It was created with the intent to show that one action leads to another which leads to another which leads back to the first action. Without stopping one of these actions causes an endless cycle of chaos and destruction. There are three depictions shown in the cycle to be seen going counterclockwise. Each depiction is in the shape of a polar bear head with its mouth wide open as if it is about to eat into the next depiction. The reason I chose the polar bear is an Alaskan influence and because the ozone depletion is most common in the polar regions. The depiction on the upper left is of a wildfire which is a consequence of global warming. The bottom depiction is of a field of chopped trees and a paper mill that is polluting water and the air which is an effect brought on by the wildfire. The upper right depiction is of the sun melting Earth due to the sun’s radiation and to an opening in the ozone layer because the paper mill pollution can contribute to ozone depletion. This causes global warming which in turn helps to cause wildfires, and so the cycle continues.

Caitlin Cerimele
As someone who struggles with mental health and has known countless others who struggle as well, I realized that we show resilience by fighting and living life despite those issues. I thought it may be a good idea to represent that fight by showing those mental wounds on the outside. And despite these wounds, we still stand as well as we can and do our best to face towards the light. And we hope this light leads to a brighter future where we are able to deal with our mental health problems more easily.

Angelina Colemen
This piece was created in Fall 2018, greed and gluttony can be appealing for instant gratification and sometimes pleasurable effects short term. But the flip side of prolonging greed and gluttony can be destructive, they are two of the seven deadly sins after all. As individuals, we can do a small part to reduce our carbon footprints, consume less, reuse. But at the root of pollution and climate change is the result of the greed and glutton of capitalism, mass production, and money drive corporations and world leaders are the driving cause of pollution and climate change. This culture of having excess, consuming in excess is driving our planet to warmer climates and irreparable damage.

**Michaeline Collins**
When I look through the internet, I cannot help but notice a predominance of vapid material. Ads, slideshows, quizzes, and tabloids are all entertaining, but ultimately, they are meaningless. Despite this, it seems that media outlets focus on this kind of entertainment media and its predominance has started to overshadow that of other news articles which deal with important real-world and societal issues.

In my piece, I wanted to present this counterbalance. Using clear acrylic sheets with foam board feet, I layered different ‘news’ articles of my design. On the ‘entertainment’ side, it is laid out in a way that completely blocks the window. On the ‘real’ side, it shows its parallel with news articles dealing with real issues behind a homeless person looking at a dead bird. What I want to present with a homeless man and his bird is that while a focus on real issues in the media is important, it is even more important than in actual life we see and deal with these issues instead of just viewing them through a screen.

Karah Daughtry

MEDIA WINDOW

2021

Acrylic plexiglass with foam board base, 11 x 14 x 1.25 inches
For my ceramic art piece titled “Surplus,” the goal was to showcase the effect climate change can have in our lives and the food we eat. This piece is based on what the Philippines (my home country) experienced in 2019. During that year there was a mango overflow in the farms due to the warm weather conditions caused by El Niño, where it heated up the Pacific Ocean and sent warm, dry weather to the Philippines. This caused the mango farmers and the government to struggle in figuring out how to sell off all the excess mangoes, so they did not go to waste. The 23 mini ceramic sculptures were placed in two boxes with packing peanuts to represent the mango farmers’ attempts to sell and import the excess mangoes to other countries. Alongside that, each mini sculpture in the 23 set was made to look like rotting mangoes that were unable to be sold off in time before becoming waste.
Gladiolus

2021

Digital, 8.5 x 11 inches

My artwork consists of cartoon illustrations and graphic designs that explore vibrant color schemes and dynamic or simple gestures of the form. I also work in semi-realistic acrylic paintings and small-scale embroidery designs. I have a variety of inspirations I pull from on a daily basis, from other artists I follow on my social media to the tv shows, movies, comics, manga, or anime that I watch and read. I believe all art can bring joy and strike inspiration for new ways to create new pieces. The excitement of creation is what keeps me creating new art and I want to give that same exhilaration to other viewers and creators who look at my work. I hope they also find inspiration to create or find admiration in creation.

Isabella Fajardo
Emerge

Amy Jettenberg

I like to alter the familiar in my artwork through unusual, striking color palettes. This gives my landscapes an otherworldly effect, overlaying imagination on top of reality. My tendency towards painting landscapes comes from having lived in Alaska my whole life and always being surrounded by intense nature. I find nature inspiring because of its interconnectedness and diversity. and I want to portray that in my work.

Amy Jettenberg
“Drift” highlights Kessakorn’s cultural heritage and passion for environmental activism. To tie her Alaskan and Thai culture together, this piece focuses on how the impacts of climate warming extends from the Arctic down to the coasts of Thailand. As sea ice melts, polar bears and various Arctic animals are losing their habitats, requiring them to travel further distances to survive. The melting ice continues to raise sea levels, endangering coastal communities all over the globe. Polar bears signify perseverance with water representing cleansing, transformation, and renewal. Within this work, all ice has melted forcing Nanook to venture out in search of new territory to begin again. Despite the challenges, he holds onto his strength and moves forward, ready to adapt, while remembering and honoring his past.

**Drift**

2018

Acrylic, and gold pen on stretched canvas, 8.5 x 11 inches

Sabrina Kessakorn
Razzmatazz Poster
2020
Digital collage, 8.5 x 11 inches

This is a poster promoting the album Razzmatazz by American musical duo IDK-How. The Poster takes inspiration and some key elements of the original album’s cover art—mainly the text and the addition of the color print tones on the side. It was created as an experiment in composition, using randomly arranged slips of paper to create an even more dynamic composition.

Shu Mayer
Resilience is represented in many ways, such as through people, objects, and ideals, but to me resilience in every form is the ability to retain one’s shape, to adjust to the surrounding circumstances, and to persevere in the face of adversity. “Moving On” depicts the power that humans possess to charge-ahead—even when we are our own opposition. Many elements in this piece suggest or personally represent what resilience means to me: lunar rover tires that “bounce back” and can tackle harsh terrains, crops that can survive in extremely stressful situations, humans finding ways to live in uninhabitable environments. In contrast, some of these elements also serve as an antagonist to the idea of resilience: humans continuing to plant such an unsustainable crop such as corn even in a less than desirable climate and leaving a world that could have been saved, behind in pursuit of the same reckless abandon.

Thomi McCormick
This piece was created with the intent to show how our world is changing through climate change and human waste and destruction. Our oceans are becoming full of “trash islands” and sick sea life, and it has been said at some point we may never be able to eat fish again. With plastic bottles, cigarette butts, and oil spills, we are polluting and destroying our oceans, and intern our own way of life. We enjoy and love the world we live in, I love sushi, and it is my favorite food. I cannot help but wonder what we will be eating in the future if we kill all of our ocean resources, we are what we create, and we are what we eat. In creating awareness about ocean pollution and climate change, we can create awareness and bring about change to our world for the betterment of everyone within it.
I am constantly searching for inspiration in my everyday life. My style is roughly inspired by Japanese street fashion, comic books, graphic novels, and the art of anime and manga. My distinctive personal style, which focuses on figures, uses bright colors and unique concepts to create thought-provoking images. I like to keep my illustrations visually lighthearted, while communicating underlying themes of mood and emotions. I hope that people will have different interpretations of what they can see and feel within my pieces. I mainly work digitally, but recently I have been creating acrylic paintings on skateboard decks. I have found a new admiration for skateboard culture and I have enjoyed working with a new medium. I use art for self-expression and as a form of therapy, I wish to continue to develop my style and learn more about the artworld, other artists, and myself.

Winter Osborne
Quarantining has given us all a lot more opportunity to observe our animal neighbors, whether indoors or out. Now we know what they do all day—hang out where they are not supposed to, shred things, and make raucous noise. What can an artist do? Try to control them? Or embrace them and paint them? This show embodies my newfound way to deal with life’s annoyances—by accepting them, then turning them into art. As spring encroaches, enjoy these colorful, vain, misbehaving magpies.

KAREN PADGETT
This piece represents the calm and unsettling feelings surrounding the Chernobyl reactor. This piece is meant to give off a sense of beautiful and horror. Within the heavy fog you can see hints of old playgrounds, carnival rides, and ruins of buildings. The building is in decay and everything around it just has a feel of death and decay. Aftermath is meant to represent the beauty that lies within horror.
This digital piece was created in Fall 2020 as a response to climate change and the melting of glaciers, forest fires, drought, etc.... The loss of habitat along with the animals that live in those areas affected. The outline of a polar bear is to symbolize the loss, starvation, and the hollowing of our environment. The use of the recycle logo is to represent the ideology of reuse, recycle and reduce to combat our carbon footprint and to try to curb the climate changes along with the global warming caused by humankind. The washed-out backdrop behind the figure is to hit upon a few of the issues we are seeing amongst many others: forest fires, droughts, and the melting of our arctic. I hope with this image, is to bring attention to the ongoing fight and to display our resilience among many climate change fighters who want to fight hard for our existence but also hose of the animal kind too.
The Artists
**Bea Barth**

Bea Barth was born in the Philippines and immigrated to Anchorage, Alaska in the second grade. Growing up in the diverse city of Anchorage, she attributes her ability to look at the world with open eyes to the culture shock and adaptation she experienced at a young age. She believes that art is one of the greatest ways that humans can promote change, celebrate diversity, and uplift each other. An avid outdoor fan, Bea loves to be in nature. She enjoys gardening, camping, hunting, and fishing. She now lives in Palmer and tends to her own hobby farm and garden which includes chickens, ducks, turkeys, and a couple of pitbulls. She currently works in the legal field and plans to attend law school after graduating.

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**Caitlin Cerimele**

Caitlin Cerimele was born and raised in Palmer, Alaska. She grew up exploring many different types of arts and crafts. Caitlin was first introduced to the world of illustration in middle school, but realized she was most interested in illustration in high school when she found herself fantasizing real life situations in illustrated drawings. She draws inspiration mostly from her experiences and from real world situations. Caitlin Cerimele is currently a student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She is seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in illustration.
I have been in love with art ever since I could pick up a pencil, but I only really started getting serious with it when I was able to open my eyes to the world around me. Only a year ago, a single moment of true happiness tore through my mind and I was able to see color for the first time in forever. I had already decided to pursue art, but I realized just how important art is and how it is connected to everything. The way the trees breathe, the ground moves, people think and speak, and how colors change is nature’s artwork. Why would I pass up the opportunity to capture the feelings I get when experiencing all those things? Not everything is a happy feeling, but they are all important and need to be communicated in one way or another. Art is how I communicate. And I have tried many mediums and will continue to find different ways to express myself.

Angelina Colemen

Michaeline Collins is a freelance illustrator and graphic designer, who primarily works in digital medium. She grew up and was raised in Washington State, and moved to Alaska. Her Art is free and open to the topic and who it is for. She enjoys creating artwork with animalistic or anthropomorphic elements, in a fantasy-like setting. She believes that the arts are a universal language, open for anyone from anywhere to enjoy and to understand and learn about each other. Michaeline Collin's current accomplishments include scratchboard piece Untitled in the 2018 Juried Student Art Show, with juror David Mollett. Untitled Won best in drawing. Michaeline Collins hopes to finish her degree and pursue a career in graphic design and growing her personal artwork and freelance work.
Originally born in Colorado, I moved to Anchorage, Alaska at the age of 11. As I progressed into my adult years, I continued to reside within Alaska, and it is here that I currently base my art and career. My artistic journey started from a young age. Having a natural disposition towards the arts, a majority of my skill comes through self-taught methods. Through art, I prioritize my desire to communicate her ideas and stories through art, and it is my ambition to one day write my own comic series and graphic novels. Currently, I work as a freelance graphic designer and artist as I continue to work for my Bachelor of Art with an emphasis on Graphic Design. The mediums I most commonly work within are digital art and design with most of my work is primarily focused on Character Design, Illustration, and Graphic Design. Although, my art does branch out into other areas such as graphite, ceramics, and photography.

Since I was 10 years old, I’ve always been interested in creating art and I haven’t stopped since. While living in the Philippines I had trouble fitting in with my classmates due to not knowing how to speak Tagalog at the time. This caused me to miss out on fun opportunities in school and to help me feel better, I drew my favorite cartoon characters and would later draw my own original characters and designs. Because of this, I began to see art as an important tool for people to use to express themselves and what they are feeling in their art pieces. With my art and designs, I aim to incorporate new ideas and styles that make each art project I make different from my previous works. The art that I currently make is primarily digital since I focus on graphic design and digital art.
Isabella J. Fajardo is a Filipino-American artist who has lived in Anchorage, Alaska most of her life. Art has been a part of her life since the age of five and has stuck with her since then, growing into a passion that fuels her every creation. At a young age she has always known she wanted a career or business within the art field, although she veered away for a moment during her early years of college, she came back to her true passion, art. Isabella focuses on illustration and graphic design, but enjoys making art in acrylic paint, embroidery, and other mediums that catch her interest. One can master one medium their whole life, however that doesn’t mean you can’t explore other mediums while mastering your own craft is a statement Isabella believes in when it comes to creating art. Art brings meaning to life in Isabella’s eyes and the interpretation of any kind of art is boundless.

Amy Jettenberg

I was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. I began to focus on and study art in 2018. I primarily work on graphite and charcoal drawings and on acrylic paintings. I primarily depict landscapes and still life. My artwork is inspired by the diversity of forms found in the natural world. I am actively pursuing a BA in drawing at the University of Alaska Anchorage.
**Sabrina Kessakorn**

Sabrina Kessakorn was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. Her work is heavily inspired by nature, environmental studies, cultural anthropology, social justice, and spirituality. To fully encompass her various passions, she dabbles in many mediums including painting, drawing, modeling, photography, and digital design. Her work often explores ideas of self-liberation and discovery, and human-nature relationships. Kessakorn strives to dissolve boundaries between dream and reality, to present new ways of perceiving.

**Shu Mayer**

Shu Mayer is a non-binary artist who specializes in digital artistry. They grew up in the states and are currently working on a BA in graphic design at the University of Anchorage Alaska. To Mayer, art is an integral part of life. They believe that art is more than just self-expression, but rather, a way of experiencing the world as a whole. In their art, they like to put their own personal twist on traditional and historical concepts from a variety of cultures. Mayer’s artistic style favors organic shapes and subjects. They aim to express traditional ideals and aesthetics in modern design. As a modern artist using a modern medium, they are constantly experimenting with new techniques and styles. For them, art and design have infinite potential. They hope to inspire and invigorate others through their own work and journey. By creating a continued dialogue with their work, Mayer hopes to help create the future of art.
Thomi McCormick (he/him/his) is a practicing visual artist, born and raised in Alaska, pursuing a BA in Art with a minor in Psychology at UAA. Thomi has already earned his AA in Art and will be graduating with his BA this summer of 2021. Thomi’s primary focuses while studying have been sculpture, analog illustration, and performance art. His interests, studies, relationships, and self-interpretations all influence the thematic narrative and contents of his work. Thomi’s artistic objective is to communicate his own perspective and life experiences through his work while connecting to his audience on a personal level through their interpretations.

I love working with all mediums of art, as I find we should taste everything in life at least once. I create with my hands, but also my voice. I could label myself as a musical artist, as well as a ceramic, silver, drawing, painting, print, graphic artist, and more. I create intuitively with little to no planning and find that my best work is when I let the materials speak to me. I am a firm believer that art is a way to express and heal in a way that traditional therapy never could. An ever-expanding form of expression, with limitless possibilities of meanings and materials. Art is a form of expression that can help us as humans relate to one another and give us a voice that words cannot. We can create for social change and justice, or just for ourselves. Art is limitless, and I hope that when I create art that people can view it and learn as much as I do in my process.
Winter Osborne

Winter is an illustrator & freelance designer located in Alaska. She is currently seeking her bachelor’s degree emphasizing in graphic design with a business minor in entrepreneurship at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Using her experience with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and other programs, she has worked with various companies working as a graphic designer. Beginning her passion for drawing as a child, Winter was inspired by the art style and characters of the show Sailor moon. Moving forward in her art career she continues to hint at the styles of anime and graphic comic books in her work.

Karen Padgett

I have created beautiful, colorful art since I was 6 when I learned to weave. When my youngest son turned 6, I started painting and drawing with him because he did not want me to leave him alone at his after-school art classes. Our first classes were with oil pastel then watercolor then acrylics. I was hooked! I have been on fire for painting ever since. I love the feeling of the smooth paint flowing onto the canvas. I love the way the colors combine or contrast with one another. I love creating the illusion of three dimensions on a flat canvas. I love the feeling of completing a painting, being the first to see something that has never been seen before. My favorite thing is to then share the paintings with you. Enjoy! My husband and I moved to Anchorage in 1998 and love living here and raising our two boys here.
Michael Provo is a local practicing professional artist from Palmer, Alaska. He works primarily as a commissioned artist doing everything from oil paints to digital pieces. He started as a self-taught artist, but eventually decided to attend school for art back in 2010. He has been making and selling art for several years, and more recently began working in the comic book world as a commissioned artist for customers doing recreations, variant comic covers and one-off pieces. Michael is a dedicated artist who is striving to be the best he can at every form of art. Within the last year Michael works have been on display in two art shows. One as part of a collection of artists and the other in a show dedicated solely to him and his Japanese inspired pieces.

As an artist, I have been drawing for as long as I could remember. What had got me into creating any kind of artistic endeavor was just from cartoons, comics, books, and later video games. The idea of taking something so simple and evolving it into a more developed piece, has been the drive for me to keep working in the arts. Taking my own personal works, I am learning how to evolve it into digital format. Slowly branching into more topic specific related works: climate, social, etc... and hopefully with my works, it brings another story into the ongoing book of issues going on.