INTRODUCTION

The following six artists are the Bachelor of Fine Arts class of 2017 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The work of this year’s class features a spectrum of media including painting, photography, multi-media, sculpture, and video art. Over the past year each artist has been developing and refining a distinct body of work while under continual examination and guidance from university faculty and working professionals. Ideas of relationships, abuse, interactivity, index, destruction, and transformation are the focal points of their investigations. Traditional and unconventional processes collide in this diverse display of unique perspectives within contemporary art.
Courtney Rivas is a sculptor exploring questions about domesticity, expectations, independence versus interdependence, and the loss and reformation of identities. Her practice invites the viewer to investigate our domestic spaces specifically in the home, and the unique relationships formed within those spaces that develop when questioning traditional roles. Currently her work has been addressing catharsis through violent acts.

In this, Rivas asks the viewer to confront the implications of aggression and the complications inherent within interdependent relationships. Her objects attempt to fulfill their purpose, but only to a point, their original intent being taken away, thus stressing the idea that lifecycles, traditions, and expectations will inevitably end.

Courtney Rivas is a sculptor working and living in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is currently completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.
Mercurial, 12' x 3' x 2' - Polystyrene foam, spray foam, paint

Taciturn and Disquiet, Two 2' x 4' - Steel, tubing, wire, patina
Coagula, 4½' x 3' x 2' - Wooden chairs, polystyrene foam, spray foam, paint

Aggregate, 40' x 9' x 3' - Polystyrene foam, spray foam, wood
Danny On is an artist working primarily in film photography and digital manipulation. His long-term project is questioning how truthful photography is through the manipulation of our senses. This interest stems from society’s dependency on the social aspect of technology by creating works that challenge the viewer to take a deeper look at the massive amount of information consumed everyday, particularly through the building of satire. He takes images from the past and fabricates them into false realities assumed to be truth. These works are a culmination of interest in the Internet, social media, and the revisiting and remixing of moments from the past.
01/31/17, 11" x 14" - C-Print with Embroidery Floss

NYC Landscape, 4" x 6" - C-Print Photo and thread
My name is Eric Le, and I am an artist based in Las Vegas, Nevada, working primarily in sculpture, installation, and light. My work creates strange and fantastical environments with allusions of religious lore. I have interest in using geometric forms to activate space, having repetition in shapes, and inviting viewers to physically explore the work. Other interests include using playful humor, blinding light, and overwhelming obstacles or barriers.

I am currently working on creating an environmental installation that celebrates advancing technologies with reference to various religious myths such as Ramayana, Dante’s Divine Comedy, in addition to Chinese, Christian, and Greek mythology. This current installation comes from an ongoing interest in working with new materials and technologies, and is an extension and experiment with my past light and installation work. The work is discovering the minutia of those various worldly legends, which includes religious or mythological stories not commonly heard of in the west, such as Sun Wukong, War in Heaven, and the Odyssey.

For me, art is to ultimately create an experience. Art needs to elicit an emotional reaction, and is used to inform the viewer about the artist's personal analysis of their immediate and contextual culture.
Orange Descent, 51" x 66" x 51"; Pyramid base longest edge 34in; longest edge 54in - MDF board, paint, door viewer, LED lights, mirror

Highway, 12" x 28" x 12" - MDF board, paint, door viewer, lightbulb, mirror
Encrypted, 40" x 10" x 10" - MDF board, paint, door viewer, lightbulb, mirror
Jessica Vanessa Alvarez is an artist. Working primarily in painting, drawing, paper cutting. An interest in intricate and intimate craft traditions guides her work. She takes as her subject, the multiplicity of Xicano identity and empowerment. “El Tejedo de la Vida” her current project reinterprets a traditional practice, iconography, and veneration of the dead from Dia De Los Muertos with everyday subjects.

This work grows out of a longstanding exploration in identity, traditional practices and forms with diverse figures within the Xicano community. The objective of her work is to represent the tie of cultures, practices and beliefs within Xicano communities in the United States of America. She currently lives in Las Vegas, Nevada.
JESSICA ALVAREZ

El Tejido de La Vida (The Fabric of Life), 5' x 15' - Mixed Media

Top Left: La Union (The Union)
Top Right: La Memoria (The Memory)
Middle: La Leccion (The Lesson)
Bottom: Inocencia (Innocence)
The American Dream, 20” x 24” - Oil on canvas

Charro, 20” x 24” - Oil on canvas
Ryan Arakawa is a photographer who has worked primarily within traditional black and white photography. Frustrated with the two-dimensionality of the medium, his work explores ways to add physicality to the photograph. Creating collages of silver gelatin and inkjet prints gives facture to the work and liberates the photograph from its preciousness through cutting, tearing, and burning the material.

Recently, the collage work fostered a questioning of the photograph’s inherent sacredness. Arakawa’s current work focuses on the preservation and destruction of the photographic print. Extreme methods of preservation protect the prints from physical contact, but obfuscates the images rendering them unclear with little to no definable value.
Five Photographs, 16” x 20” - Silver gelatin prints and epoxy resin
Family Photo III, 8” x 10”, - Framed photograph and adhesive

Untitled, 8” x 10” - Glass, photograph, foam sealant
Christian Peralta currently lives in Las Vegas, Nevada. She works primarily with video art, digital photography, and has a background with black and white film photography. The underlying interests that guide her works are in distortion, disruption and sexuality. Christian’s past works have addressed contemporary social issues of mental and physical abuse in relationships. Her subject matter involved behavioral complexities of male and female relationships blurring the lines of love, hate, and abuse. It is an exploration of aggressive behaviors and endurance.

Christian’s current/long standing project deals with the realities of sexual assault while guiding viewers to a deeper, more intimate understanding about the subject other than what mainstream media or statistics convey. Christian sees art as a channel to reach people and to move them internally to come to an understanding about one’s self and their relationships with others.