

Bryan Clavel
Alex Malfero
Dan Hernandez
Marissa Gibson
Zully Mejia
Julia Anthony

May 2020
Department of Art UNLV
Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery



Bachelor of Fine Arts

Introduction

The following six artists are the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio class of 2020 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The work of this year's class features a spectrum of media including ceramics, installation, painting, photography and sculpture. Over the past year each artist has been developing and refining a distinct body of work while under continual examination and guidance from Department of Art faculty and working professionals. Ideas of social taboos, uncovering domestic dysfunction, the mass consumption of media, preserving the existence of queerness, the family narrative, and redefining femininity are examples of some of the main themes that have come from their investigations. Traditional and unconventional processes collide in this diverse display of unique perspectives within contemporary art.

This year, we are hosting a virtual gallery exhibition for our BFA artists. Please scan and visit the link below to access our virtual gallery.

Catherine Angel, Professor of Art
BFA in Studio Art Coordinator



bit.ly/2020BFAtalks

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Marissa Gibson

Marissa Gibson is a mixed media artist, primarily working in ceramics. Gibson's work is defined by her perspective of the world as a queer mixed woman. Her art expresses her identity, and reflects her attitude towards various social controversies. She has mended and weaved her own culture from her given heritage, and the way Gibson has learned to express this through her art. The focus of Gibson's work aims to explore identity, incite confrontation, and amplify emotions. Her sculptures are meant to arouse viewers' senses with their raw and disruptive nature. She strives to create large-scale pieces that entice viewers and explore a narrative on taboo topics that are deemed too inappropriate for public conversations. Gibson pushes herself to make pieces without limitations regardless of style or subject matter. Gibson's acknowledgement of the challenges that people of color, women, and LGBTQ persons' face allows her art to become a vessel that provokes awareness to people.

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Worship
69" x 40.5"
Spray paint and acrylic

They, 16" x 14.5" x 13.5"
Ceramic with spray paint and gold leaf



Black Blue, 11" x 9.5" x 4.5"
Ceramic with jewelry





Meat Hammer, 4" x 8" x 1"
Ceramic



Starfish, 13" x 11.5" x 3"
Ceramic



Julia Anthony

Julia Anthony photographs the evolving narrative of her family unit straightforwardly, exploring the tensions and tenderness of everyday interactions. The players in this family unit consist of three generations cohabiting, each owning a distinct authenticity within their social interplay. Anthony's choice of subject matter comes from a place of intuition and is fueled by her desire to watch and protect, as she observes and presents to her viewer the importance of being present in the everyday moments of life. Her photographs transcend and shine light on the significance and value of the interconnectedness of existence, the results are poignant photographs that are tender revelations within the struggles of familial relationships.

website juliaanthonyphotography.com
email ttlvegas@gmail.com



Christmas, 15" x 21"
Pigment Print



Pack, Unpack, 15" x 21"
Pigment Print



Hang Ten, 15" x 21"
Pigment Print

One, 16" x 20"
Silver Gelatin Print



The Kitchen, 15" x 21"
Pigment Print





Alex Malfero

Alex Malfero is drawn to stories entrusted to us by past generations. The role folklore, fairytales, and myths play in society's understanding of the family dynamic inspires his practice. Working primarily in painting and drawing, he reimagines these stories by mining family history to depict opulent fantasies rendered in synthetic colors. His work provokes unease by combining fantastical color schemes with images of family dysfunction interrupting the romanticized perspective on the American domestic sphere. To that end, Malfero's vibrant hues of polyester pinks, magentas, electric blues, and neon yellows produce scenes at the fringe of memory and fantasy.

instagram @alexmalfero
website malfero.com



Chapter 4: "He tried to foster the boy."
48" x 60", acrylic on canvas



Chapter 8:
**"Mom, why is
Grandpa in
the trunk?"**
48" x 96"
Acrylic and oil
on canvas



Chapter 26: "Seven is a really annoying age."
36" x 56", acrylic, charcoal, and glitter on canvas



Chapter 13: "Did you hear LaLa had a baby?"
36" x 56", oil and acrylic on canvas



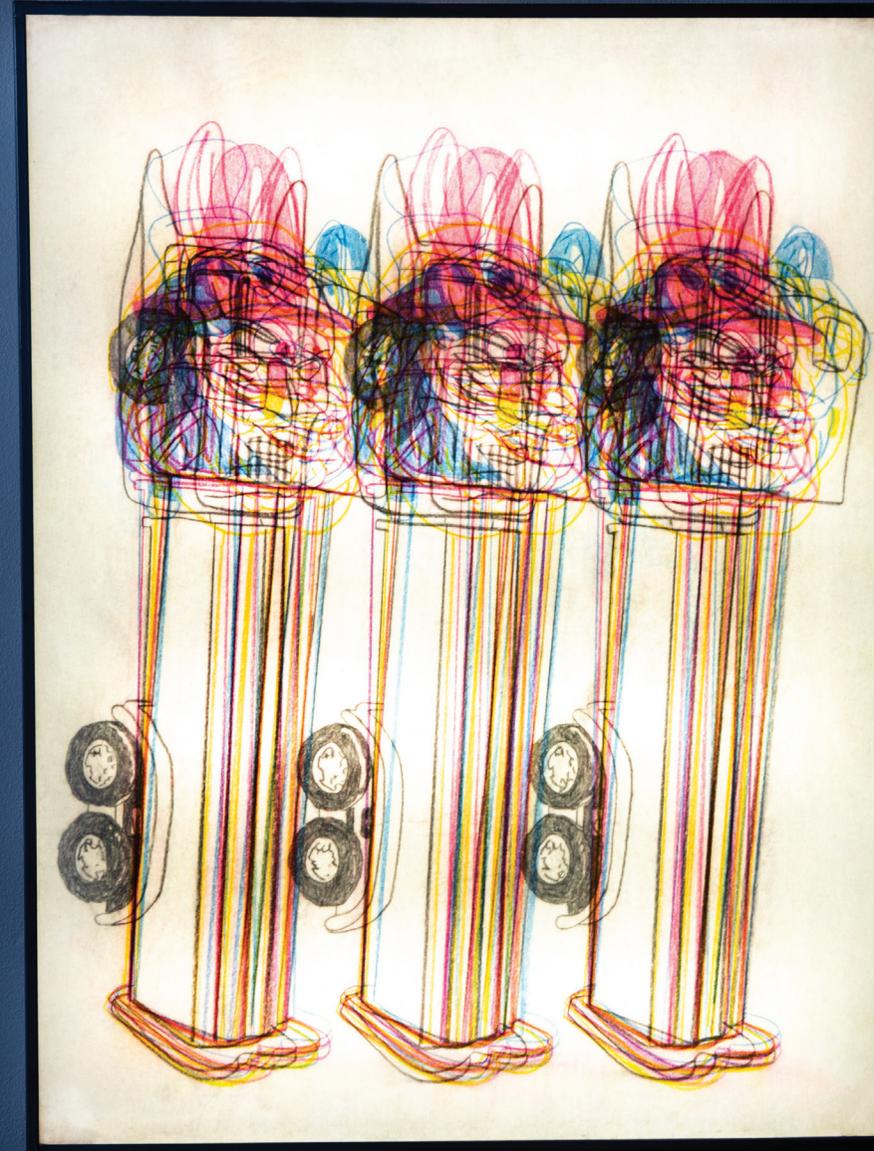
Dan Hernandez

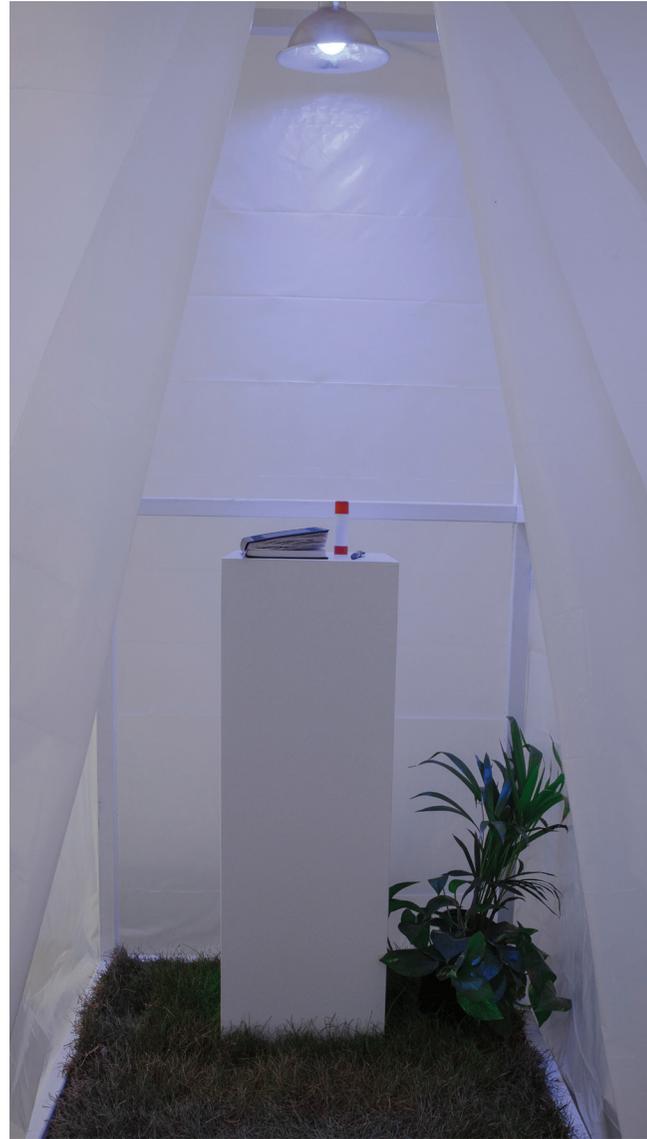
Dan Hernandez is a multimedia artist integrating three-dimensional sculptures with two-dimensional drawings, using objects as trigger points for memories. While growing up in the military, Dan spent his childhood moving from place to place, making it hard to form attachments to these places. Although the places and faces changed regularly, pop culture remained a constant source of entertainment and solace. Dan fell in love with music, movies, commercials, comic books, toys, and skateboarding at a young age, and began tying distinct memories to these things.

Growing up in a low income family in a pre digital era meant that seeing and attaching memory to photographs was rare. Small inexpensive objects, such as a Pez dispenser purchased on a family trip as a souvenir, were much more accessible, as were movies and music. Thus, these objects play a key role in the conceptualization of his art. The movies and music from his childhood provide a soundtrack to the design. He distorts size and imagery by integrating two-dimensional drawings of recognized pop culture subject matter with three-dimensional sculptures to captivate his viewers with work that is both familiar and new.

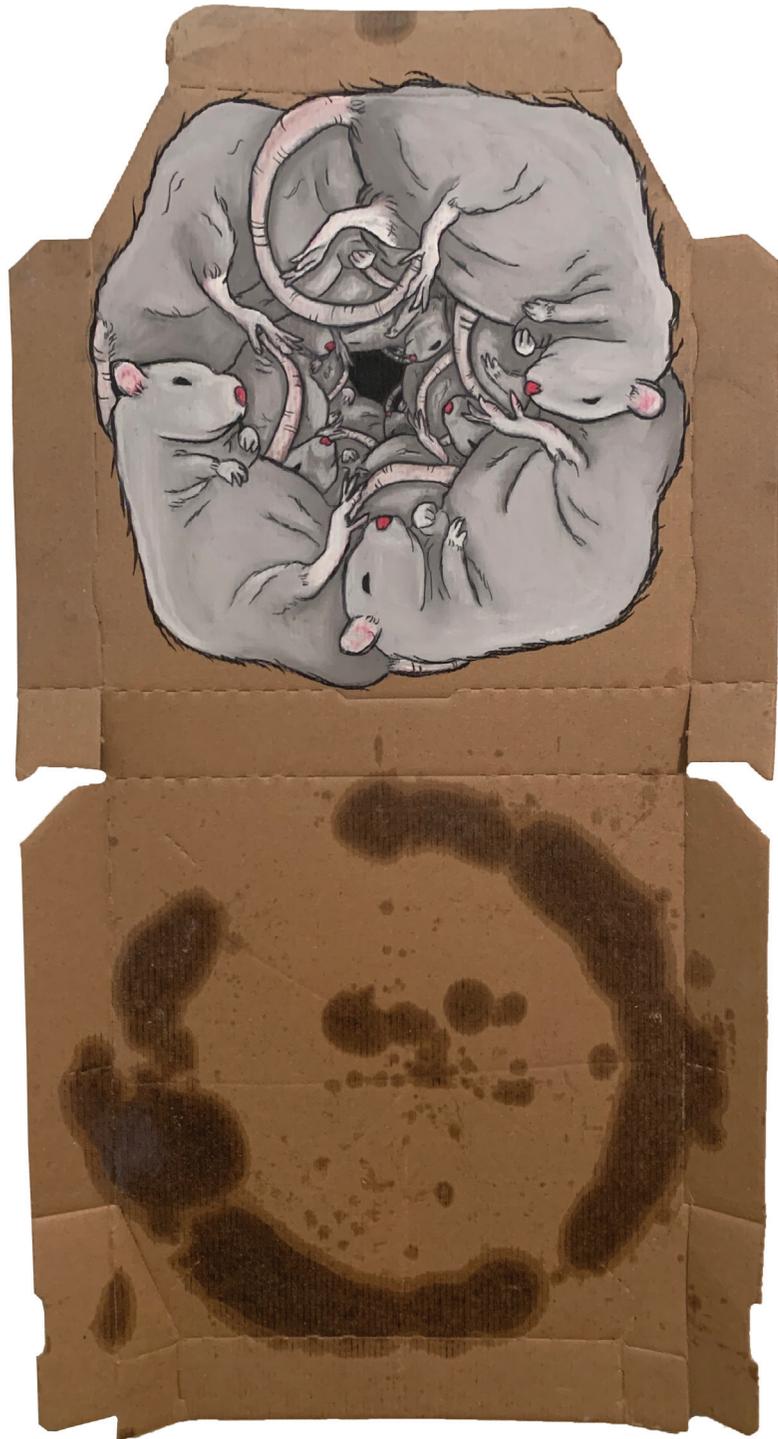
email xcrucial45x@yahoo.com
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website cult33.com

Collected Moments No. 1, 23" x 30" x 3.5"
Tracing Paper, Colored Pencil, Found Lightbox

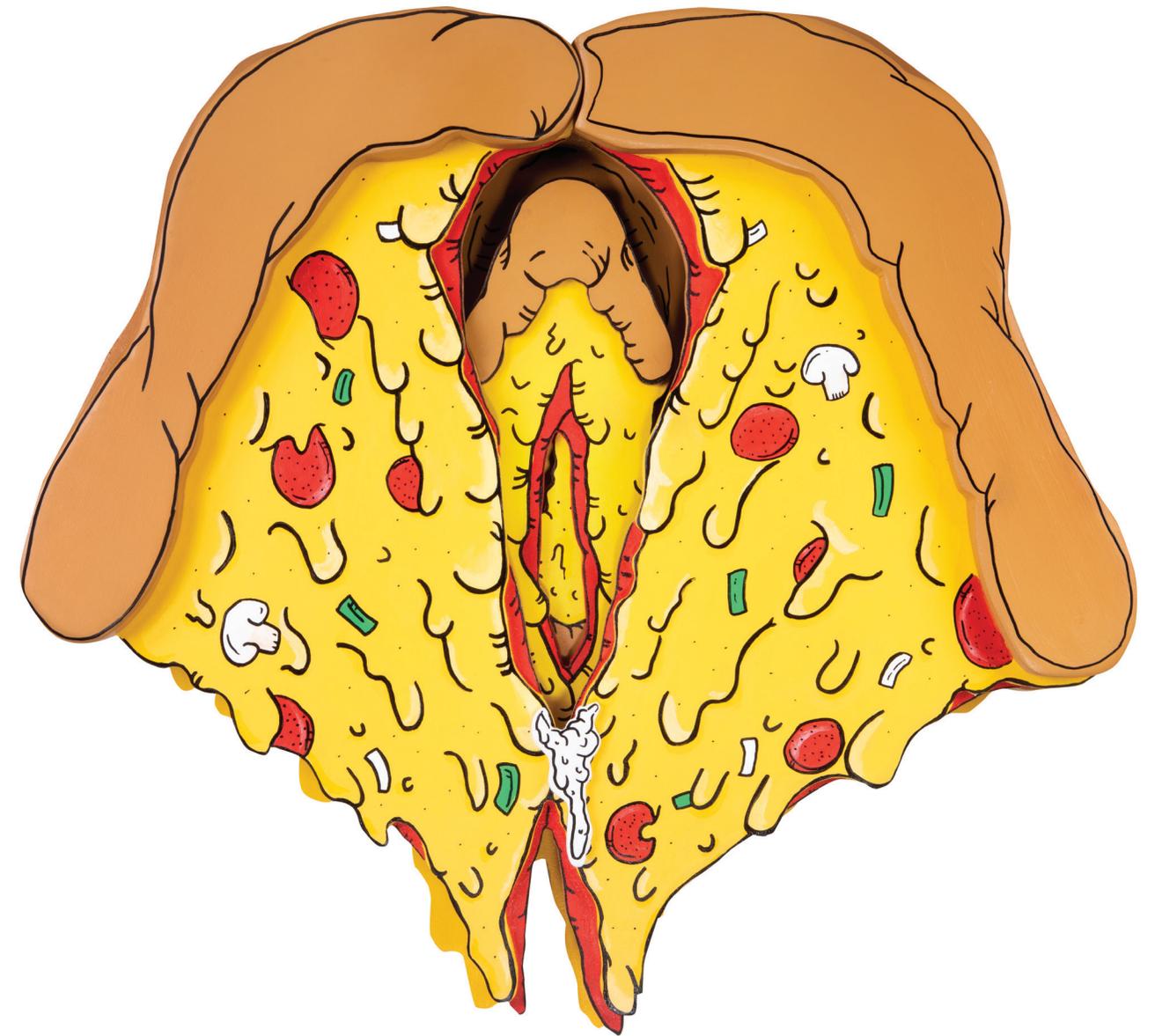




To Seal // To Share, 33" x 33" x 96"
Wood, Plastic Sheeting, Grass, Plants, Pen, Journals,
Glue Stick, Clamp light, Blue Light Bulb



Vicious Cycles
15" x 25"
Pastels, Used Pizza Box



Late Night Snacks, 24" x 24" x 24"
MDF, House Paint, Paint Markers



Bryan Clavel

Bryan Clavel's portraits of drag performers are statements of identity and attitude. The series is a confrontational proclamation of sexuality and visibility. Clavel's portraits archive queerness as something notable by documenting the performer's personification of camp, confidence, and power in a neo 80s aesthetic. Clavel's premise is to showcase how queerness embodies a myriad of skins, and drag is merely one form of packaging from which this community has, historically, always drawn strength.

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Carla Rossi
13" x 19"
Pigment Print





JJ SUEDE
13" x 19"
Pigment Print



Mirage Amuro
13" x 19"
Pigment Print



Miss Leading
13" x 19"
Pigment Print



Briana Douglas
13" x 19"
Pigment Print



Zully Mejia

Zully Mejia's practice derives from her identity as a Peruvian woman and her desire to shift the prejudice, discrimination, and objectification that women in her community experience as a result of the hypersexualized portrayal of womanhood. Working primarily in representational painting, Mejia's artwork is informed by historical research and supported by current events. She borrows conventions from figure painting traditions to create empowered depictions of identity that interrogate and redefine femininity. In her paintings, the figure acts as the focal point, with each individual proudly expressing their narrative. Mejia employs posture, facial gesture, color association, and symbolic objects to capture their identity. By creating imagery that showcases strength and diversity, Mejia strives to remove the stigma of weakness and passivity associated with womanhood.

instagram @zullymgmejia
website zullymejia.com



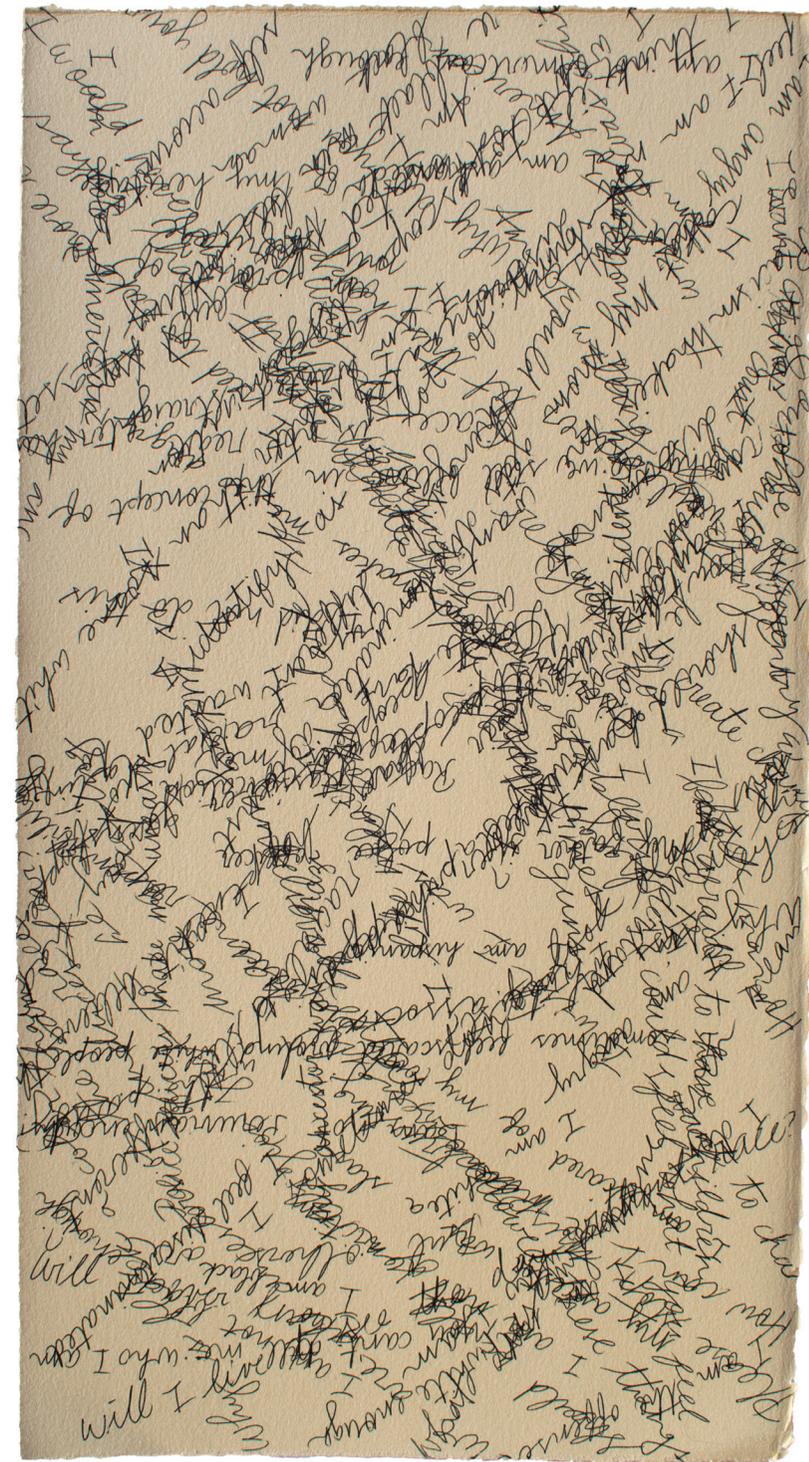
America
29" x 23"
Oil and acrylic
on canvas



Self Portrait at 22
72" x 40"
Oil and acrylic
on canvas



Rosado Varonal, 10" x 10" x 13"
Mixed media sculpture



Untitled
14" x 9"
Ink on paper

About the Department of Art at UNLV

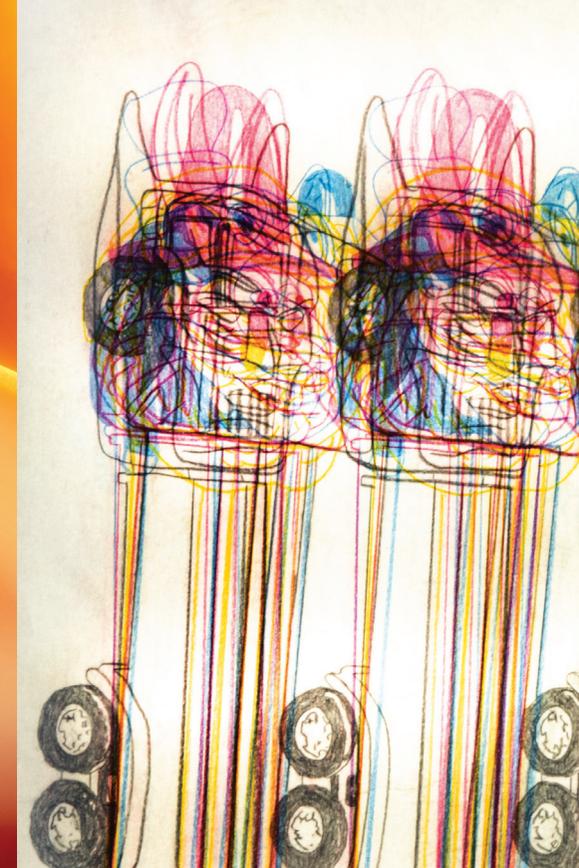
The Department of Art strives to create a model for professional development in all areas of the arts, design, and relevant histories, to teach the diversity of culture and identity in the US and its democratic values, and to prepare graduates for success in competitive and evolving communities through access to cutting-edge fabrication equipment, new critical and creative contexts, and opportunities for exhibition, publication, discussion, and critique linked with partners in Las Vegas and beyond.

The Department of Art congratulates its graduating BFA students and the whole community expects to hear news, very soon, of their astounding successes in the arts.

unlv.edu/art

Credits

Photography	Bryan Clavel Julia Anthony	BryanClavel.com juliaanthonyphotography.com
Design	May Nguyen	maylamei.com
Illustration	Tiffany Lin	tlinart.com



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GALLERY