

FORTITUDE 2022

A Showcase of FHSU Art & Design

Faculty & Student Artists

Jordan Brown – MFA, Ceramics

Jordan Brown was born in 1993 in Salina, KS, but now resides in Hays, Kansas. He graduated in 2019, with his B.F.A in Ceramics. After his undergraduate degree, Jordan decided to continue his ceramic education at Fort Hays State University seeking an M.F.A in Ceramics. His love for the process and material, whether it be firing kilns, throwing pottery, or glazing, ignites his creative ambitions. Working with historical shapes, he elevates the form using textures, which adds dimension, balance, and rhythm to his work. His love of animals started at a young age starting with reptile and is still passionate today. That is why he creates animal vessels to bring awareness of animal abuse such as poaching for Chinese medicines, and environmental issues. Please be aware of these horrific tragedies that are happening all over the worlds so we can come together to put a stop to it.

Work statement - Being a ceramic artist, I try to create my own ecosystem in the slip by texturing and altering the form to my liking. Pushing the boundaries of the material and problem solve to find my own style is very important. This great material we call clay, allows us to express ourselves in ways other mediums are unable to. While making I take great pride in clean, professional work which counteracts the life I had before I was an artist. Growing up in a lower-class family, I always pushed myself to do better and to never settle for average. Therefore, I believe research and development are key in making functional and decorative ceramics. As a boy I had a fascination with the properties of clay and a love of all wildlife I for as long as I can remember. I have brought these two passions together in my wildlife clay art. For my love of elephants, I want to create the memorial elephant vessels to bring awareness of education to help save these threatened and endangered species. As well as other wildlife that are harmed due to humans or the environment.

Eleanor Cornwell Carlson – BFA, Sculpture

Eleanor was born and raised on a small hobby farm in Rush county Kansas. She and her 3 older siblings were all homeschooled up until college. Since a very young age she has created art with almost every medium under the sun. She is now an artist who does both sculptural and functional work to be looked at and worn on the body. Inspiration for her work comes from the movement, form and adornment of the human body along with Japanese artforms such as Aikido and Sumi-e that have become integral parts of her life.

Work statement - The Balance of Chaos was at first just a form in my head inspired by practice projects I had done in the past mixed with leftovers from past projects. As I began to sketch and bring the form in my head on to paper the name came to be. I began to relate the subtle balance of the piece to the precariousness of my own life.

Kristen Colby – BFA, Interior Design

Work Statement - Students were provided the architectural shell to design Interior residential spaces. Inspired by the organic design style, Kristen worked on space planning according to the client's needs and requirements. Kristen has selected a color palette inspired by the design style. She has meticulously selected the furniture, finishes, and lighting fixtures to meet the functional and aesthetical needs of the Jamerson Residence

Tyler Dallis – MFA, Ceramics

My work talks about the connection between bloodlines (biological, adoptive, or found) and collecting memories; I cannot remember a time when I did not feel the need to collect a memory. I'm not much of a sentimental person when it comes to physical objects, but I will never turn down a memory. While I am collecting memories, I am creating a rolodex of experiences, people, things, or events from my life within my head. When building, I braid these memories into the clay as I coil the form to completion. Embedding them into the stoneware strengthens and solidifies them into reality, making them less likely to be forgotten. To me, a family is everything. I do not know what I would do without my support system behind me. From a young child to adulthood, my bloodlines played a crucial role in my development as a human being. I was surrounded by people who either held me up or pulled me down. I was constantly conflicted with myself. It was through these interactions that I began to shape who I would become. Reflecting on those collected

memories made me think about what I wanted and what I did not. My family and close friends can find themselves occupying the majority of my memories, the good ones along with the bad ones; and for that I will always be grateful.

Work Statement - This distance brought forth anger, discomfort, confusion, and acceptance all at the same time. Being outcasted for the way you live your life and ridiculed for who you choose to love is garish. Connecting bridges to non-objective, ambiguous forms is my way of depicting a relationship and how distant I am from the other person. This particular piece is about my dad's mother. We used to be close and she taught me a lot of things about being a human. But as I grew older and began to explore the world and myself, it was too much for her to take and she shunned me from the family. I have been isolated from my dad's side of the family for many years and there is no evidence that it will change.

Isabel Dixon – BFA, Drawing

I have been creating ever since I was little. I am currently attending FHSU to pursue a degree in Art Education to share my love of art to others. I want to make a safe space for people to create freely, as this was what my art classes were like for me. While I do enjoy drawing and painting, I also like the 3D aspect of Sculpture and Clay. In my pieces, I love to create detail and form texture. I strive to evoke a sense of emotion as art is a form of expression.

Work Statement - This piece was created during 2020. A year of separation. This piece features my mother's dining room table in the house that I grew up in. This piece, "A Need to Gather" was centered around the idea that regular gatherings of people, such as the dining table where family and friends usually gather to share a meal, weren't being used for that. I wanted it to have texture of the graphite and have dramatic lighting to create a scene of longing and sadness at the fact that the world was different. The loneliness experienced created a need to gather that couldn't be fulfilled.

Sean M. Engler

Work Statement - This piece is from a print series that explores the relationship between emotions and structure or the lack thereof. Some people enjoy the structure of a schedule or plan, and some people would rather have freedom. This could also go with a person's preference of being in nature or being in architecture. This specific piece pictures someone who likes to go with the flow, who likes the organic flow of nature. This piece uses bright colors to express joy and to grab attention. This is just one representation of how someone could feel when presented with nature on an organic flow of schedule or time.

Tobias Flores – Professor, Sculpture

Toby was born in Flagstaff, Arizona in 1971 and grew up in Glendale, Arizona. He studied printmaking, drawing and sculpture in San Diego receiving a BA from San Diego State University in 2000. At SDSU he studied metalworking with master sculptor Gerald Dumlao. He studied sculpture and blacksmithing at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale receiving an MFA in 2003. He now lives and works in Hays, Kansas with his wife, Libby and their two boys, Cooper and Oscar. He has exhibited in over one hundred shows throughout the United States, Wales and China.

Work Statement - The lead covered anvil has been in my mind for years. Sometimes I can think about a sculpture for a long period of time before it becomes a reality. I believe this process, not procrastination but more like slow cooking in a croc-pot, can make for a more tender and flavorful art. I have often referred to myself as a brownsmith as opposed to a blacksmith. Think of it like karate belts. I love to forge metal but I don't do it everyday which is what it takes to be a real blacksmith. The time was right for this work. I have been gathering these ingredients/materials for years thanks to my old friends Bob and Vernie. I also have some new friends in Applied Technology Department who know how operate a CNC router which made the wood anvil making a breeze. These relationships make this work meaningful to me. I hope you enjoy it as well.

Caitlyn Frazer – MFA, Graphic Design

I am in my third year of graduate school at Fort Hays State University, majoring in Graphic Design. I obtained my BFA degree at Fort Hays as well. My interests include various forms of art—especially film photography, instant film photography, bookmaking, sculpture, and design. My work has the constant theme of exploration and creating portraits in varying ways. I am a lifelong student and strive to be curious in all aspects of my work.

Work Statement – This particular photograph is from a series about expressing the complexity of human emotion and identity. This photograph is of my dear friend Morgan. I chose the color yellow for Morgan's portrait because she is one of the brightest spirits, I have ever gotten the chance to meet. She has a genuine heart of gold and a personality so

rare and hard to explain yet so wonderful to experience. She is the true definition of happiness and warmth. She can make everyone around her laugh and smile even on their most challenging days—stay golden pal.

Mark Freeman – MFA, Ceramics

Kansas-based artist, Mark Freeman has been honing his skills in clay for the past two decades. After completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at FHSU, he went on to make and sell art for several years before returning to academia. Mark now teaches at Pratt Community College and is currently working towards his MFA in ceramics as a low-residency graduate student. Mark is exploring and intertwining his skillset in ceramics with his passion for all things in Nature. The subject matter of his work involves aquatic life, botanical life, insects, fungi, bacteria, and science fiction.

Work Statement - Biomorphism is derivative of the Greek words *bios* (life) and *morphe* (form), referring to abstracted forms that hint at naturally occurring forms, such as organisms, plants, and body parts, but in no way exactly represent anything found in nature. There are subtle tensions that give this form a readiness to spring into action at a moment's notice. The bulges and ridges are at first beautiful and calming like much in nature, but the textures and sickening colors also seem to stand as a warning that this beautiful flora or fauna may possess the ability to defend itself.

Linda Ganstrom – Professor, Ceramics

As a child raised on a Kansas farm, Linda Ganstrom found joy in outdoor, imaginative play and remembers her first experiences with clay as creating impressions of leaves and flowers in the soft mud. As a young adult, she was attracted to the discipline and self-expression offered by ceramic art. Working in ceramics for over four decades, Linda Ganstrom explores issues relating her personal experiences to big picture questions primarily through figurative ceramics. Her figures have undergone many evolutions as she uses them to understand herself, the world around her and express her truth. Earning three degrees from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, she currently serves as their Professor of Art and Design teaching Ceramics in an amazing new facility. She lives and works in Hays, Kansas and shares a studio with her husband, the ceramic artist, Sheldon Ganstrom. As the Exhibitions Director for NCECA from 2008 - 2014, Ganstrom benefitted from working with many artists and art professionals in building a more vibrant ceramics culture through curating and facilitating ceramics exhibitions. Teaching, travel, curating and service connect Ganstrom to life and inform her art. Ganstrom has now come full circle and spends most weekends with her husband, living on the family farm, playing in the trees, observing nature, its seasons and the heavens, allowing them once again to fuel her imagination.

Work Statement - *Dark Opal Dinnerware*: Designing artistic experiences that amaze, engage, delight or challenge, my pottery focuses on celebrating humanity and our connection to food. Thrown on the wheel from porcelain clay, these contemporary pottery pieces are intended to add pleasure and ease to everyday life. They are designed to function easily and glaze painted with a half dozen glazes that overlap, run and interact with each other as an abstract painting. *Blue Peaks and The Summit* are remembrances of mountainous landscapes in the West. Rugged with sheer rock faces and craggy peaks these wood fired landscapes offer an opportunity to enter a miniature world and explore imaginary canyons and lofty peaks.

Madison Gleason – BFA, Drawing

I am currently getting my BFA in Studio Art with an emphasis in drawing from Fort Hays State University. Most of my work is centered around drawing mediums such as graphite, charcoal, pastels, etc, however I don't like to limit myself and am willing to try anything. Currently, I'm based in Hays, KS but hope to move somewhere else as soon as I graduate.

Work Statement - Through the years, I have come to use the art-making process as a way to create time and space for myself to be alone. Making art or crafting has been my way of quieting my mind and focusing my thoughts. My art is an attempt to utilize various color harmonies and surface textures to engage the audience visually. I also use it as an opportunity to experiment with the range of possibilities allowed through my choice of materials. To me, it's the process that is important. The letting go, the focus, the creative energy – those are the elements of art-making that are meaningful to me. In many ways, that is the foundation of my work; everything else is just another layer. My goal is to one day bring that process and mindset to my community and the communities around me. I want to help people see the incredible impact art can have and help people see art and the people who make it differently.

Crystal Hammerschmidt – MFA Printmaking

Work Statement - *Sneaky Snake* was created using a relief cut print process. This work has six colors or layers all cut from one single block, going from light to dark. Often referred to as a suicide cut or color reduction print. After each layer is carved and printed, more material is carved away from the plate, reducing the printable surface area to be printed for each subsequent layer. On some layers, stencils were also used to block specific areas from printing to achieve the desired range of color and value. The term "suicide cut" refers to the fact that once the print is finished it can never be reproduced as most of the printable area has been carved away. This method, using only one plate requires meticulous attention and planning to achieve a range of colors. This print combines my love for organic and botanical forms and patterns found in nature. Although the winding snake curls smoothly back and forth, it is set inside a diamond shape, also reflected in the repeating grass texture in the background.

Mara Hemel – BFA, Printmaking / Art Education

Beautiful Secrets is a piece about the side that as women must hide. The side we keep to ourselves is the side that is the best of us. This piece is an intaglio print printed using the printing technique "a la poupee". It is designed to have hidden facts within itself. If you look closely you can see the fine look of ease on the face which represents the feel of contentment as you show the true you. We do not have to fit into what society says we do and that is what this piece is meant to show.

Juana Estrada Hernandez - Assistant Professor, Printmaking

Work Statement: *It began with us* is a piece that addresses the importance of farmers in Latin America and the significance of Maiz in indigenous cultures throughout Mexico. Maiz is not a crop but a cultural symbol intrinsic in daily life. In contemporary Mexican and Central American life, Maiz and its symbol is used in food, traditional dances, songs, and pop-culture. Its existence today is a testament to the ways that indigenous people resisted colonialism inflicted by Spanish Conquerors and the Catholic church.

No de Aqui, Pero de Alla, was inspired from a field investigation while I participated in the Land Arts of the American West program at the University of New Mexico. This program is centered around using site specific locations throughout the southwest to guide and inspire artists to experiment with their artistic research outside of a traditional studio space. This specific print was inspired through my research of identity, human migration and immigration, and belong near the Chiricahua Mountain region near the Mexican American border in Arizona. My artwork is influenced by my life experiences as a Latina immigrant living in the United States while learning to navigate the political, social, and economic climate around immigration. *No de Aqui, Pero de Alla* references my experience of migrating to the United States with my family as a young child. The water jugs contained within the cardboard boxes are a reference to a site that I discovered while in the Chiricahua Mountains. This water was intended to provide water to migrants crossing the southern border into the United States. The images surrounding the jugs are in reference to the immigration documents needed to live in the United States. The feet iconography is in reference to my family's relationship to the land that we have inhabited in Mexico and our families' roots were planted there for generations. Despite migrating to a new country, we carry the border with us and our heritage.

Shelby Herman – BFA, Painting

Shelby Herman's works explore the passing of time. Using representational oil paintings, Herrman depicts atmospheric, isolated moments that reflect on the experience of becoming an observer getting caught up in the pursuit of goals. Herrman has shown works in the Vortex Art show at Barton Community College and Students Honors Exhibition at FHSU. Herrman lives in Hays, Kansas, pursuing a BFA in painting at Fort Hays State University.

Work Statement:- *Blurring Months* reflects a moment of realization that time is passing rapidly. Things like subtle shifts in the seasons and needing a haircut sometimes progress without us noticing; we may come to see that small parts of our reality are incongruous with how we last remembered them. One of the main focal points in *Blurring Months* is a set of hands. These are used to demonstrate a part of ourselves we look at often, but in little ways, continue to change as we age. This piece shows a transition in my work towards viewing moments in time as they pass and how we remember them.

Tanner Hoffman – MFA, Sculpture

Tanner Hoffman was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. After moving to Grand Junction, Colorado, he decided to pursue higher education. He received his Bachelor of Fine Art from Colorado Mesa University in 2018. His focus is cast metal sculpture with mixed media elements. Additionally, he has a history with printmaking, which leans towards lithography. Tanner Hoffman's art has been displayed in multiple national juried exhibitions. In the summer of 2018, he was a hot metal resident at Franconia Sculpture Park. Tanner is currently pursuing a Master's in Fine Art at Fort Hays State University

Work Statement - "Concrete Temple" is a formalistic exploration in casting drapery in iron. This piece is an attempt to defy the rigid nature of cast iron by capturing it in the organic patterns that cloth folds into. "Concrete Temple" marries cast iron and concrete to create a highly textured and diverse surface, which adds to the complex form. This piece is one of many artworks in a study series in which I utilize this texture and materials. "My Dad's Christmas Bonus" is part of a larger series called Idol Hands. This series expresses my troubled relationship with my father through reenactments of his life. Each print is shown from his perspective, which allows me to better understand his action. My Father was a career criminal and a drug addict, which lead to many questionable choices. This series features dark imagery with comical and lighthearted elements. The imagery is a representation of the duality of my father's personality.

Jee Hwang – Professor, Painting

Jee Hwang's works explore images of figure and objects from everyday life in painting. Observing individuals and people's desire and relationships, Hwang produces realistic depictions of metaphorical scene in her paintings, which reflect her inner self and identity as an immigrant. Hwang received her MFA in painting from Pratt Institute and her BFA from Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland. She has been awarded residencies from the Wassaic Project, Vermont Studio Center, and an Emma Bee Bernstein Fellowship from A.I.R. Gallery. Hwang has actively participated in solo and group exhibitions at a diverse range of venues in New York, New Jersey, Los Angeles and Seoul, Korea. Hwang is based in Kansas, teaching painting as an Assistant Professor in painting at Fort Hays State University.

Work Statement - "Women Eating Flower" series focus on how beauty and violence can be reciprocity of such desire through the language of painting. As a symbol of beauty and purity, images and painting of flowers have been associated with the female body within the history of art. As a rebellious and self-destructing gesture, eating flower allude to violent nature of desire and obsession to the beauty. By painting the women eating flower, I intend to seek the way desire has been coded as a visual representation of women in the history of art and visual culture.

Kassidy King – BFA Interior Design

Work Statement - Kassidy prepared a design proposal for organic beauty products with sustainability as her major design approach. The customers will be able to utilize refillable jars to purchase the products. Kassidy has custom design shelves which meet the requirements of human comfort and are accessible to wheelchair users.

Kendra Koch – BFA Drawing

Work Statement - Through my art I aspire to create detailed images that both myself and others find visually interesting. The subject of my work includes people and places I see as intriguing. Discovering my strong suite in graphite and charcoal renderings, I also include oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings. Having done collage and pen drawings, I would like to further pursue the creation of mixed media techniques. What inspires me are the fascinating people and places that most people overlook, this could be the old man standing outside a building: What is his life story? Why and how did he get there? Through my art, I can create a story about him filled with a whole world of imaginative details.

Kameron Lowery – BFA Interior Design

Work Statement - Kameron prepared a design proposal for a contemporary retail store for coffee that offers sensory experience to the customers by tasting and experiencing coffee before purchasing them. Kameron has also considered environmental branding, wayfinding and customer behaviors to enhance customer experience in commercial space.

Brianna Miller – BFA Interior Design

Work Statement - Brianna created the office design and furniture layout proposals for Marc Michaels using workplace design theories. Her design solution and meticulous materials palette reflects the brand identity in a working environment.

Kailin Neilson – MFA, Painting

Kailin Nielsen is currently a graduate painting student at Fort Hays State University. She graduated with her Bachelor's in Fine Arts and Graphic Design in 2020 from Doane University. Her focus in painting is primarily connected to representational figure oil painting. Growing up on a farm/ranch operation, 30 miles outside of Minden, Nebraska, fostered Kailin's love for representational art and nature. When she isn't painting, Kailin is working as a graphic designer for Northwestern Printers in Hays, Kansas, and helping assist the undergraduate painting class.

Bethany Panhorst – MFA, Ceramics

Bethany Panhorst was born in Germany into a military family. She grew up primarily in Savannah, Georgia graduating from Georgia Southern University with a BFA in Visual Art and a minor in business. In August of 2019, she moved to Kansas to further her skills in ceramics by earning a Master of Fine Arts degree at Fort Hays State University. While at Fort Hays, she has worked as a graduate teaching assistant, exhibited work in galleries and museums around the country, and grown to love the community and natural beauty of Western Kansas. This fall she will be teaching elementary and middle school art in Oakley while continuing to work toward a master's degree.

Work Statement - *Day Four* is a death-mask reminiscent piece that imagines Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, at the moment before he is raised from the dead.

Haleigh Raber – BFA, Photography

Haleigh is a third year undergraduate at Fort Hays State University obtaining her BFA in Photography and a certificate in Ceramics. Her passions include but are not limited to mental health and trauma, gender and sexuality, event photography, abstraction, and documenting. Dealing with society and trauma, Haleigh explores ways to get people thinking about change and becoming more self-aware. Her life goals are to make a living in concert photography and making a change with her studio work. You can follow her art journey on instagram @HaleR_photo and also @haleraber.

Work Statement - *Don't let me go* represents the feeling of drowning in my own thoughts while reaching for someone to pull me out. Living with depression and anxiety can feel like you're lost in an infinite state of loneliness. *Don't let me go* represents the moments I am surrendering and drowning in my own thoughts. I have struggled with suicidal thoughts, so the idea of drowning was equally appealing and terrifying at the same time. You think you would want to drown, but many would find themselves reaching out for help anyway.

Katie Ann Petersen – MFA, Painting

My name is Katie Petersen I am currently in my second year of my Master's in Fine Arts for painting At Fort Hays University. I received my Bachelor of Fine Arts in May of 2020 at Doane University. At Fort Hays University I have become a Teacher's Assistant for both painting and figure drawing classes. Through my experience as a Teacher's Assistant, I have found my calling to be a professor and continue sharing my knowledge with my future students. Preparing and managing the classroom for my students has given me so much joy and will continue to pursue a career in art education as a Professor of Visual Arts.

Work Statement:- *Moths to a Flame* is a representation of the word ephemeral. Lit candles and insects represent the brevity of life in vanitas. Vanitas are associated with the transience of life. With the use of a match, there is an urgency because of the threat of being burnt. The life cycle and metamorphosis of insects are short, and when comparing the stage of the butterfly, to the rest of the life cycle stages, it is the shortest but they can do the most in that time and is ironic in that sense.

Cassi Rebman – MFA, Sculpture

Cassi Rebman is a multidisciplinary artist from Belle Plaine, MN, working in an ongoing exploration of the human condition asking “what we are capable of and what may be holding us back”. Through assemblage methods in metal castings and scale, the object becomes an interruption of setting. Rebman received her BFA at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and is a current MFA candidate at Fort Hays State University. She comes as a former volunteer with the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, former apprentice with the National Ornamental Metal Museum and Ironhead Sculptural service, and alumnus of Franconia Sculpture Park and Western North Carolina Sculpture Center.

Work Statement - The *Oroboros* is often interpreted as a symbol of life and death, capturing the cyclical nature of the year. With the context of habits, each day's passage is marked with the activities of the routine. The individual identifies with these habits as they become monikers for their time and being. Within the context of addiction, the dopamine that drives our motivations and decisions enters our brain in a manner that is just as cyclical as the passage of time and also ingrained with each dose we partake. An outwardly futile seeming gesture produces the same result that befalls each individual once life has run its course.

Eden Quispe – MFA, Painting

Eden Quispe is a mother of 3 young children, artist, art teacher who lives with her Peruvian husband in a 170 year old country home. Her work reflects her non-traditional family and the resilient past that surrounds her rural community. She frequents antique shops and thrift stores in her community in Newton, Kansas, buying used, hand sewn embroideries to include in her work. She uses a vintage industrial sewing machine to join the pieces of her work together.

Work Statement - Eden Quispe explores the tension of traditional and contemporary values in midwestern culture through the experience of motherhood. She creates interior scenes using traditional quilting techniques, embroidery, printing, and collage using textiles inherited from her mother and grandmother. Her grandfather's ties, her daughter's dress, and fabric from her husband's Peruvian heritage are painted and sewn upon and cut to become walls, tables, and chairs. Each wall and object is machine sewn together like patchwork. Her work reflects on the home and how domestic objects are reflections of our heritage

Danielle Robinson – Instructor, Sculpture

Danielle L. Robinson was born and raised in Southern California. She is a sculptor and adjunct professor at Fort Hays State University and Crowder College. She received her MFA Degree from Fort Hays State University, and her personal works of art have been in numerous group exhibitions. Her sculptures are inspired by her natural surroundings. Her abstractions of landscape terrain use a multitude of environmental concepts relevant to erosion, drought, and rising seas. Her forms manipulate the space to create visual balance, using texture, harmony, and rhythm.

Work Statement - My enjoyment of “the process” evolved into a passion for working in metals. My work is composed of cast iron, fabricated elements, and found objects. I fuse landscape abstractions to resemble an industrial remedy to environmental problems in existence today. The challenge of incorporating multiple parts to bring to focus structures that creates visual complexity, interest, and texture is a never-ending process that sparks my persistence in art.

Colin Schmidtberger – Instructor, Interior Design

I am an interior designer, creative educator, and gallery director living in Victoria, Kansas. I create most of my work utilizing Autodesk Revit computer software. I also use drawing techniques in both graphite and ink pen. I get inspiration for many of my designs from viewing nature and seeing how I can incorporate that into my designs. I am passionate about interior design and the many different ways it can be utilized. I love to research new ways to design the interior environment, whether this is for a client or for my personal research and interests.

Work Statement - My work is created from the Autodesk Revit program. These concept designs are developed for a TherAPlay location in Indiana. The location is on a horse farm, and the garden is designed based on this. Two horseshoes overlapping create the walkway of the design and there is a large horse sculpture located in the back corner as well. The garden has different areas for users of the space to receive all five senses from the different plants. The sensory room is created to give users an interactive space to unwind in. With a ball-pit, rock climbing wall, beanbags and more, this space is a fun and interactive getaway for the users of the space.

Amy Schmierbach – Professor, Drawing

Amy Schmierbach is an artist, instructor, and activist. Her main goal in art and teaching is to empower others through art making and to help foster individuals to visually communicate their ideas in the studio, in the classroom, and in the community. Since 2000 Amy has taught drawing, foundations, and a multitude of other studio and general education courses at Fort Hays State University. Amy received a BFA from Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville and a MFA from Illinois State University in Printmaking. In 2018 Amy received the Master Educator Award at Foundation in Art Theory and Education Conference. In 2011 she received the prestigious President's Distinguished Scholar Award for her dedication to research at FHSU. Amy has exhibited her work across North America and has received many grants to help support her practice.

Work Statement - Community outreach and service learning are both highly personal objectives for Amy. In today's society, it is the artist's responsibility to bring art to the community and to educate the public about art. Living in the rural Midwest this is even more important. This activism is an important objective she brings to her students. Amy believes that we cannot just teach art as a stand-alone skill. Skill is important but ART also has to be valued in our society. Amy and her students regularly work with local community organizations, school districts, senior living centers, and children and adults with intellectual and developmental needs. Amy's creative activity reaches into both personal and social practice. Each of these practices inform each other and need each other to thrive. Society's continual search for inner balance and work/life balance are main themes in her work. She uses formalized and repetitive processes such as printmaking, drawing, weaving, and embroidery that convey meditative rituals. These are also the techniques she brings into her social practice work with the hope to stimulate more mindfulness and peace in the community.

Chandler Reich Sellens – BFA, Drawing

The intention of my work is to connect with people through memory, reflection, and familiarity in an optimistic way. Whether that be through figures, landscapes, textures, or even patterns, I create images people can relate to or which trigger relatability within themselves. I place my mark and subject within a composition to connect my memories with the paper and then connect visually with the viewer. Aesthetically, my work is typically full of vibrant colors and the expressive marks and textures of drawing and two-dimensional materials. I use all sorts of two-dimensional media, from colored pencils to ink or even watercolor and collage. I like using the materials' organic and natural purpose within my drawings- drawings that look like drawings and a collage which looks like a collage. One day, I hope to teach others how two-dimensional mark-making can create a whole world of depth, emotion, and energy. I also hope to pass on the skills and techniques I've learned along the way to my own future students.

Cassidy Sells – BFA Sculpture

Cassidy Sells was born in the suburbs of St. Louis, Missouri. She finished high school while she began her studies at St. Charles Community College, where she discovered her passion for sculpture. Upon completing her associate degree in 2019, she moved to Hay, Kansas to start on her bachelors degree at Fort Hays State University. She creates her work by casting in iron and utilizing her knowledge in blacksmithing techniques producing work in a style as eclectic as her methodological pursuits.

Work Statement - This work explores the notion of a wish. The inevitable breaking of a wishbone is an indication of good or bad luck. Should one choose to try and break the unbreakable wish, they will end up with misfortune.

Nick Simko – Assistant Professor, Photography

Nick's work has been exhibited at galleries throughout the United States, including The Walters Art Museum, The Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, and The Tyler School of Art. His studio work has been published in the University of Pittsburgh culture journal and on Strange Fire Collective. Nick is a representative for the Society for Photographic Education LGBTQ Caucus, and was a 2019 ONE Archives Foundation LGBTQ research fellow. Nick holds an MFA in Photography from the University of New Mexico, and a BFA in Art History from the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Work Statement - My work investigates the interwoven technologies of identity and photography. In my studio practice, I use portraiture as a method to critically examine cultural frameworks of authenticity and artifice, inside and outside, and what is said versus how it is said. Photographic imaging is the foundation of all my work because it parallels this tension, reflecting both surface appearances and inferred depths, while also problematizing the relationship between them.

PJ Stauffer – BFA Drawing

PJ Stauffer is a multi-disciplinary based in Hays, KS. He is currently working on a BFA in Drawing at Fort Hays State University. He mostly uses ink, acrylic, gouache, digital illustration, or various printmaking methods to express his life story and his experience with his gender and sexuality, mental health, and journey to healing.

Work Statement - *Connection Error* is a depiction of the anger and frustration I feel every time I'm reminded I'm in the wrong body. As a transgender man, I struggle with feeling connected to myself, and the frustration only intensifies when my brain and body can't seem to agree on what I should look, feel, or act like. The book design is significant to show the relationship (or lack thereof) between my body and brain's relationship with anger.

Olivia Stinson – MFA, Ceramics

Olivia Stinson is a ceramic artist who was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. She obtained her BA in Fine Arts from Doane University in Crete, Nebraska, graduating in 2020. She then proceeded to further her education, currently working towards her MFA in Ceramics from Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS.

Work Statement - Through our commonality of the body, my work explores public and personal instances of sexual violence and trauma. I use my platform to express intimate thoughts and emotions, while also creating an informative body of work for our society. I explore questions such as how we can gain control over the residues of past trauma and how do we return to being the captain of our own vessel? Using the figure, I explore this ongoing societal issue, hoping to heal as well as educate the viewer.

Tina Thomas – MFA, Ceramics

Tina was born in Independence, Kansas and attended Wichita state university, receiving a B. F. A. with an emphasis in ceramics and education in 2010. After graduating she taught art at the elementary level for 3 years, then transitioned to Wichita North High School where she is currently teaching ceramics. She enrolled at Fort Hays for her first semester towards an M.F.A. this year and is excited to explore her work on a deeper level.

Work Statement - Tina's work is not only influenced by fantasy, surrealism and folk art, but also by her childhood memories and raising her own 3 children. Her bright colors and forms are meant to be lighthearted, whimsical and playful. She intends for her work to provoke a sense of joy and happiness while being used or admired.

Claire Wegele – BFA, Drawing

Claire Wegele is from Oakley, KS. She graduate with an associates from Colby Community College and is now a drawing major at FHSU. She loves writing and traveling. Her dream is to have her own studio and make art and write.

Work Statement - My work includes a lot of warm, vivid color, a lot of orange, and a lot of texture. The lines are free flowing and not usually planned. What distinguishes my art from others is that my fingerprints are in the paint or in the charcoal. Sometimes there are unseen layers. Artworks take time because with time, my ideas of placement or color change. My work is expressive. Organic lines and intentional unintentional-ness are seen throughout my processes with overtones of realism, sometimes surrealism, and abstract components. In the years to come, I will have more large-scale pieces and hope to improve on my depth of field.

Addison Westhoff – BFA, Painting

Addison Westhoff is a 22 year old artist based out of Hays, Kansas. They use their life experiences to inspire work about mental illness, domestic violence, and the LGBTQIA+ community. Their art often includes intense colors, notable texture, and harsh mark-making. The bulk of their work is made up of paintings, prints, and mixed media works.

Work Statement - Advocacy and protest art have always interested me. Standing up for someone who felt as helpless or low as I have felt is one of the ways I use my artistic voice. Whether I find a way to spread awareness for a national crisis, find personal ways to reduce waste and recycle, or find a way to connect with individual viewers over personal experiences, I strive to create art that connects to the world in a bigger way. One of the ways I fulfill my need to advocate for those in need, is by spreading awareness of domestic violence. As someone who has seen domestic

violence first hand, I hope to inform my audience of the problems our legal system contains that they may be unaware of. Other social issues I tend to create about include the LGBTQIA+ community, mental health, and rape culture.

Visually, layering has become more important to me over time. Adding each layer gives me the ability to explore my mediums as I work, while remaining in complete control of the overall movement and emotion in the painting. Building these layers out of multiple media, including drawing, painting, and collage, is a fundamental part to my work. For this collage work, paper and canvas are most suitable to my personal aesthetic. The ability to move quickly and interdisciplinarily works beautifully on thick printmaking paper. It has led me to great works that were built on unsuccessful prints, old sketchbook pages, and painting experiments gone wrong. Nearly no material goes to waste in my studio, where every piece of scrap is beautiful. My work is often made with others in mind; that may be on a personal, local, or global scale. I like to use my artistic voice to advocate for those who can not fight for themselves. Often, I use bright colors, intense layers, and repurposed materials. I always use real life experiences to inspire the imagery and intense scenes in these surreal works.