

Wax Moon

AND OTHER STORIES

May 3, 2021

Shannon Christine Smith

Thesis Statement

A series of mixed media images and stories inspired by my childhood imaginings and spiritual walk that are meant to awaken childlike belief and wonder in its viewers.

Original Thesis Proposal

I will create a series of 8 unrelated single-image stories. These will be along the lines of fairytales, but they will be of my own imagining; these pieces will include an image and a few lines of story. The works will be 2D for the most part, but not necessarily flat as there will be depth and texture from multiple media, with a base of paint and India ink. In this collection I will have two large horizontal pieces, while the remaining six will be vertical and medium in size. I will utilize bright colors, as well as thick lines of black where necessary. Some pieces will be a range of cool tones, in contrast to others that will use warm colors; this will relate to the mood of the pieces individually. Through these images I want to communicate the perception of the world that I had as a child; the questions I asked myself and the types of answers I'd imagine. I want to appeal to the inner child within my viewers. For me, the concept of fairytales, and the impossible, contributed greatly to my faith and spiritual growth. Many times the answers to difficult situations and questions are best answered in a childlike way. I would like to convey a childlike belief through my work and show that those feelings of awe and wonder are still relevant later in life.

Revised Thesis Proposal

I will create a series of unrelated, single-image stories. These will be along the lines of fairytales, but they will be of my own imagining; each piece will include an image and a few lines of text. The works will be 2D and mixed media. The work will vary in size. Color will relate to each piece individually based on their content and mood. Through these images, I want to communicate the perception of the world that I had as a child: the questions I asked myself and the solutions I would imagine. I want to appeal to the inner child within my viewers. The concept of fairytales, and the impossible, contributed greatly to my imagination and spiritual growth. I would like to convey a childlike creativity through my work and show that the feelings of awe and wonder are just as relevant later in life.

Artist Bio

Art is a form of worship, a means of communication, and a practice that makes me feel more like myself. Art is my friend, not my colleague. I don't spend time with it every day but the relationship is always there. I am inspired by fairytales, Christianity, and psychology. When I am experiencing a block, I dive into the world of Disney because of their ability to evoke emotion and awake a sense of wonder.

I have studied many different media and techniques from even before my college career. I am willing to experiment with nearly anything. I am messy and intuitive and often forget to map my work out before jumping in. My preferred media are mixing wet materials and drawing with India inks. I enjoy creating work with found objects, whether it be old craft materials, receipts from an interesting place, or something intriguing that I found discarded by a stranger. I don't require a narrative in my work, often I make pieces simply because I want to create something exciting to look at. Not every piece has to have a story.

My current series, Wax Moon and other stories, features fairytales inspired by my childhood imaginings. Fairytales have always been spiritually inspiring to me and I want to convey that they can be a beneficial means of teaching good values, and offering support to one's faith. For this project, I worked with various media, mostly acrylics and watercolor mixed with India ink. The images are inspired by my childhood daydreaming. I have tried to convey the innocence and wonder that we seem to lose as we grow older. The texts partnered with each piece give a glimpse into the story, leaving the rest up to the viewer to wonder and expand on the world that I have created.

Resume



SHANNON
CHRISTINE
CREATIVE

Mixed Media Artist

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts | Studio Art
Austin Peay State University
Clarksville, TN
May 2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Art Handler
Frist Art Museum
Nashville, TN
August 2019-Present

Studio Assistant
Britt Stadig Studio, LLC
Donelson, TN
July 2019-March 2020

Pharmacy Technician
Kroger Pharmacy
Nashville, TN
May 2016-January 2020

Exhibit Operator
Adventure Science Center
Nashville, TN
April 2016-July 2016

EXHIBITIONS

Senior Thesis Exhibition
Barbara Beach Gallery
March 2021

Paper Trails Vol. 2
Pellissippi State Community College
Bagwell Center for Media and Art
August 2015

Juried Student Art Exhibition
Monthaven Arts & Cultural Center
May 2015

COMMISSIONS

'Dopamine'
Album Cover | Flightless Birds
Found Objects on Canvas, 2018

SKILLS & SOFTWARE

- Illustration
- Painting
- Drawing
- Clay
- Bookmaking
- Procreate
- Lightroom
- Slack

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First Presentation

Senior thesis proposal presentation *Shannon Smith*



Thesis Statement

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2

thesis proposal

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3

Influences



Mary Blair: Disney concept artist, animator, designer

4

Influences



Siona Benjamin: Indian-American artist

5

Influences



Pauline Baynes: Illustrator

6

Influences

SNAP!

She was opening up her umbrella,
She thought it was going to rain,
When we all heard a snap
Like the clap of a trap
And we never have seen her again.



IT'S DARK IN HERE

I am writing these poems
From inside a den,
And it's rather dark in here,
So please excuse the handwriting
Which may not be too clear.
But this afternoon by the Sun's rays
On a wall I got to see
And I'm writing these lines
From inside a den,
And it's rather dark in here.



Shel Silverstein: Author/ Cartoonist

7

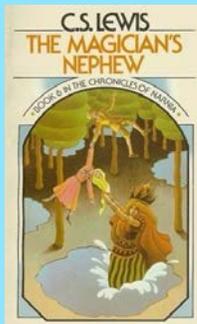
Influences



Ricky Nierva: Production designer, artist

8

Influences



C.S. Lewis: Author of The Chronicles of Narnia

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Sketches and Color Schemes



10

Sketches and Color Schemes



11

Sketches and Color Schemes



12

Sketches and Color Schemes



13

Examples



14

Progress

7 of 8 concept sketches are complete.

6 of 8 stories are written

I have made a list of sizes and orientation for each piece.

I am currently developing various color schemes.

I am compiling a list of necessary materials.

15

Timeline

9/16- 9/25

Tighten sketches and choose 8 to use for final pieces. Create color palettes. Experiment with materials.

9/26 - 10/5

Start pieces. Finalize story lines to go with images.

10/6 -10/23

First 2 pieces.

10/24 - 11/13

Pieces 3 & 4

16

Timeline

11/14 - 11/30

Pieces 5 & 6

12/1 - 12/31

Pieces 7 & 8

1/1 - 1/15

Fine tune pieces and decide how to display text.

1/16- 1/31

Contemplate show set-up I.e. order of works, artist statement, etc.

*Dates are for starting goals. Some pieces will take longer than others and most likely they will overlap.

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“

Someday you will be old enough to start reading
fairytale again.

- *C.S. Lewis: The Lion, The Witch, and The
Wardrobe*

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Second Presentation

Wax Moon and Other Stories

Shannon Smith



Thesis Statement

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2

Thesis Proposal

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3

Research



Glen Keane : Animator (*The Little Mermaid*)

4

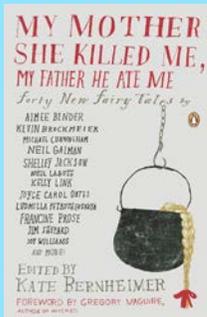
Research



Anthony DeRosa: Animator (*Fantasia 2000 : Firebird*)

5

Research



“An evanescence of sprites and pixies and guardian angels, in shimmering gossamer threads. An abundance of adversaries (in ascending order) from dwarves to giants. A passel of princes, mostly charming, occasionally brave and clever besides.”

- *Drawing the Curtain*

Carmen Gimenez Smith: Author

6

Research

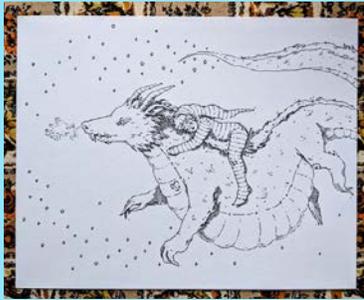


“And she would lower the lamp over a person and they would see how extraordinary were the birds and beasts of the world, and that they should be valued for their bright and beautiful and mysterious selves...”

Joy Williams: Novelist (Baba Iaga and the Pelican Child)

7

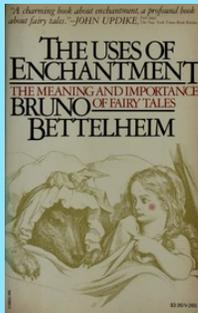
Research



Aubü(AutumnalWood): Artist

8

Research

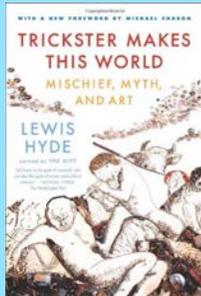


“It is characteristic of fairytales to state an existential dilemma briefly and pointedly. This permits the child to come to grips with the problem in its most essential form... The fairytale simplifies all situations. Its figures are clearly drawn; and details, unless very important, are eliminated.”

Bruno Bettelheim : Psychologist, Author, Scholar

9

Research



Lewis Hyde: Scholar, Critic, Author

10

References



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References



12

References



13



*“The Water rages below. The clouds gather up top.
We all hate the day that the river rains up.”*

14

Progress



*“Watch the skies closely. The space mermaids are at
play, rearranging the stars and making pictures
across the galaxy”*

15

Progress



“The little mermaid thought it was so beautiful, the way that the mermaids flew with the fish.”

16

Progress



“Do not clip the wings of a flying thing, lest its soul be scattered on the wind.”

17

Next Work



18

Changes/Setbacks

Material shortage.

Restarted the space mermaid.

Two pieces will be smaller than originally planned.

I am no longer going to implement 3D into the images.

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Tasks

Finish the two pieces in progress by the end of November. This will complete the fairy piece and the birdcage.

Complete the paper boat, flower pushers, and wax moon pieces throughout December.

Complete the last remaining piece, the girl on the flowers, in January.

20

Tasks

During the Spring semester:

Clean up the sides of my panels to remove any paint drips

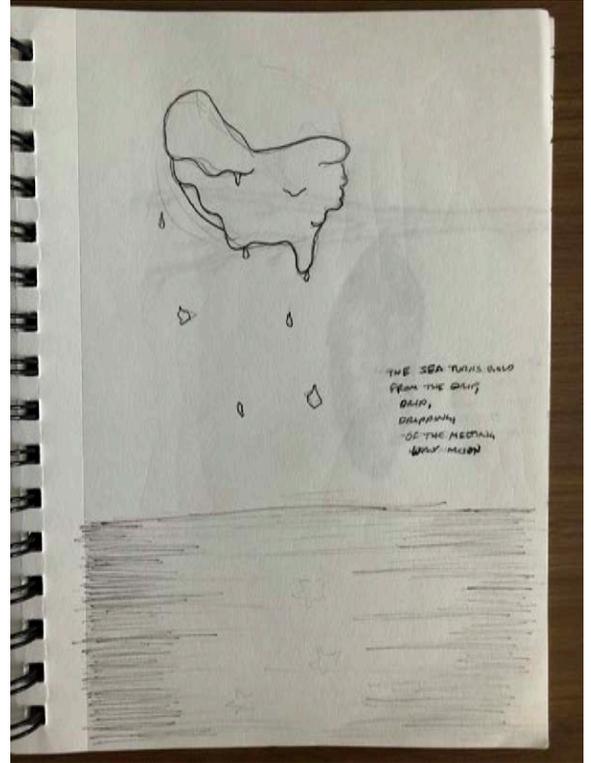
Finalize the stories and work on getting lettering printed for display.

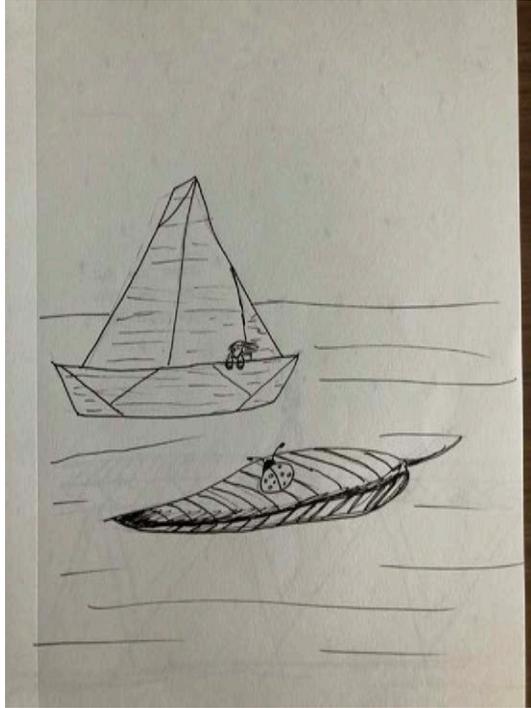
Create the show poster and business cards, as well as the lineup and talking points.

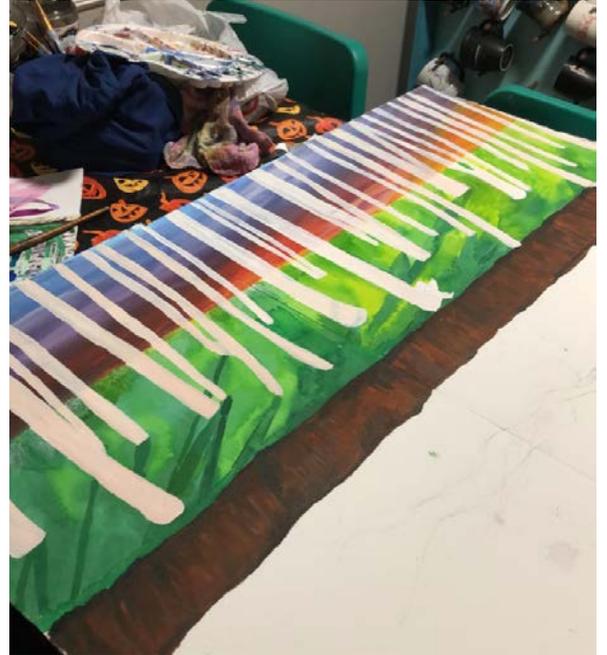
Finalize artist statement.

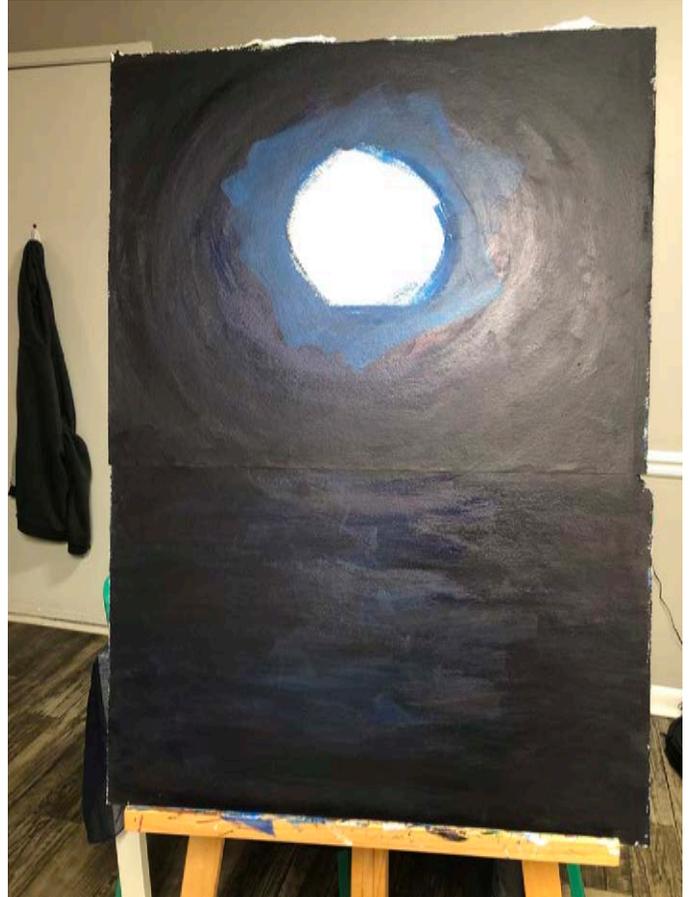
21

Process

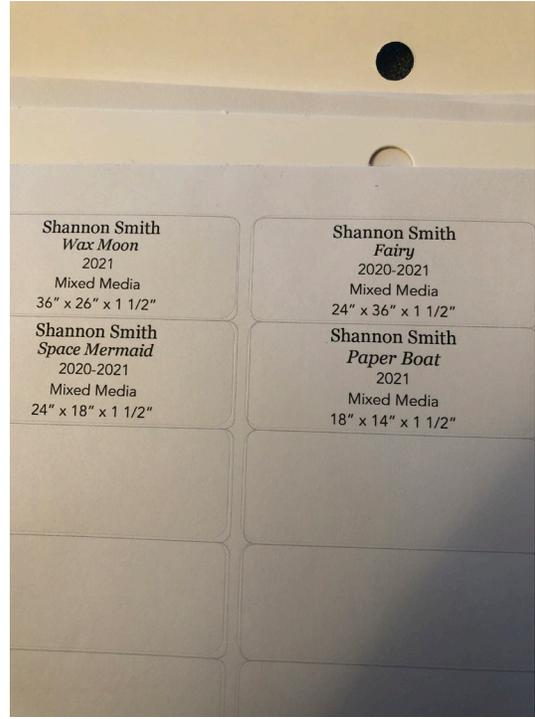
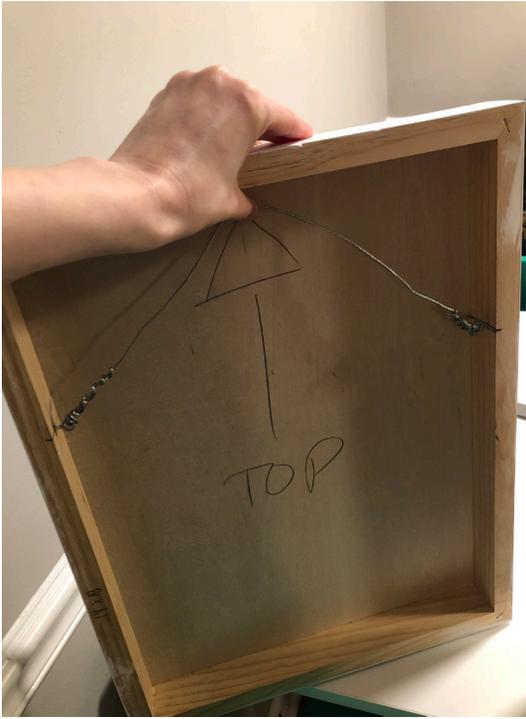
















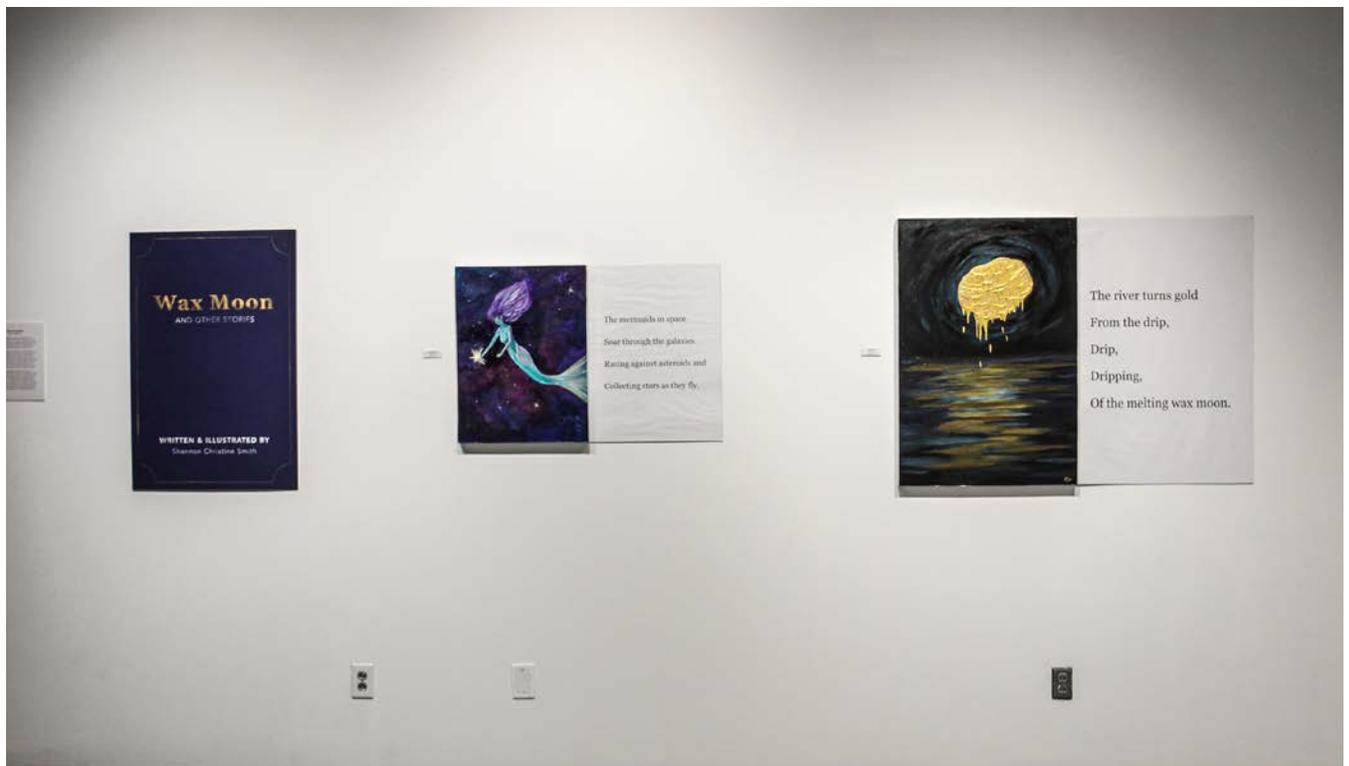
Exhibition

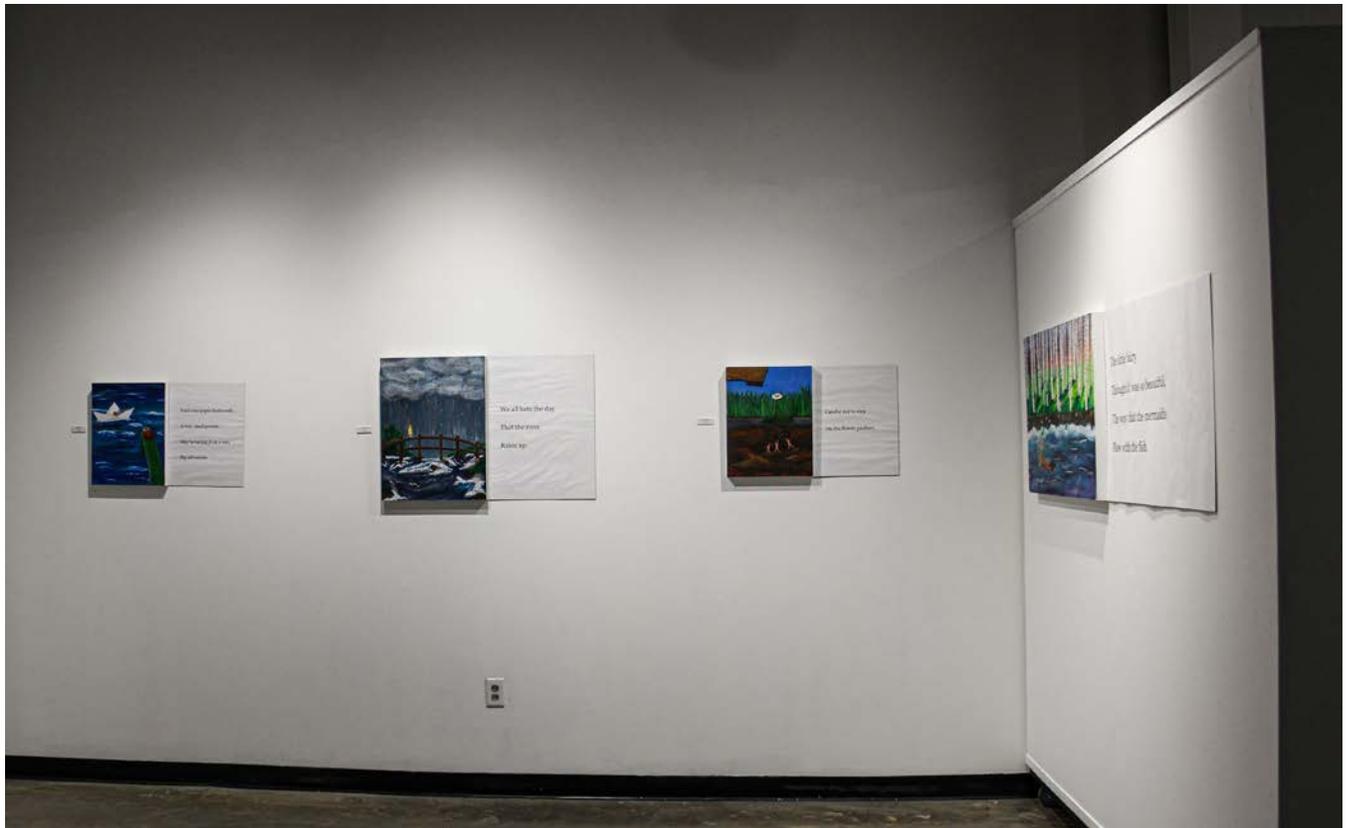
A photograph of five colorful book spines (blue, red, yellow, purple, green) standing upright against a dark background. The blue spine is leaning to the left.

Wax Moon
and Other Stories
by Shannon Smith

Barbara Beach Gallery
March 29th-April 1st

Artist Talk
March 29th @ 5:30 PM
(On Zoom)





Wax Moon

AND OTHER STORIES

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY

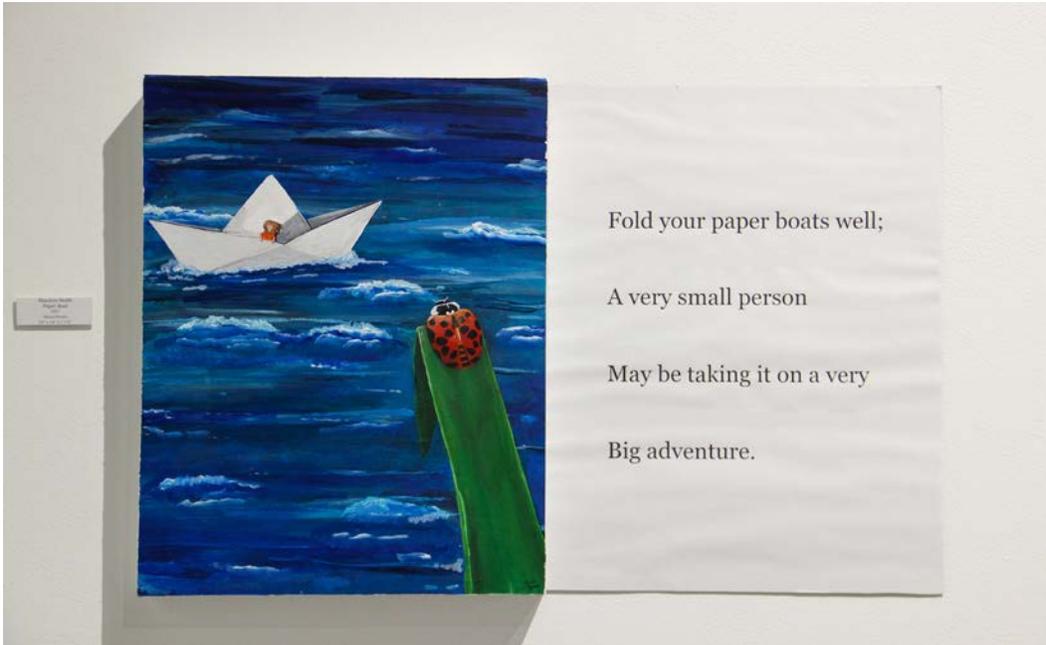
Shannon Christine Smith



The mermaids in space
Soar through the galaxies
Racing against asteroids and
Collecting stars as they fly.



The river turns gold
From the drip,
Drip,
Dripping,
Of the melting wax moon.

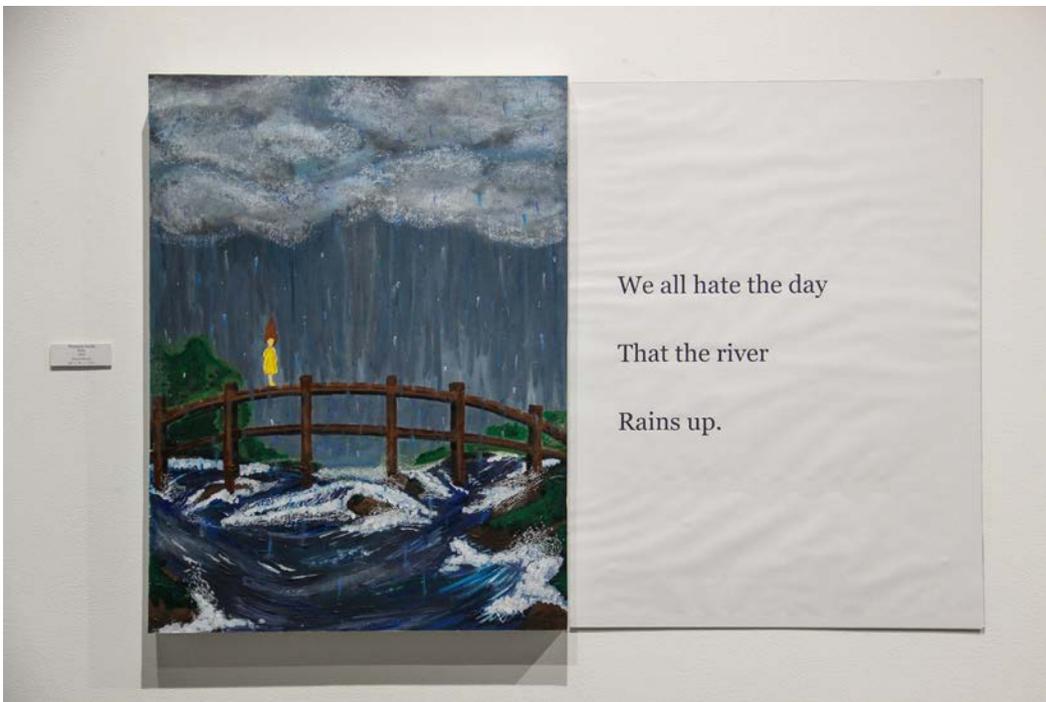


Fold your paper boats well;

A very small person

May be taking it on a very

Big adventure.



We all hate the day

That the river

Rains up.



Michael Sussman
Daisy Pushers
1998
Oil on Canvas

Careful not to step
On the flower pushers.



Michael Sussman
Mermaid and Fish
1998
Oil on Canvas

The little fairy
Thought it was so beautiful,
The way that the mermaids
Flew with the fish.





Reflection

I went into thesis with a fairly clear idea of what I wanted to create. I knew that I wanted to tell these stories and I had a mental image for each of them. What I did not know when I started thesis was how I was going to go about translating those mental images to a physical piece of artwork.

Having thesis as the parameter for creating this body of work has helped me work through the process of developing my stories to be understood by a broad audience. Being in a whole class of people in the same position as me is invaluable, and I know that I'll miss that when I graduate and find myself searching for feedback. I learned that, although feedback is important, it can also be detrimental. Applying changes based on every piece of advice can cause you to find yourself looking at an image that is nowhere near what you hoped to create. I have learned that, like a healthy diet, portion control when applying opinions to your work is important. Additionally, I realized that although a concept is clear to me, it takes extra effort to make it clear to the audience, and without that clarity, there isn't much point in displaying my work outside of my own home.

I had to cut down on the amount of pieces I had planned to create, but I realized along the way that less high quality work is always better than lots of rushed sloppy work, when not bound to a specific quantity. I'm proud of the work that I made and hope to expand the collection. There are always more stories to be told.

Thank You!

May 3, 2021

Shannon Christine Smith