

The Nature of Grief

By Marielle Mickle

Thesis Statement

The Nature of Grief will show the process of what grief is like through a sequence of acrylic paintings and a collection of small graphite drawings that portray the deeper emotions and chaos that occurs within this process.

Thesis Proposal

For my senior thesis project, I am portraying the deeper layers of grief through portraiture, birds, and nature elements. I am incorporating birds based on behavioral patterns of that certain breed and their historical symbolic meaning. The portraits involve me and my feelings throughout the grieving process. I am portraying these emotions by painting with acrylic paint on larger canvases. I am choosing to use paint since it's a malleable medium and can express the layers and messiness that are attached to grief. I am also creating a series of journal entry sketches on paper that will show the everyday experiences with this process. These incorporate raw materials like graphite and charcoal along with raw emotions of my own, intended to make some viewers uncomfortable and other's comforted.

Artist Bio

Marielle Mickle, painter

Marielle Mickle is a student enrolled at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, where she is working on her BFA in Studio Art. She originates from Middle Tennessee and has been creating artwork for 10 years. Her work is based around nature elements and floral designs. Her preferred medium is acrylic paint on canvas, but she creates with other mediums like graphite, pen and ink, and watercolor. She is interested in creating works that are strictly for the visual enjoyment of the viewer but has recently shifted into an interest in depicting the deeper emotions of grief through her work.

Resumé

MARIELLE MICKLE

SKILLS

Central skills: Organization, detail oriented, patient, committed.

Additional skills: Drawing, artistic eye, critical thinking, painting.

SUMMARY STATMENT

Determined professional independent contractor that creates paintings and illustrations prepared for any project a client wants or needs. Skilled at creative and critical thinking to ensure desired content to every customer to increase satisfaction rates.

EXPERIENCE

Sales Associate | Michaels Arts and Crafts | 5/23/18-5/29/20

Medical Center Pkwy, Murfreesboro, TN and Wilma Rudolph Blvd, Clarksville, TN. Stocked products, checked guests out, customer service, curbside assistance, cleaned and closed shop

Sales Associate | YMCA (Pool side Snack Shack) | 5/30/17-8/20/17

Concord Rd, Brentwood, TN. Serving and selling snacks and drinks, cleaning thoroughly, cashier, accounting for the money made, checking members in.

EDUCATION

BFA in Studio Art | 5/7/21 | Austin Peay State University

Anticipated degree 2017-2021

EXIBITION HISTORY

(Upcoming) *The Nature of Grief*, The Beach Gallery, Clarksville, TN. Solo Exhibit. 2021.

Open House. Austin Peay State University Art Building. Clarksville, TN. Group Show. 2019.



Email



Telephone

Link to website:

<https://www.behance.net/mariellemickle>

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE OR LEADERSHIP

-Yearbook team lead Editor.

-Organizer for YMCA Development Director.

First Presentation

THESIS STATEMENT:

- *The Nature of Grief* will show the process of grief through a sequence of paintings that portray the deeper emotions and chaos that occurs within grief.

PROPOSAL:

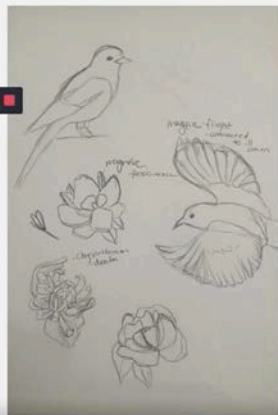
- For my senior thesis project, I want to show the process of grief through a sequence of acrylic paintings that portray the deeper emotions and chaos of mourning the death of a loved one. These works will convey the complex stages of grief and mourning. I will attain these emotions through the symbolism, expression and emotion of birds, flowers and nature. I am going to use large canvases that vary between 48"x48" and 30"x40" to emphasize the overwhelming and overbearing feeling that grief can cause.

PROGRESS:





Current sketches:



Past work:



Past work:



RESEARCH:

Yvette Cummings

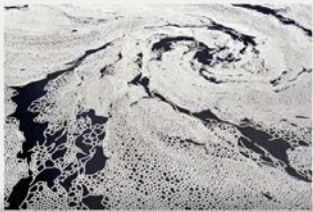


When the Magpie Came



Not to Bad Things (Diptych),
2019

Motoi Yamamoto



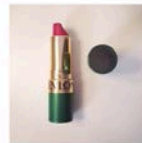
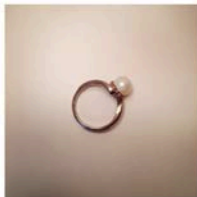
Floating
Garden, 2013



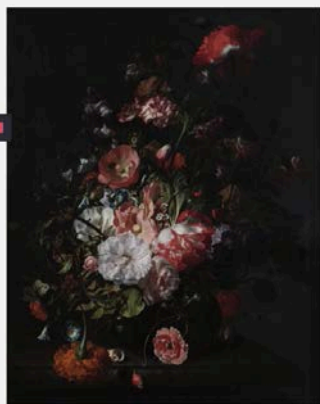
Return to the Sea, 2012

Jennifer Loeber

Left Behind, 2014



Rachel Ruysch



Flower Still Life,
1726



Flowers in a Glass Bowl



*A Forest Floor Still Life of
Flowers*

Andrew and Jamie Wyeth



Jamie Wyeth

*Ravens
Domination*
1996



*Saltwater
Ice*, 1997

Andrew Wyeth



Winter Fields, 1942



Woodshed, 1944

Charles Avery



Untitled (Ridables Devouring Gulls),
2009



Feeding the Gulls, 2007

TIMELINE:

- 9/9/20-9/25/20- Research more and read books on art that pertains to grief. Create and finish full sketches and ideas. Make presentation and present. Purchase large canvases.
- 9/28/20-10/1/20-Start on big paintings. Meet with mentor.
- 10/5/20-10/16/20-Create more sketches and ideas. Have first piece completed.
- 10/19/20-10/30/20-Start on second piece. Meet with mentor.
- 11/2/20-11/6/20- Continue to work on painting #2.
- 11/9/20-11/20/20. Have painting #2 finished and starting on #3 & 4. Meet with mentor.
- 11/23/20-12/14/20-Observe and evaluate finished pieces so far. Continue working on those. Do touch-ups and fixes.
- 12/14/20-1/15/21-Work over break. Create 3-4 pieces during this break period. Planning set up and details of show.
- 1/18/21-2/1/21-Finishing touches. Observing pieces all together as a whole.
- 2/8/21-2/12/21-Presenting final pieces in the show.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

- Will my imagery convey the stages of grief effectively and accurately?
- Managing my time wisely.
- Biting off more than I can chew with the size and content.

Second Presentation

THESIS STATEMENT:

- *The Nature of Grief* will show the process of grief through a sequence of paintings that portray the deeper emotions and chaos that occurs within grief.

PROPOSAL:

- For my senior thesis project, I want to show the process of grief through a sequence of acrylic paintings that portray the deeper emotions and chaos of mourning the death of a loved one. These works will convey the complex stages of grief and mourning. I will attain these emotions through the symbolism, expression and emotion of birds, flowers and nature. I am going to use large canvases that vary between 48"x48" and 30"x40" to emphasize the overwhelming and overbearing feeling that grief can cause.

REFOCUS:

- 5 finished works rather than 7.
- Creating a balance between my personal experience with grief and the stages.
- Possibly leaving out the simple side works originally planned to be next to each piece.

VANESSA STOCKARD



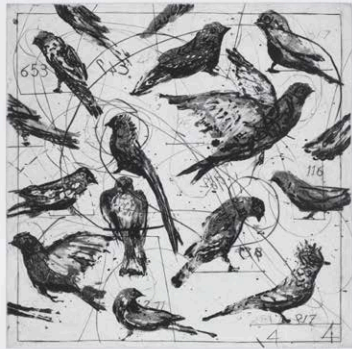
KHARI TURNER



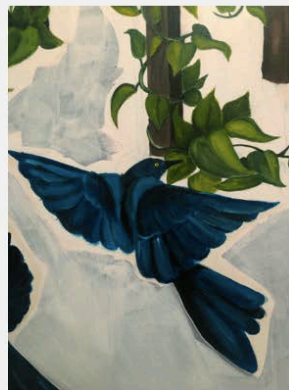
KERRY JAMES MARSHALL



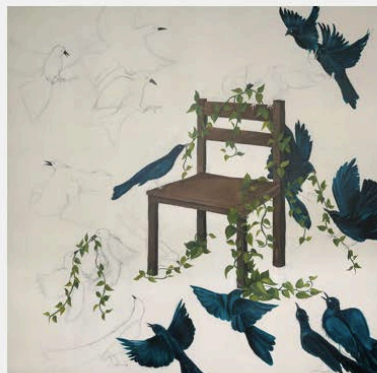
WILLIAM KENTRIDGE



CURRENT WORKS



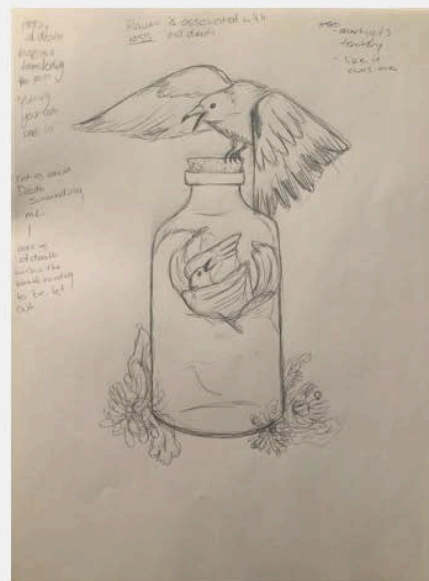
CURRENT WORKS



CURRENT WORKS



CURRENT WORKS



REMAINING TASKS

- Complete background for 1st painting.
- Map out ideas on the rest of the canvases.
- Plan out winter break work.



REVISED TIMELINE

- 11/12/20-11/19/20- Meet with mentor. Start Layout of painting 2.
- 11/23/20-12/14/20-Observe and evaluate finished pieces so far. Continue working on those. Do touch-ups and fixes.
- 12/14/20-1/15/21-Work over break. Create 2 pieces during this break period. Planning set up and details of show.
- 1/18/21-2/1/21- Begin 4th piece. Meet with mentor.
- 2/8/21-2/12/21-Continue working on 4th piece. Plan and begin laying out the 5th and final piece.
- 2/23/21-2/28/21-Completing 4th and painting 5th piece. Meet with mentor.
- 3/1/21-3/12/21- Planning details of show and finish final piece.



Process Documentation



















Final Show Documentation

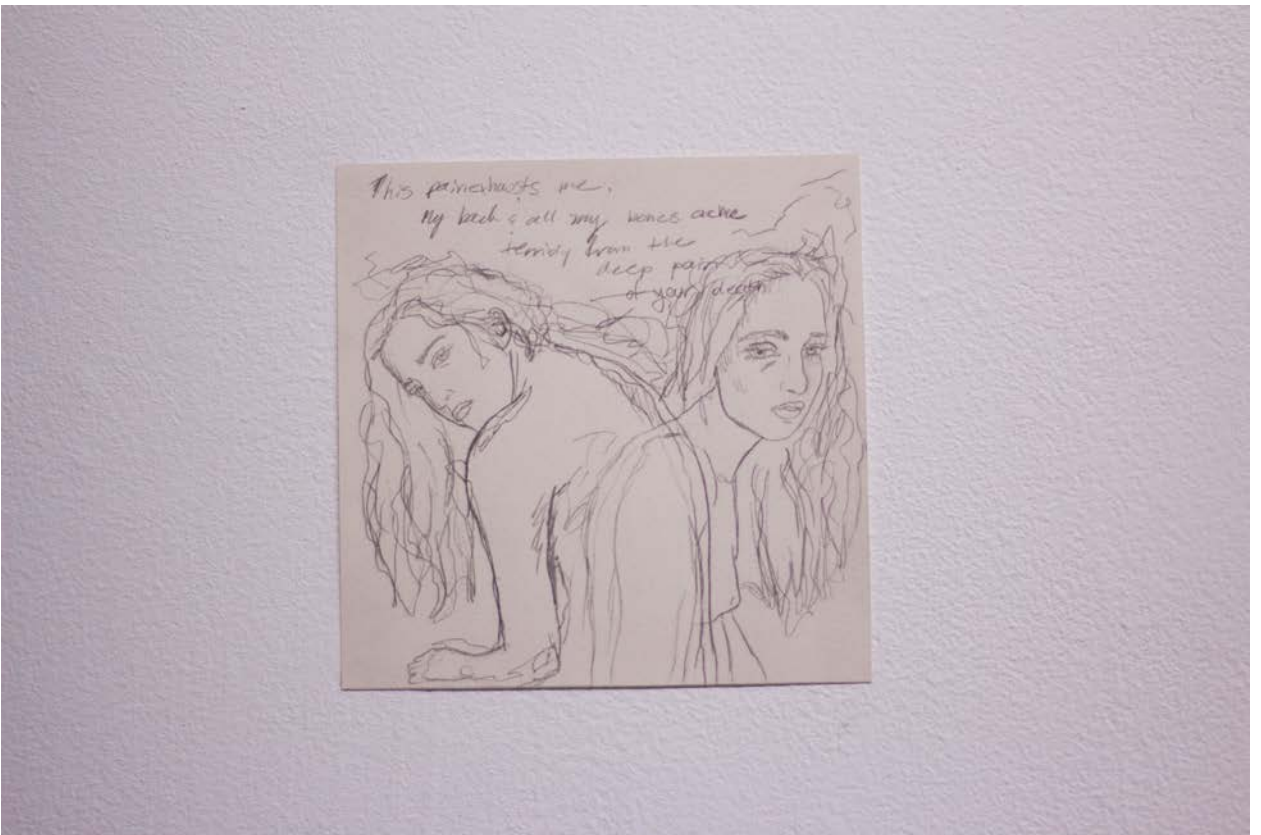
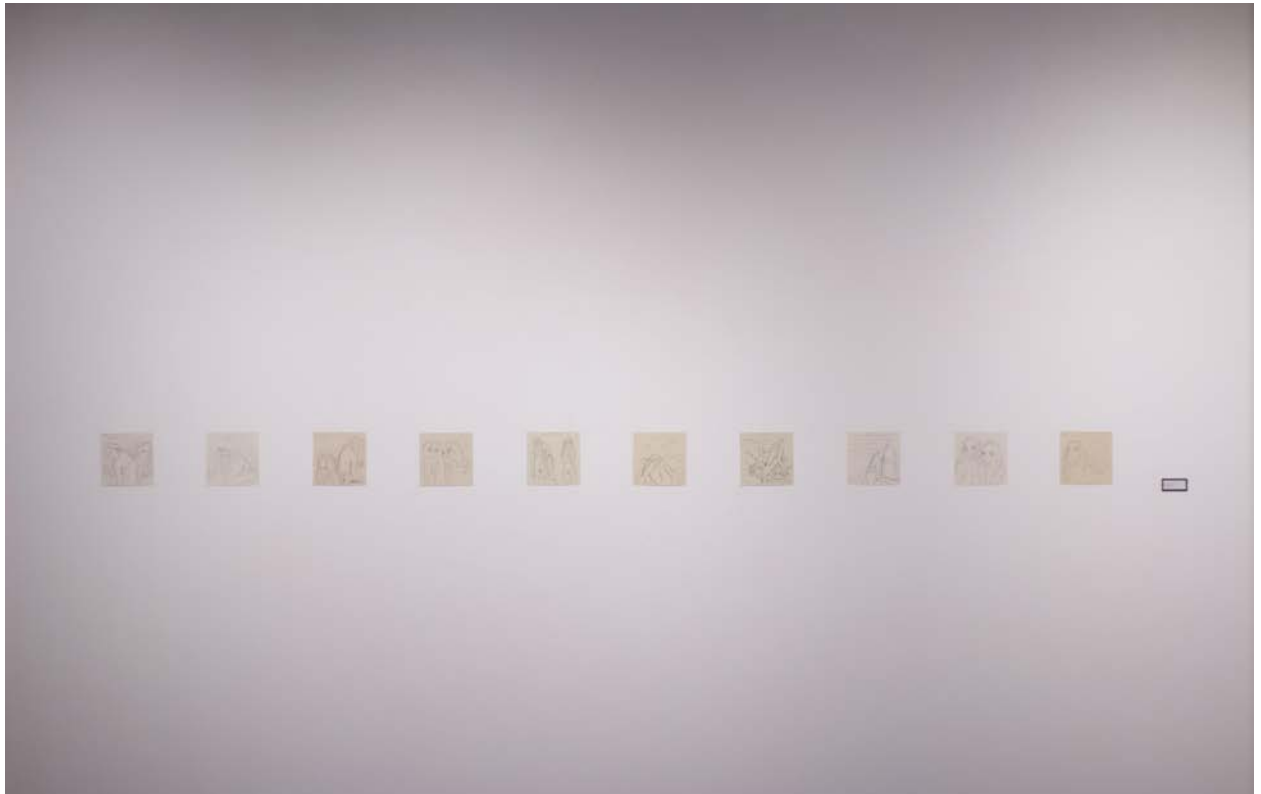


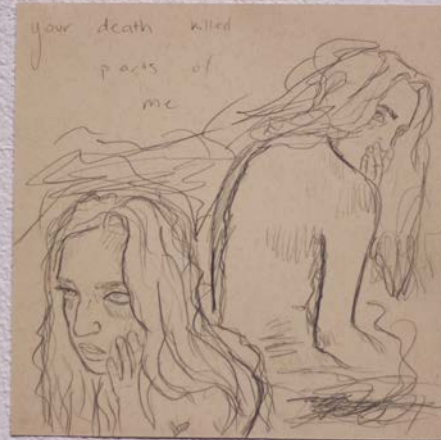
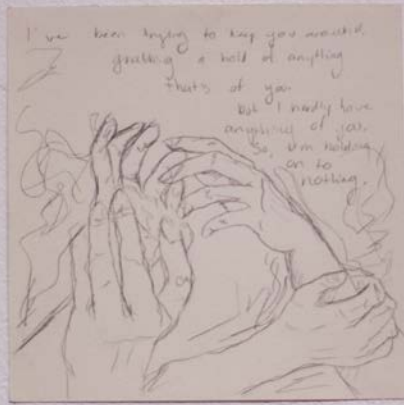


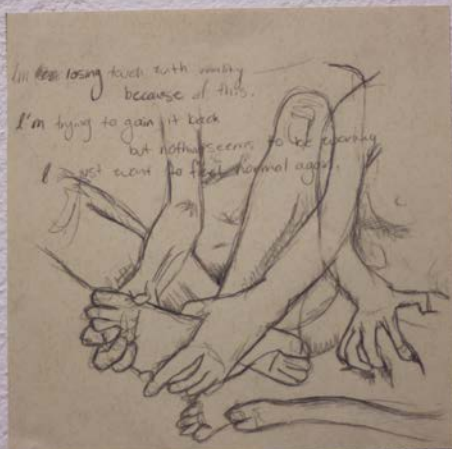
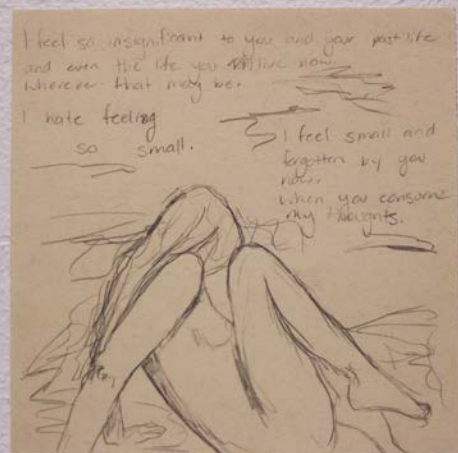
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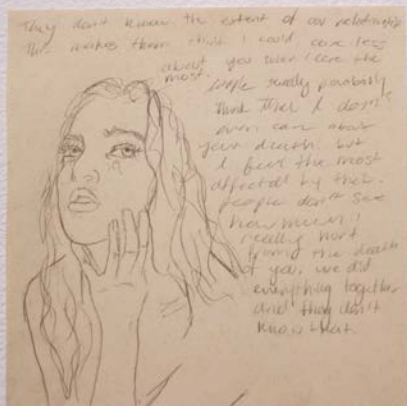
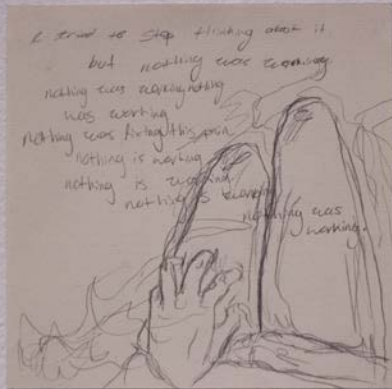


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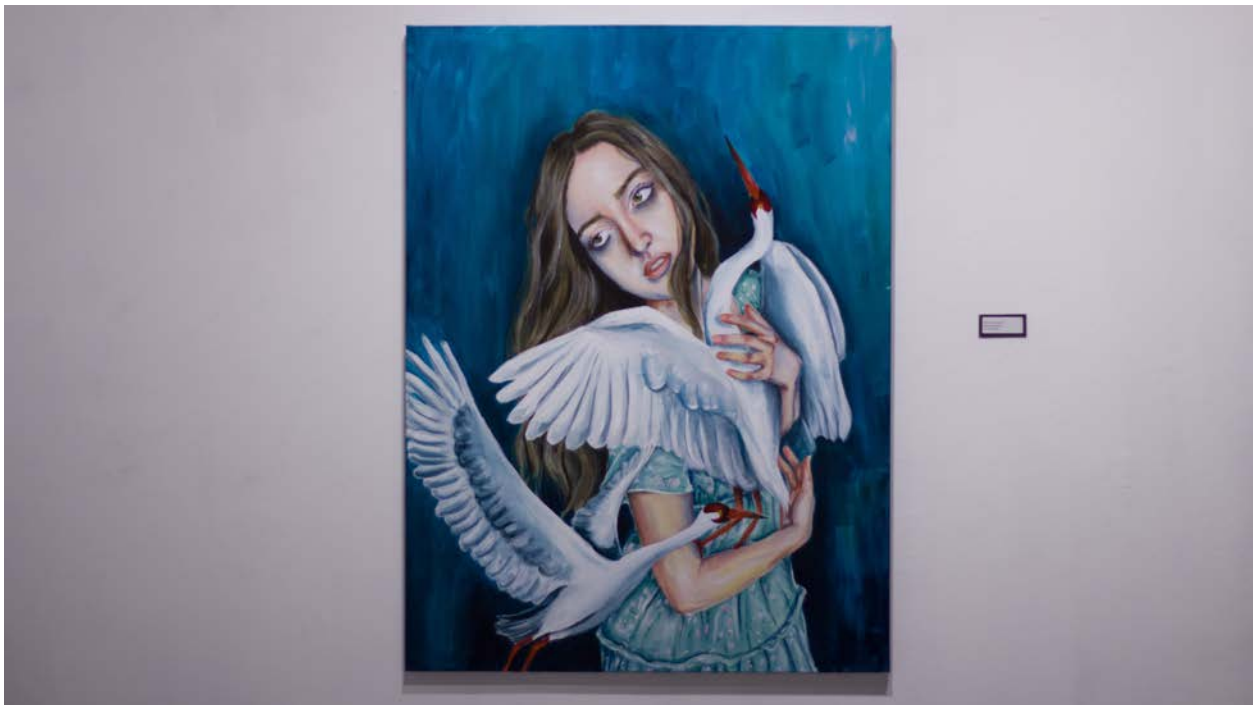




White Doves



Black Birds



Self-Critique

This is just the beginning for me and my work. Looking at this body of work, I genuinely am taken a back at what I have done, in the humblest way of course. When creating each piece, I was my worst critic. My process was honestly quite grueling, just like the grief I was and am experiencing. Within each piece, I struggled with many factors that delayed my process. Last semester was my biggest halt. I fell miles behind where I needed to be, but over the break it was almost like a light went off and I switched directions completely and did what I needed to do. I worked fast and hard with careful attention to detail. I could hardly go a day without painting. It was like ideas kept landing in my lap and I ran with each one. However, even so, when making these I oddly couldn't stand to look at them. I critiqued them so harshly and endured many nights of horrible frustration. I even would keep them turned around when I was finished for the night or when I completed a piece.

Installing my show and seeing each piece interlocking with one another changed my perception on what each piece was like, what they were doing and how they were making me, and many others feel. I grew to love what I have created, and I think I have done something really amazing. *Journal Entries* were the pieces that made me utterly uncomfortable to the point of wanting to peel out of my skin when displaying them and seeing viewers read them, but I knew I needed them up. They played an essential role to my show and I actually grew to love them and feel more comfortable the longer they were displayed.

Overall, my show is something I have created that is really important to me, and my hopes is that it was and is to others as well. I have many more things to learn as I have grasped when making this body of work. As I stated before, this is just the beginning for me and my artwork.