



Characterizing through Nature

Kori Pegram

Senior Thesis: 4150

Artist Statement

My work stems from my need to explore and to find meaning behind things found in the world. My curiosity spreads out and finds roots in nature, searching for what is captivating. In nature I find elements that have been used across time to explain people's thoughts, feelings and ideas. Nature's endless supply of form offers symbols to reflect our experience and my art represents that connection. Nature is the heart of my work and there's always some perfect pairing of natural image and symbolism that can be used to represent and express my ideas.

Currently my work focuses on the meaning and symbolism we've given to the natural world, and how they can be used to represent the characteristics of the people around me. Using outlines of each individual, colors, lines, and parts of nature, the paintings describe important aspects of people around me.

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Proposal

Nature is around us, everywhere, even as disconnected as we are from it in more developed areas, we still always fall back onto it. We still use it to live and to describe the things around us. The natural living and nonliving things are all living without our interference, but throughout the years people have given meaning to naturally occurring things. These things are what nature holds to survive, to thrive, and we have interpreted them to have meanings across cultures, different peoples, and environments. Drawing on those ideas, my exhibit will focus on using the nature; from the colors, animal symbols and meanings, the feelings nature can give us along the lines of evoking moods and feelings and then the concepts will be used to describe the characteristics of the people around me in paintings instead of words.

For my works, I will start by delving into the meanings behind natural environments, animals, and colors and considering my own thoughts on what the symbols can mean. I will get to know the people chosen for my paintings by finding more about their likes, dislikes and who they are as a person. This will better find out what would best be used to tell about them. Then to create the paintings I will be using a combination of paints, with a focus on watercolor to create the large paintings. The paintings will be using the silhouettes of the people and filled in with the natural symbols that best describes them. Thus, the viewer will be free to take the symbols from my interpretation of the person to find out who they are and take their own thoughts on the feelings they get from the paintings to get a sense of the person.

The reason behind this work first stems from my love of nature and how there is still so many beautiful things out there that can't be seen in everyday life that I wish to show. I feel nature is a source that we can connect with it as we live in and around it, searching for meaning. My inspiration first stems from traditional Chinese and Japanese ink paintings, where they were able to show the spirit of nature in black and white. Their thought processes on nature having meaning and the symbolic meaning of the natural things they painted like bamboo speaks to me as what I intend to do with my work and my own use of watercolor. They are black ink, but that's where I also found Hong Leung who does colorful, but also traditional landscapes that I find inspiration from. John Pike is another artist who makes beautiful looks into nature with watercolor.

The goals for my exhibition are to embody best the people around me in my life. Alongside this, I want the audience to also take my symbols and aspects of nature and within their own thoughts and be able to come to their own conclusions about the people in the paintings. This research will also influence my own work in the future and further my knowledge on nature in future paintings that I will create.

CV

Kori Pegram

koripegram@gmail.com

6156492483

Education

BFA Austin Peay State University 2020

- Dean's list 2016-2020; 3.8400 GPA

Exhibitions

Vantage in 52nd Annual Student Juried Art Exhibition, Austin Peay State University

What Should Be Green in *Ruminate*, Barabara Beach Gallery, Austin Peay State University

2019

Brink in *Flux* Barbara Beach Gallery, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN, May 2019

Altitudes in 51st Annual Student Juried Art Exhibition, The New Gallery, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN, April 2019

2018

Floral, in *Trial by Water*, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN, September 2018

Awards

Plaza Art Supply Foundations Award, April 2020

Plaza Art Supply Foundations Award, April 2019

Work Experience

Volunteer Sculpture Studio Monitor, Austin Peay State University Sculpture Studio,

September 2018-May 2019, September 2019-May 2020

- Monitor use of hand tools, power tools, table saws, metal fabrication, and other sculpture equipment for effective use, safety, and assisting when needed.
- Building and organizing upgrades to the studio in terms of safety and layout.
- Collaborating with other monitors for building projects inside and outside of the studio.
- Maintaining safe and clean working space to health guidelines.

Cashier, Bar-B-Cutie, Nashville, TN

JUNE-2019 TO SEPTEMBER-2019

- Handling money, taking orders, assisting customers, bagging , stocking, and cleaning

Volunteer Ceramics and Exhibit Set-up Assistant, Austin Peay State University Art + Design,
September 2017-May 2018

- Daily cleaning and upkeep specific to a healthy ceramics studio.
- Building, designing, painting, and set up exhibition spaces, walls.

Summer Camp Counselor, Camp Holloway (Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee),
May 2017-July 2017, May 2018-July

- Art Counselor: Designed and implemented weekly art activities, Worked on a budget for supplies, Instructed art skills to groups up to 30, Customized art activities for ages five to eighteen,
- Archery Instructor: Taught archery for groups up to twenty-four, Organized activities specific for various ages,
- Outdoor Skills/Adventure Instructor: Led children and Adults on hikes, Created activities to encourage collaboration and conflict-resolution, Taught outdoor survival skills
- Unit counselor: Directed children's routines from morning to nighttime, Counseled children on behavior and conflict within units of 8-25, Scheduled impromptu activities during transition times, Performed custodial duties, communication with children and parents, and daily upkeep of the camp.

Volunteer Printmaking Assistant, Austin Peay State University Printmaking Studio,
September 2016-May-2017

- Organized and Cleaned Printmaking Materials.

Cashier, Academy Sports + Outdoors

May 2016-June

- Handling scanning and money at a cash register, shelving and stocking items.

Community Service

Volunteer, Montgomery County Animal Control + Care,

Organizations

Kappa Pi Art Society Secretary

2018-2020

- Acting as treasurer and secretary, Scheduling socializing events, volunteer opportunities, and fundraising events with other leadership team positions.

Presentation:

THESIS PROPOSAL

Kori Pegram

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- I plan to explore natural symbols from color theory, animal symbolism, and the moods and feelings that landscapes can evoke and use them to describe the characteristics of the people around me in paintings.

ABSTRACT

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- To explore different ways of symbolism with nature.
- To make paintings that embody the spirit and characteristics of the individual people around me.
- To get their characteristics across, and also allow the audience to figure out and have their own take on what the painting tells about the individuals.

- Conducting Interviews: Getting to know the people chosen around me better.
- Researching different symbols across cultures, colors, landscapes, animals
- Large different silhouette paintings of the person
- Tools: Watercolors, inks, Gouache, acrylic, mixed media

PREVIOUS WORK

5



Sketches

6

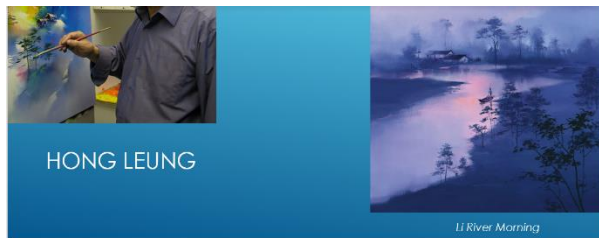


Sketches

INFLUENCES



Sesshū Tōyō
Long Landscape Scroll



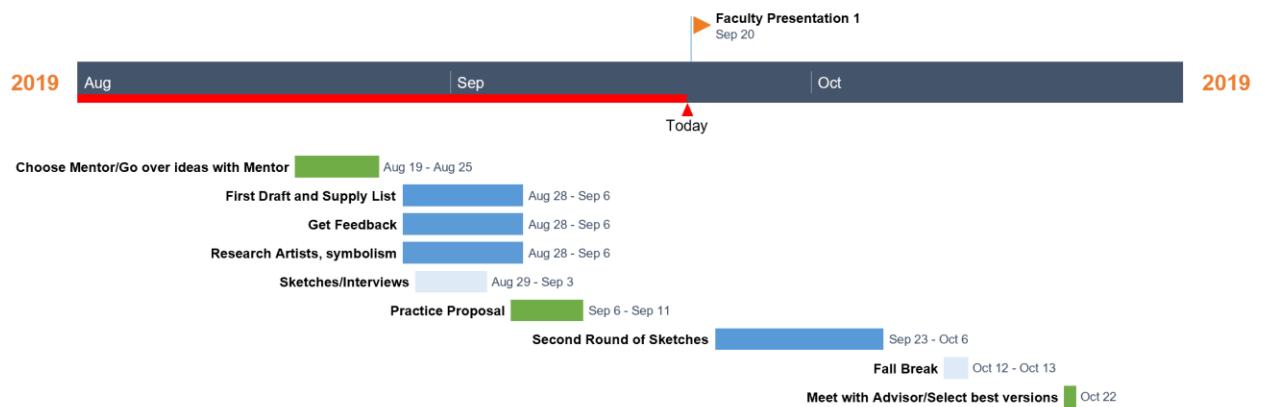
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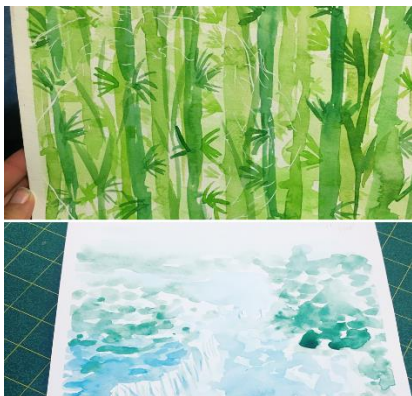
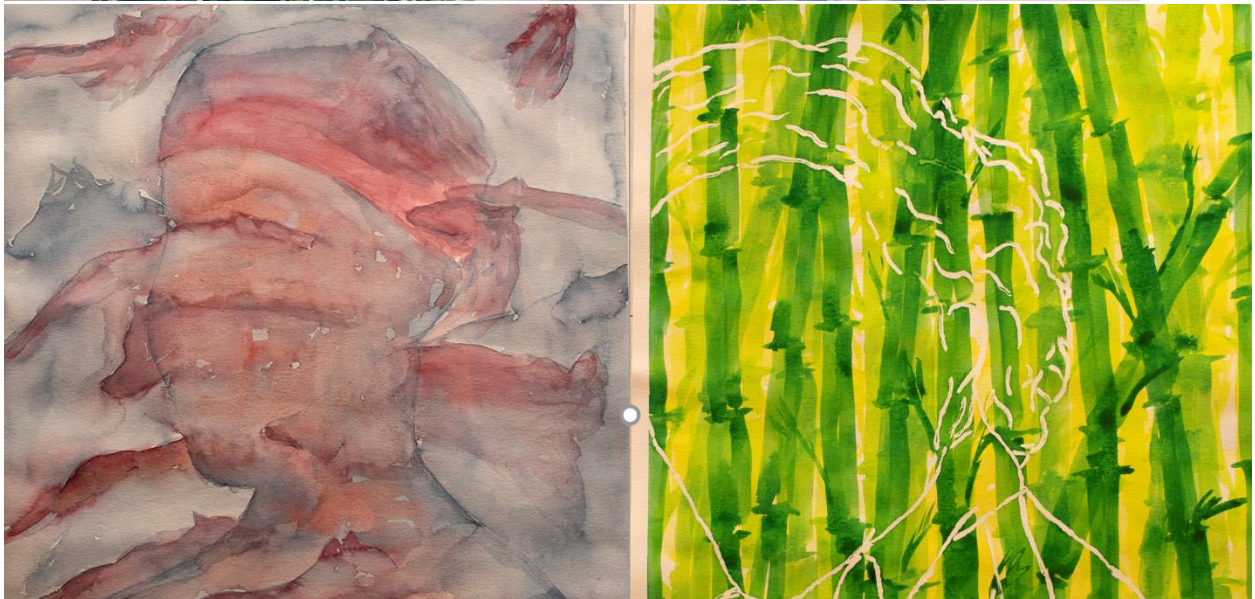


Senior Thesis Timeline



Fall Semester

Process: Fall 2019-Spring 2020



Exhibition Poster



Documentation:



Mineral of Truth: Passionate explorer, hardy and strong bond



Turtle of Guidance and Strength II: Carrying, caring words, good will



Unyielding Snapdragon Lure: Integrity, strong-minds



Energy of Tropics: Green Glows



Tiger's prowess: Playful innocence, Unintentional Presence



Turtle of Guidance and Strength I: Hidden power, inner, outer strength



Sunflower Positive: Looking to and from others, radiating



Eucalyptus Fever: Endeavors growth and spirit, connections of gold



Succulent Glow: Rare kind flower, beauty of her own



Blooms Evolve not change: Flowering friendship, transform self



Wildflower Blues: Visiting Lightness, flitting by



Wild Heart with Open Mind: Hatted for adventure, Outgoing wild

Website Exhibition Documentation:

www.koripegram.weebly.com

HOME

BEHIND CHARACTERIZING THROUGH NATURE EXHIBITION

WORK

ABOUT



Turtle of Guidance and Strength I: Hidden power, inner, outer strength



Tiger's prowess: playful innocence, unintentional Presence



Succulent Glow: Rare kind flower, beauty of her own



Eucalyptus Fever: Endeavors growth and spirit, connections of gold



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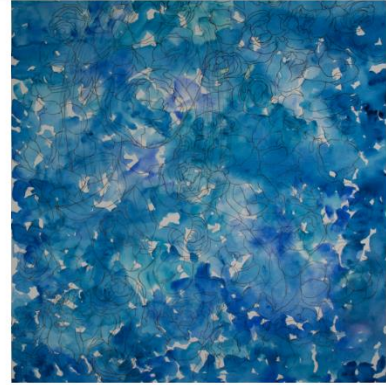
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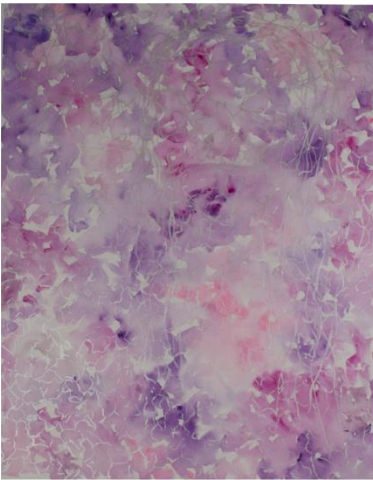
Wild Heart, open eyes: Hatted for adventure,
outgoing warmth



Mineral of Truth: Passionate explorer, hardy
and strong bonds



Wildflower Blues: Visiting Lightness, flitting by



Unyielding Snapdragon Lure: Integrity, strong-
minds



Sunflower Positive: Looking to and from
others, radiating



Turtle of Guidance and Strength II: Carrying,
caring words, good will

Artist Statement

My work first stems from my need of exploration and to find meaning behind things found in the world. It spreads out and finds roots in nature, searching for what is interesting. There I find natural elements have been used across time to explain people's thoughts, feelings and ideas. In this endless supply of nature working symbolically, my art represents that connection; how there's always something that can be used, to represent, and express my ideas with nature at the heart of my work.

Currently my work focuses on the meaning and symbolism we've given to the natural world, and how they can be used to represent the characteristics of the people around me. Using outlines of each individual, colors, lines, and parts of nature, the paintings describe important aspects of people around me.

(All 18x24in, watercolor, pencil, ink on paper)

Behind Characterizing through Nature (2nd website page)



Behind the Exhibition



Both are true to the person, from color, to animal, the painting represents their power, creativity, strength, and kindness



A person of unmistakable raw power and focus, intellect, but playful cats at heart. Tigers.



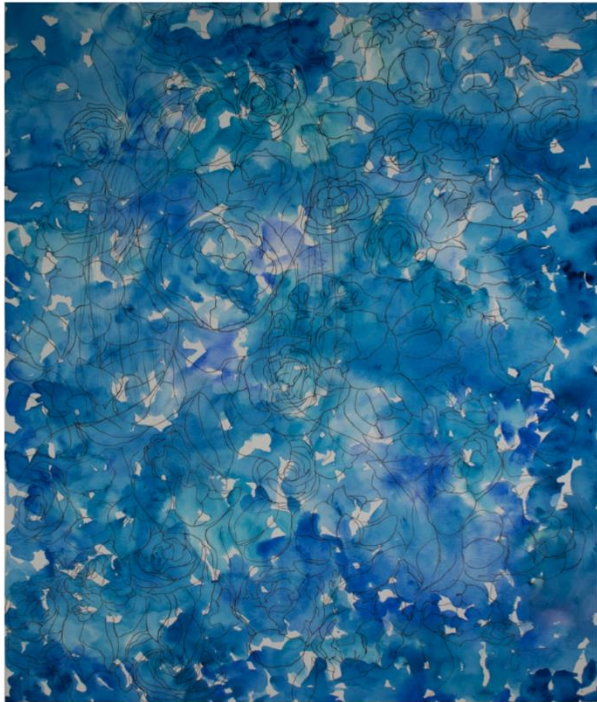
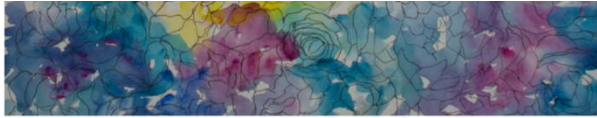
(Not included, but could have been a cheetah)

Succulents are not flowers, but grow beautifully different, thriving with others.

They have gold in it's roots and spirituality to strengthen mind.



Someone who holds a open heart, ready
for new experiences despite everything



The self as blue wildflowers.



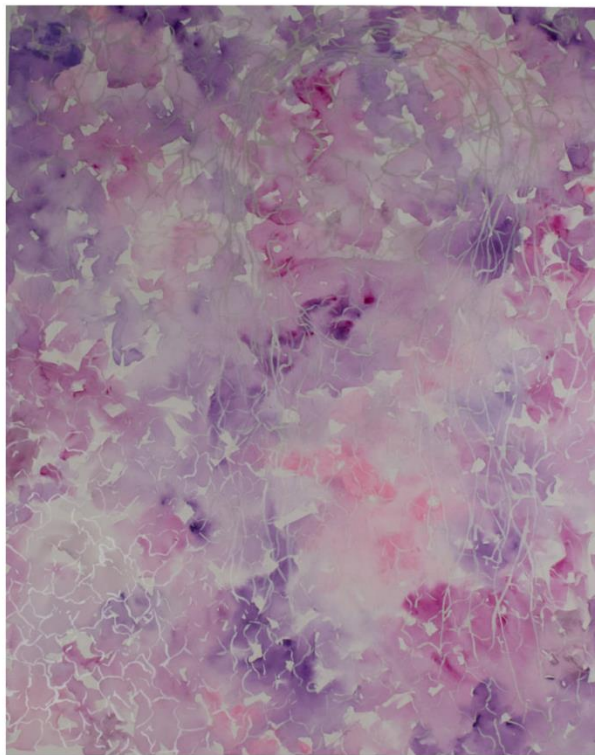
All unique, comfortable, with own style and taste.



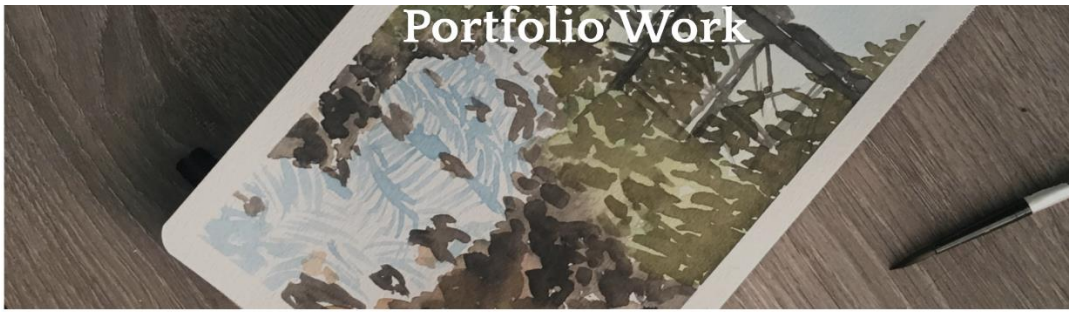
Long Conversations, deep insights,
springing adventures.



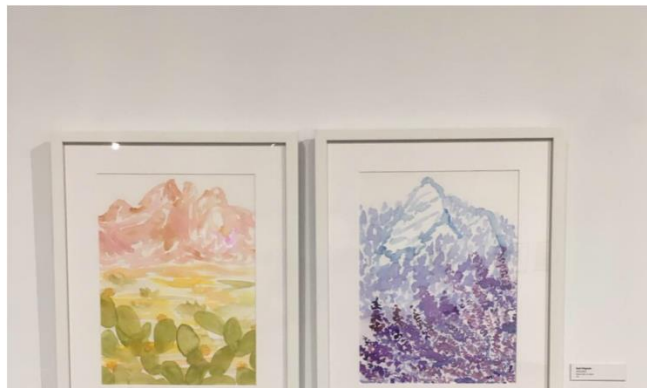
People who present shine and give sun,
positivity.



Portfolio Work (Website third page)



Altitudes





About (4th website page)



A little Bit about Me

Nashville, TN Born and Raised,
Current Student at Austin Peay State University, BFA May 2020
Painter from acrylic to ink to watercolor and Photographer



Resume

Self-Critique

This process started out as something that scared me. I felt behind in Senior Thesis I as everyone had come with ideas already cooking, and I hadn't had any, but as time moved on I felt better. There were ups and downs, some pleasant surprises and plenty of failures, but in the end, the work I completed had me proud.

In the beginning, there were so many ideas I came up with. I was behind, faltering with how I wanted the show to go. Eventually presentations were coming up and I researched and found myself doing a lot of work. I minimized procrastination to prepare for the presentations. With feedback from my mentor and fellow students, and reworking my proposal and thesis, I felt ready for sure when the second round of presentations came around again. There I passed onto truly working on my project and onto Senior Thesis II.

Senior thesis II started, and I was faced with only having sketches after a loss of materials at the end of the first semester. With that loss, I was able to make sketches and try out many things during the winter break in-between. After Senior Thesis II started, I received my supplies quickly and it was right back to work, this time on a larger scale. I got to work, making plenty of versions. Some of the versions were thrown away and other, the majority were put away for me to decide which one fits best in the end. I found that larger was more difficult and that at first my paintings were looking similar sometimes. Others of my paintings did not seem to quite fit, so I used a combination of watercolors, masking fluid, and ink to grow variation and show the line art and detail that I wanted in each painting. I worked down to the last minute, the virus throwing in a huge wrench in the mix, but I made do with my new working space, and kept working on the paintings.

The final pieces were selected as ones who best fit my vision, from all the ones I made. I kept the versions just to pick the best too. I wanted them all to be unique and different colors, while sticking to showing the inner and sometimes out character of the people I have chosen, from colors and aspects of nature. To me, they were like metaphor, representing the people. It also helped that I asked questions about the people I chose and had them and others describe them which helped to formulate the paintings.

The last hurdle was the outline work and setting up the website platform. It took a lot of trial and error, but I was eventually able to put it all together. It had me working down to the hour on the good pictures in my make-shift lighting studio in my room, trying out different layouts, and simultaneously working on my thesis and picking titles. It all came together on the website.

All in all, the exhibition turned out well. It was filled with trials and changes, but I worked to adjust to them. I worked against procrastination and things going awry to create an online exhibition that I was pleased with. I took in feedback and was happy for it, as all of it helped improve the exhibition. Scheduling and working more could have been better, but I tried my best to keep a good pace on it. The paintings, in the end, followed my original proposal with some tweaks, and although some of them did not come out well, and things around me kept changing, the exhibition all came together in the end.