

“Living The Intercultural Life : Through My Life Story”

Senior Exhibition
By Son Brooks



Thesis Statement

'Living The Intercultural Life' is about my personal living experience as a Korean American woman.

Thesis Proposal

I am from South Korea. Through my intercultural marriage to my American husband, I found that living in a double culture often was not easy. As human beings, most of us go through a cycle of life. Love, marriage, work, and grief for the loss of loved ones describes the cycle of life. My story isn't any different; however, thinking about the events was culturally different. As a Korean woman physically living in America, I frequently saw cultural influences, both Korean and American, perceived differently. My project will be created by using mixed media like watercolors and collage. The content focuses on imagery, surrounded by an environment that makes up abstract thoughts. The digital images will be transformed by adobe and cut pieces to emphasize and express the emotions. The size will be 22"x30".

Artist Bio

Son Brooks received her Associate of Science in Liberal Arts degree from The Center for Teaching & Learning at Austin Peay State University in 2018. She is currently pursuing her BFA in Studio Art at Austin Peay State University. Her art works include pencil sketches, collage, watercolor, oil painting, sculpture, and digital photography. She previously worked using pencil drawings to complete a commissioned portrait of two-star General Kean upon his retirement at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. Her artwork has been exhibited twice in a Korean group, 'Doong Woori ' at the Federal Savings Bank at Clarksville, TN. And at the Third Annual Trans Financial Open Art Juried Exhibition in Clarksville, TN. Artwork can be found in several personal offices and the homes of her friends and associates.

Artist CV

Son Brooks / Multimedia artist

Sonbrooks93@gmail.com 931-494-4109 Clarksville, TN

Education

- 2021 Bachelor of Fine Arts with concentration in studio Art
Austin Peay State University Clarksville TN.
- 2018 Associate of Science in Liberal Arts
Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN.

Work Experience

- 1994 Drawing individual and family portraits

Skills

- Pencil drawings
- Watercolor
- Photography
- Adobe Creative Suite
- Collage
- Oil paint
- Sculpture
- Microsoft office

Exhibition

- 1997 Korean group Doong Woori at First Federal Savings Bank at Ft. Campbell Blvd Clarksville, TN
- 1996 Korean group Doong Woori at First Federal Savings Bank Wilma Rudolph Blvd Clarksville, TN.
- 1996 A juried exhibition at the Third Annual Trans Financial open Art Exhibition in Clarksville, TN.
- 2021 Senior Thesis Exhibition at the Austin Peay State University Clarksville TN.

4150 1st Presentation

LIVING THE INTERCULTURAL LIFE

A 4150 Thesis Project Proposal

Son Brooks

STATEMENT

'Living The Intercultural Life' will be the personal experience of my life's story as a Korean American woman.

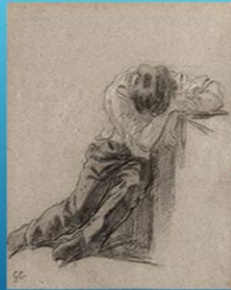
PROPOSAL

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4150 1st Presentation

RESEARCH/ INFLUENCES

Gustave Courbet



RESEARCH/ INFLUENCES

Ji Suyeon



RESEARCH/ INFLUENCES

Jiha Moon



RESEARCH/ INFLUENCES

Julian Pacaud



4150 1st Presentation

PROGRESS

Task list

- Determine and define my project utilizing six pieces of imagery and composition.
- Attempt rough draft of material and media test.
- Begin Project #1/ Woman with Bamboo.
- Begin Project #2/ Man with Uniform.
- Begin Project #3/ Wedding.
- Begin Project #4/ Origins.
- Begin Project #5/ Family.
- Begin Project #6/ Grief.
- Final Touch up

Progress on the project



Progress on the project



4150 1st Presentation

TIMELINE

Date start	Date end	Description	Duration
Sep. 05	Oct.5	Sketches /Lay out	31 days
Oct. 05	Oct.10	Material/ Media test	05 days
Oct. 11	Oct. 31	Begin Project #1	20 days
Nov. 01	Nov. 20	Begin Project #2	20 days
Nov.21	Dec. 11	Begin Project #3	20 days
Dec. 11	Dec.31	Begin Project #4	20 days
Jan. 01	Jan. 21	Begin Project #5	20 days
Jan. 21	Feb.11	Begin Project #6	20 days
Feb. 11	-----	Final touch up	-----

SPECIAL CONCERNS

- I will attempt to fit each title to the content of each image.
- The determination of specific materials to be used for mixed images and mixed media.

Special Thanks



4150 2nd Presentation

LIVING THE INTERCULTURAL LIFE

A 4150 Thesis Project Proposal
Son Brooks

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4150 2nd Presentation

RESEARCH/ INFLUENCES

Lynne Perrella



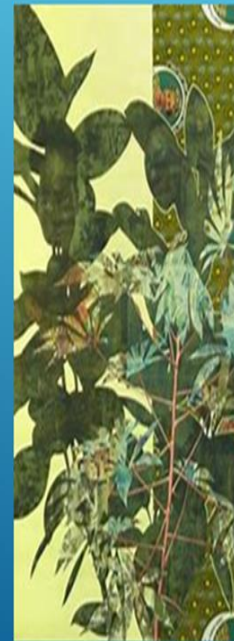
RESEARCH/ INFLUENCES

Christina Clarimon



RESEARCH/ INFLUENCES

Njideka Akunyili Crosby



4150 2nd Presentation

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4150 2nd Presentation

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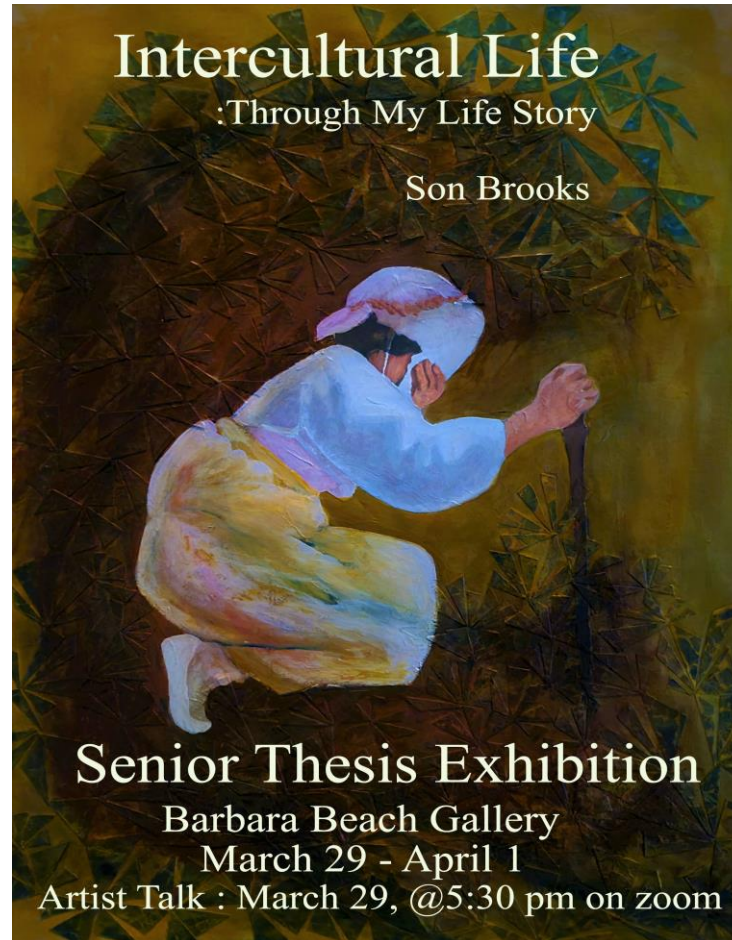
Special Thanks



Semester Experience Takeaways.

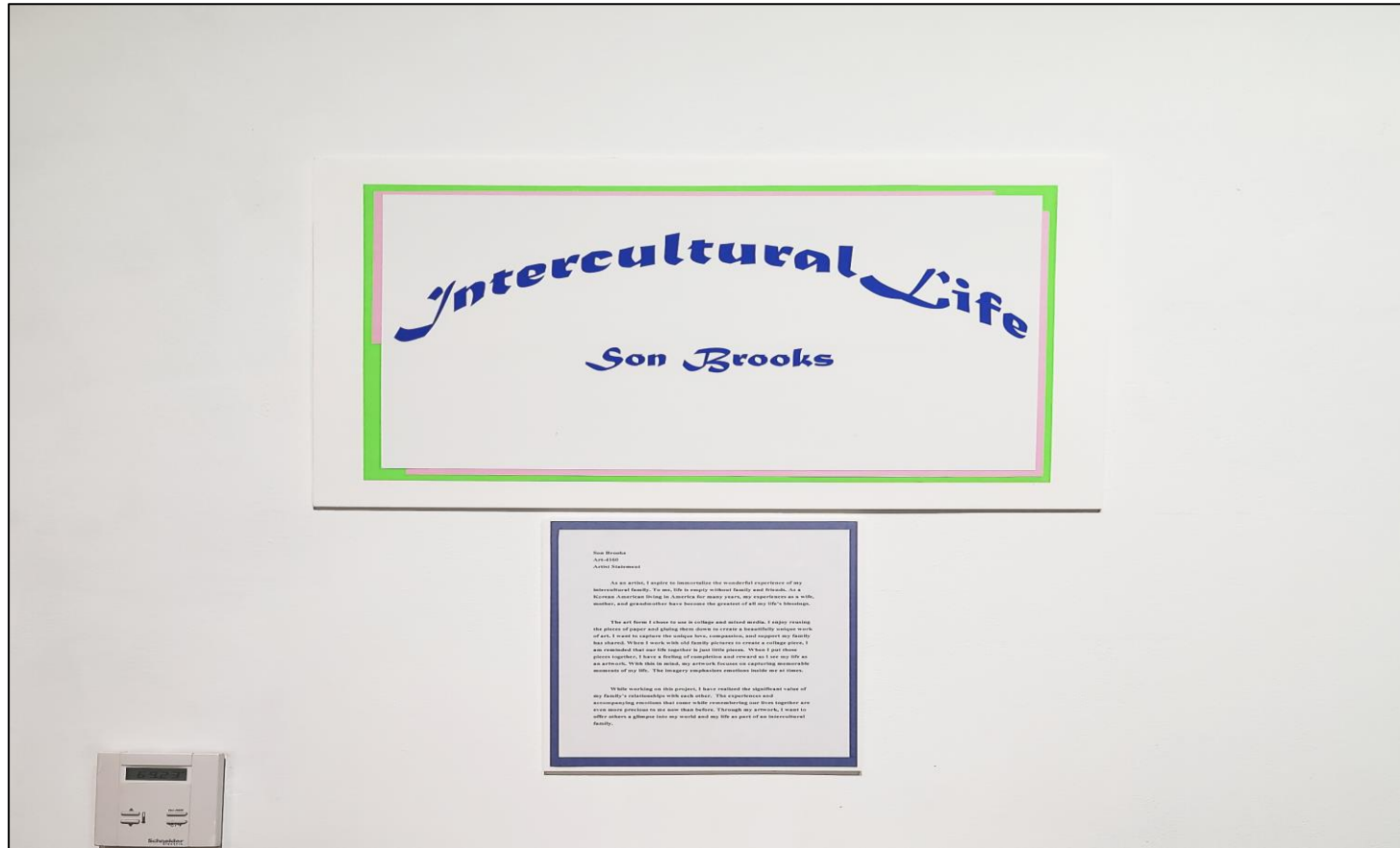
This was the most challenging semester in my university life. Studying fine arts was an eye-opening experience for me. Learning and creating while doing what you like to do is one thing, but the thesis, a statement or theory put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved, is quite another. Through this process, I learned that choosing a thesis is a crucial decision. Doing your thesis and working hard to establish your promise might give direction to your ongoing artwork. However, that is not the case for me; I chose my thesis related to the intercultural experiences in my life and then attempted to prove my thesis. It was very painful at times to experience the remembrance of those happy days.

Final Show Documentation

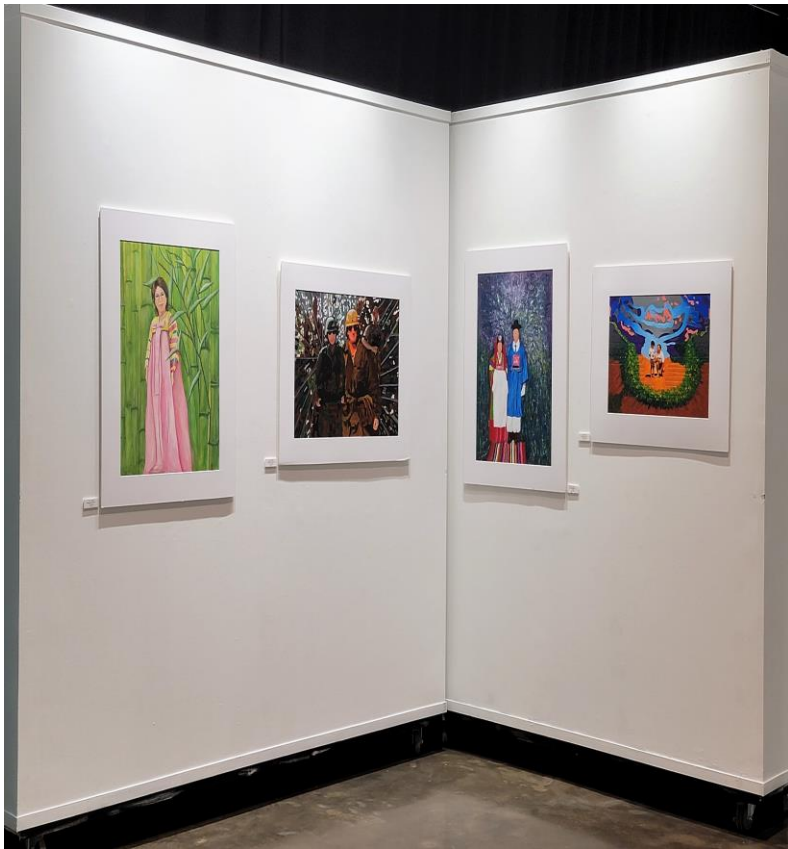


Exhibition Poster

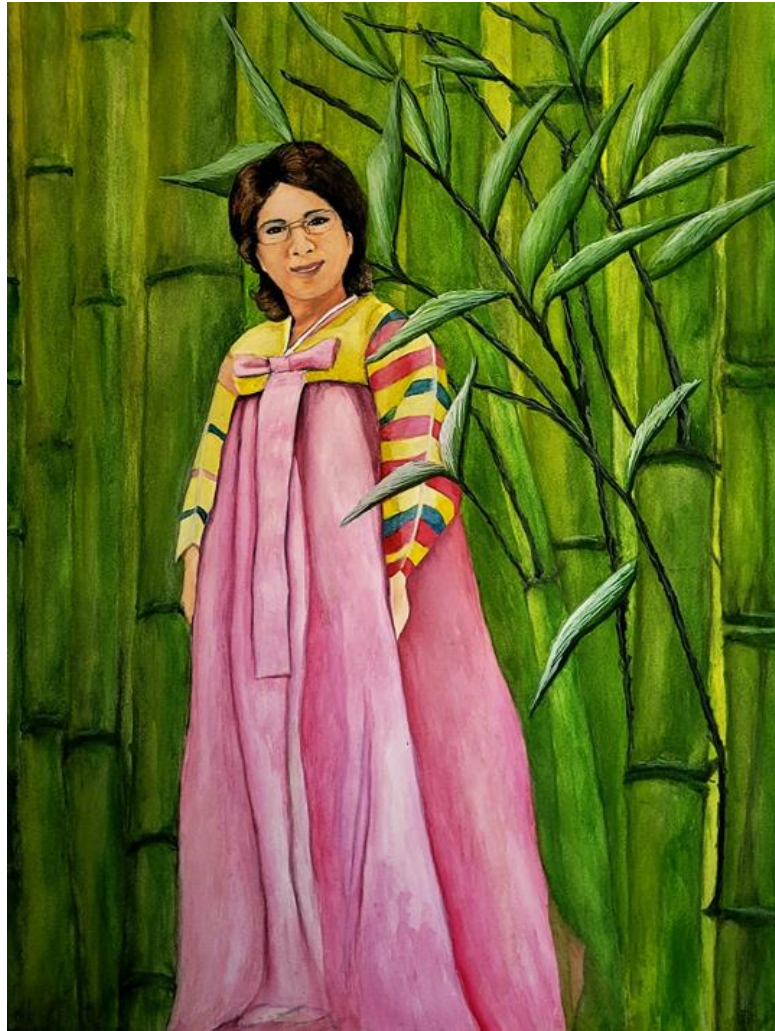
Final Show Documentation



Final Show Documentation



Final Show Documentation



Bamboo and Me

As far as I know, the plant Bamboo is green with fresh leaves, even in the cold winter when other plants have dropped their leaves. Ancient people called bamboo is a symbol of dignity. Living as a Korean woman in America is not easy because of language and cultural differences. However, maintaining my character at a high label without bending regardless of circumstances, just as the unbending bamboo.

The Korean dress in the image is 37years old and very special for me. Because my mom ordered the dress from the tailoring shop for the special day, each sleeve color is quilted. I chose that dress, remembering my mother's love.

Final Show Documentation



A Military Veteran

This piece is remembering The Gulf War, beginning with Kuwait's Iraqi invasion of the 1990s. My husband was there to serve the country. He took a picture of himself and sent it to me while he was there. After taking the pictures, he was never in good health.

Final Show Documentation



Day of Wedding

In 1984 we were married, and a traditional American wedding ceremony followed by a traditional Korean wedding ceremony. I chose to use the background colors that mean trust, loyalty, wisdom, and faith that I was feeling that day.

Final Show Documentation



Father's love

A photo of my son and his Father, the Father's love piece, is a collage. I believe a Father's love for his children comes from our heavenly Father. I created the earth with green and heaven with blue in between their moment to indicate this analogy.

Final Show Documentation



The walked road

I thought my son would like to be included in this representation of his dad's three different jobs. He is very proud of his daddy and accomplishment.

Final Show Documentation



Goodbye

This was a photo of my third sister at the gravesite when my mother passed away. She was saying goodbye as a Korean. This photo also expresses my feelings at my husband's funeral.

Final Show Documentation



Grief

This is a photo of two of my sisters grieving together at my mother's funeral. I used it to express the similar feelings I had after my husband passed away. As each day passed my whole world continued to turn.

Final Show Documentation



Evie and Willow

This is a photo of my granddaughter, Evie and Willow. Each child grows differently but at the end of the day, they know who they are. Holding hands together, looking at the beautiful tree of life melted my heart.

Final Show Documentation



Jeannie(Son) Bottle



Button Pins for guest

Reflection

Without any expected result, I chose as my thesis theme, *Living The Intercultural Family Life*; It is my life story beginning with my marriage to an American military man. It seemed to be something that I enjoyed more and more as I developed the components. My husband had passed away six years ago. Our son continued to grow since the passing of his dad and now has his own family. Personally, it seems like that was the first chapter of my life. I try to make my artwork as realistic and related as possible. Therefore, I chose to use the picture of my family as a collage and mixed media. I have created a total of 8 pieces to tell my story through my art. When we married, I was a Korean woman, and he was a military veteran. Our son was born after a year of marriage. My husband built three careers during our marriage: military, law enforcement, and real estate. My son decided to follow in his father's footsteps and began a military career.

Reflection

My husband passed after 31 years of marriage, and we all grieved as a family. I realized during the grief process that life goes on. My beautiful grandchildren were a big part of the healing. I found that while I worked on my thesis and looked back on the past, I experienced the pain of some of the events all over again. Attempting to bring this portion of my life's history to the paper was even more challenging.

Finally, through all the tears of emotion and so many nights without sleep making art pieces, the moment arrived.... Exhibition Day! Friends and family members came and recognized the pieces I had created. We shared feelings of heartbreak and reward during those moments.