

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow



Grace Gerlach-Brown

Thesis Statement

Trees have a great deal of meaning in various cultures and contexts. My work with trees has stuck with me and I hope to utilize the pieces I have created in the past in addition to current pieces to create a lasting impression upon the audience. The symbolism of beauty, the personal meaning of trees to myself, and my aspirations will all be utilized to create new growth and opportunity while giving an ode to the origin point of learning art and the "happy little trees" we grow to love along the way.

Thesis Proposal

Trees are the beginning point to a great many events. Be those events environmental or personal. Personally, trees mean a great deal to me as I have worked with them at various times for the past six years here at Austin Peay. For this show, I plan to bring all of that work together to showcase the enormous beauty and meaning behind the trees in a variety of art forms that I have collected throughout my years here.

Artist Bio

Grace Gerlach-Brown is a multimedia artist. She was born in Portland, Maine in 1999 and currently residing in Clarksville, Tennessee. She is going to earn her BFA in Studio Arts in the Spring of 2020. Her body of work consists of painting, photography, sculpture and ceramics. Her work comes from feeling and is about putting what cannot be put in words into a visual form of art for her with nature.

Grace Gerlach-Brown

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grace.gerlachbrown@gmail.com

Experience

Books A Million / Clarksville, TN / BookSeller
August 2017 - December 2017

LeQuire Gallery / Nashville, TN / Intern
September 2019 - December 2019

The Frammaker / Clarksville, TN / Intern
August 2020 - May 2020

Education

Austin Peay State University / Clarksville, TN / BFA in Studio Arts
August 2017 - May 2020

Academic Involvement

Student Engagement Office / Mascot Fill in / 2018

AlphaSigmaAlpha / Sorority member / 2017-2018

NLSL / Member / 2018 - Present

Exhibitions

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow / Austin Peay State University / April 2020

Skills

Sculpting / Acrylic painting / Photography / Forging

Curriculum Vitae

Original Thesis Proposal

The ancient greeks are said to have had at least seven words for love and their different types but in today's world these forms of love are often forgotten, lapsed, omitted, and even suppressed. This work is about the visual representation of not just those forms of intimacy but of the moments where a decision must be made which represents a critical shift in the relationships from the intimacy depicted, into something else.

First Presentation

Note:
There were no
highlights on the
presentation
during that
happened after.

Grace Gerlach-Brown

Senior BFA student at Austin Peay State University

1

Abstract

I plan to explore the interaction of sculpture and painting by combining mediums and switching the traditional substrate for each. I want to create sculptures that are set within their own environment and responding to the 2D creation or vice versa. My presentation will then allow for interaction with the audience so as to create a more intimate relationship.

2

Statement of need

- In a world that has become consumed with the digital world, the idea of intimacy is more important now than ever.
- The ancient greeks are said to have had at least seven words for love and their different types but in today's world these forms of love are often forgotten, lapsed, omitted, and even suppressed.
- This work is about the visual representation of not just those types of love but of the moments where a decision must be made which represents a critical shift in the relationships from the love depicted, into something else.

3



Processes and Research

- I will be depicting this representation by the use of mixed media.
 - The sculptures will be of plaster, clay, metal structures, and various other medias as the need arises! My 2D works will be acrylic abstract pieces on stretched canvas, some of which will have sculptural aspects.
- I am looking to a work that was done by George Segal called *Twelve Human Situations* and to my internship mentor Alan LeQuire and the work he has done with the human body in both plaster and clay material.

4

Sep. 20

First Presentation

Artists of Reference

5



George Segal
Twelve Human Situations

6



Alan LeQuire
*Dream Exhibition,
and Musica*

7



Magdalena Abakanowicz
Agora

8

Sep. 20

First Presentation



Kiss and Hug

9



Love Exhibition (Salt Lake City)

10

Past and In-Progress Works

11

Imprint of Rome

It shows the structural layers because Rome has shown me that it is okay to see everything that is working together to create its own unique beauty.

The photos are of some of our most memorable moments in Rome but there are still so many more that also show just how much of an imprint this time has left.



12

Sep. 20

First Presentation

Large scale ceramic work that is still a work in progress that has helped with my understanding of building large scale works. Life-size.



Prototype Work in Progress

13

End Goal(s)

Creating multi-visual environments that showcase relationships and the pivotal moments that define them.

14

Sep. 20

Second Presentation



Grace Gerlach -Brown



1

Abstract



2

For my senior thesis work, I plan to explore the interaction of sculpture and painting by combining mediums and switching the traditional substrate for each. I want to create sculptures that are set within their own environment and responding to the 2D creation or vice versa.



3

Proposal



4

NOV. 22

Second Presentation

- ❖ The ancient greeks are said to have had at least seven words for love and their different types but in today's world these forms of love are often forgotten, lapsed, omitted, and even suppressed.
- This work is about the visual representation of not just those forms of intimacy but of the moments where a decision must be made which represents a critical shift in the relationships from the intimacy depicted, into something else.

5

Reference Artists

6



Picasso - Arm (1959)

7



Elisabeth Frink - Homme Libellule I
(Dragonfly Man), 1965

8

NOV. 22

Second Presentation



Jun Kaneko - Dango series

9



James Jean - Editor Day (2019)

10

Other Research Being Considered

Color and the effects on the brain

<http://www.colour-affects.co.uk/psychological-properties-of-colours>

KANDEL, E. (2016). COLOR AND THE BRAIN. In *Reductionism in Art and Brain Science: Bridging the Two Cultures* (pp. 143-154). New York: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from www.jstor.org/stable/10.7312/kand17962.13

Burton, D. (1992). Red, Yellow and Blue: The Historical Origin of Color Systems. *Art Education*, 45(6), 39-44. doi:10.2307/3193315

11

Works

12

NOV. 22

Appeal

Lost in the Trees

Created by:
Grace
Gerlach-Brown

Abstract

Trees have a great deal of meaning in various cultures and contexts. My work with Sakura or cherry blossom trees has stuck with me and I hope to utilize the pieces I have created in the past in addition to current pieces to create a lasting impression upon the audience. The symbolism of beauty, the personal meaning of trees to myself, and my aspirations will all be utilized to create new growth and opportunity while giving an ode to the origin point of learning art and the "happy little trees" we grow to love along the way.

Proposal

Trees are the beginning point to a great many events. Be those events environmental or personal. Personally Sakura trees or more commonly known as Cherry Blossom trees mean a great deal to me as I have worked with them at various times for the past six years here at Austin Peay. For this show I plan to bring all of that work together to showcase the enormous beauty and meaning behind the Sakura and other trees in a variety of art forms that I have collected throughout my years here.

Artist Statement

When an emotional shutdown occurs within my life it seems that the default for me is trees. Why is that? Is it the feeling of freedom or familiarity. Trees are where my mind wanders to when it can not take any more berattin from the outside world. I do not usually dream, or remember my dreams, but the few that I vividly remember are all about trees. Just the simple joy of laying at its trunk and reading or looking at the sky and taking in the clouds or simply swinging back and forth in a way that never ends. Trees are the first thing art teachers teach as a simple form that is still recognizable to most at just a glance. Bob Ross likes to refer to his trees as "happy little trees" and I can understand that sentiment. So here we are a senior college student that is an art major doing trees because each tree I work on has a meaning and the impact will be lasting to me and hopefully to others as well.

Dec. 5

Appeal

What Have I Been Working On

- Rewrote the Abstract, Proposal, and Artist Statement to better reflect a correlation between what is written and the work that is being shown in greater specificity.
- Have completed the sculpture shown on the table, two 24x36 paintings, 24x48 Collaborative painting, eleven 8x10 Panel Painting, and three previous works that show my progression with trees, and have three new sculptures started that grow greater in height. While doing this I have also been continually casting the blossoms that are seen on these works to be used on the three new works as well

5



7

Research

- Alan LeQuire - Dream Exhibition
- Clive Maddison (Wire trees)
- Matthew Sudlow (Wire Bonsai)
- Omer Huremovic (Wire bonsai)
- Su Blackwell (Paper art)
- Yinka Shonibare- Flower Power, the Swing, after Fragonard
- Todd Young - Last Days of Summer
- Jean Honore Fragonard The Swing/The Happy Accidents of the Swing
- Raja Ravi Varma -Mohini
- Springtime- Pierre-Auguste Cot

6



8

Dec. 5

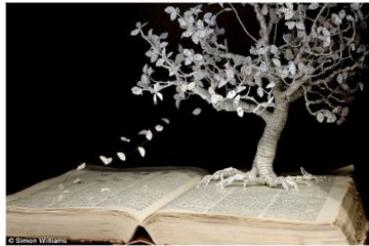
Appeal



9



10



11



12



Dec. 5

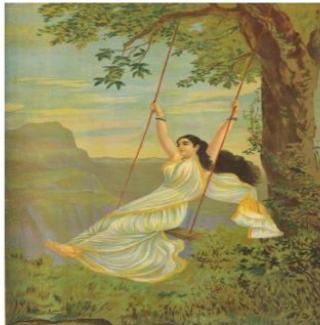
Appeal



13



14



15



16

Dec. 5

Work In Progress



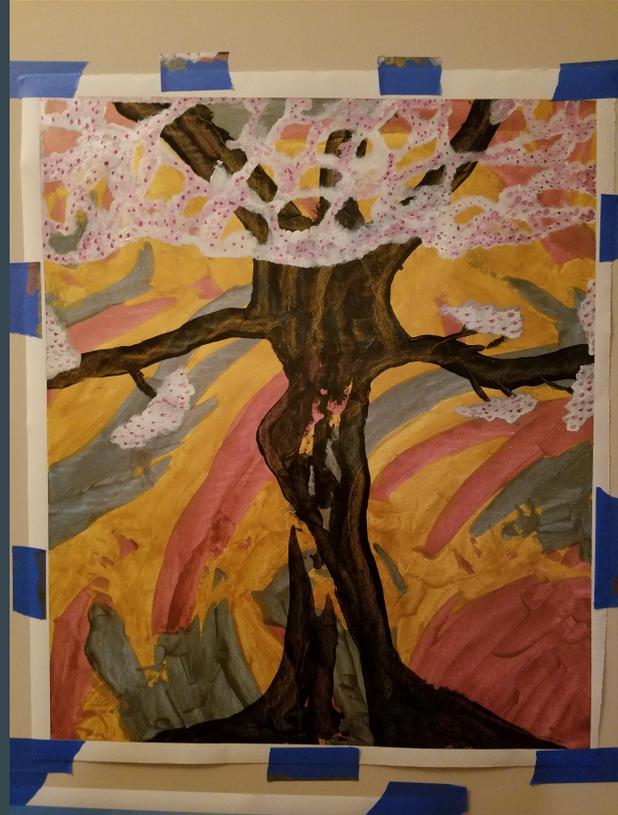
Work In Progress



Work In Progress



Work In Progress



Work In Progress



Final Show

The screenshot shows the Artsteps website's 'Exhibitions' page. The page is filtered by 'Latest' and displays a grid of 10 exhibition cards. Each card includes a thumbnail image, a title, the artist's name, and the number of views. The first card is 'UNTITLED (Fri Apr 17 2020 11:14)' by Anika, with 2 views. The second card is 'HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW (Sun Apr 12 2020 3:58)' by Grace Gerlach-Brown, with 2 views. The third card is 'UNTITLED (Fri Apr 17 2020 11:52)' by Dusan Naga, with 2 views. The fourth card is 'ظلال حكاية - Zilal Hikayat' by Zilal, with 2 views. The fifth card is 'UNTITLED (Fri Apr 17 2020 1:40)' by Chris Baker, with 1 view. The sixth card is 'UNTITLED (Fri Apr 17 2020 10:17)' by Maroon Mital, with 2 views. The seventh card is 'GEOMETRY by MARTA RZEPKA' by rzeplad2104, with 4 views. The eighth card is 'THE RISE AND FALL OF BLACK OAKLAND' by Elle Henry, with 1 view. The ninth card is 'PERO KOLO' by Pular Elazar, with 1 view. The tenth card is 'นิทรรศการ สร้างสรรค์ศิลป์กับมรดกโลก พระนครศรีอยุธยา ครั้งที่ ๔' by สุธรรมา, with 4 views.

This screenshot shows the top portion of the Artsteps website, including the navigation bar with 'Exhibitions', 'Features', and 'Create' buttons. Below the navigation, the 'Exhibitions' section is visible, but the content is obscured by a large loading spinner and the text 'Loading... Here Today, Gone Tomorrow (Sun Apr 12 2020 3:58) 30%'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'artsteps.com/view/5e7d483013f62862ab3e6954'.

This screenshot shows the bottom portion of the Artsteps website, including the footer. The footer contains the text 'Here Today, Gone Tomorrow (Sun Apr 12 2020 3:58)' and '2 views'. There are also icons for a heart and a share button. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'artsteps.com/view/5e7d483013f62862ab3e6954'.

Final Show



Final Show



Final Show



Final Show



Final Show



Final Show



Final Show



Final Show



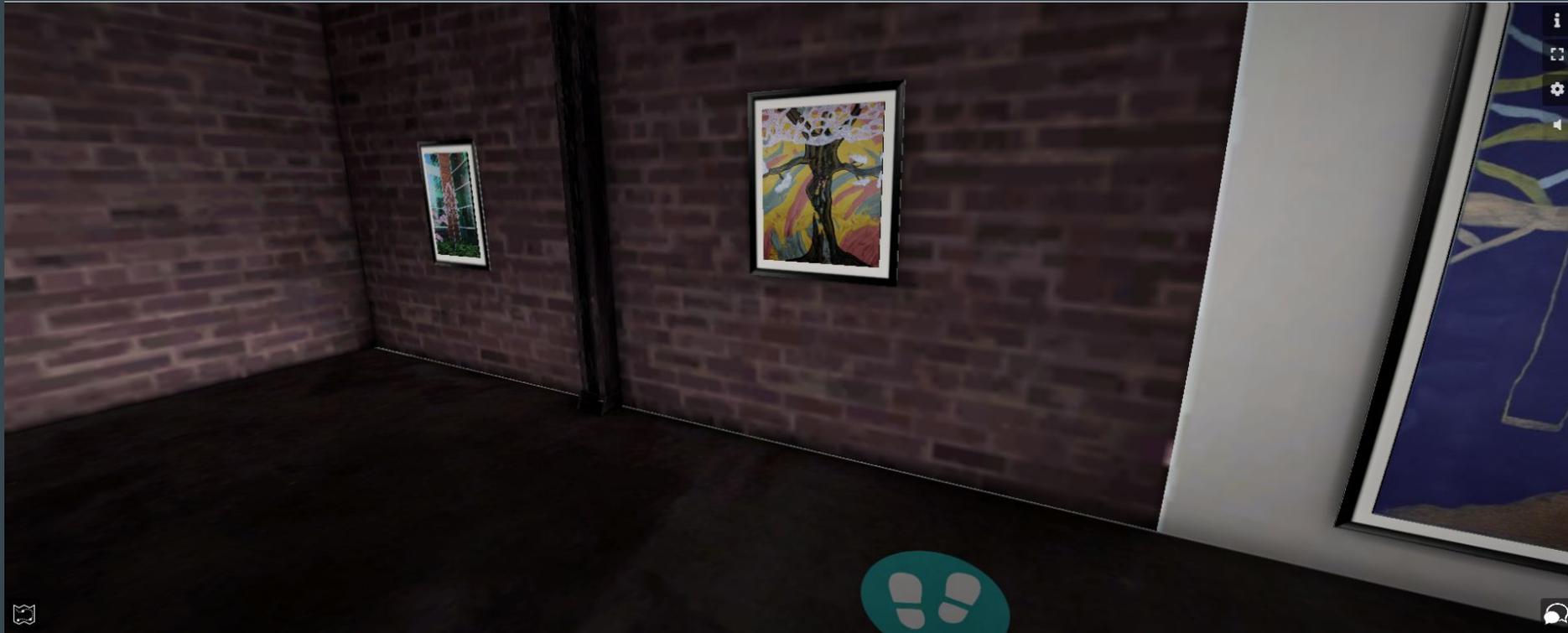
Final Show



Final Show



Final Show





Professional Material

Grace Gerlach-Brown
Studio Artist

@poppy_seed_05

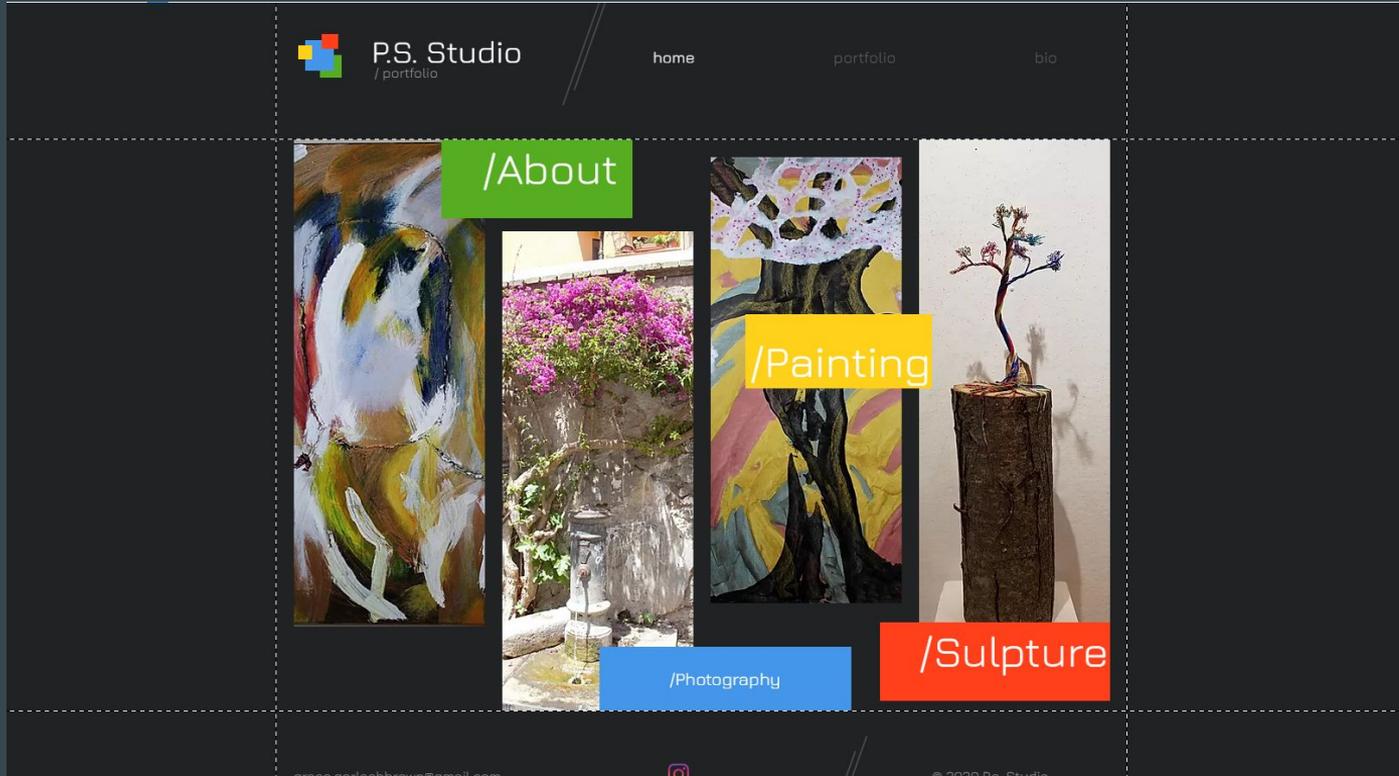
<https://gracegerlachbrown.wixsite.com/mysite-1>

grace.gerlachbrown@gmail.com

Back

Front

Professional Material



<https://gracegerlachbrown.wixsite.com/mysite-1>

Self Reflection

Self Reflection

In my thesis, I implemented my research by looking back to all the past works I had done during my time at Austin Peay University and even further back. This is applied in history and style of how trees have been portrayed in the final.

My ideas were expressed in a dream-like statement that allowed the creativity and memory of my long-past childhood to reemerge. Willowy branches and ethereal blooms pierce through the canvas to allow for purity and innocence to take center stage. With these pieces, I noticed myself slipping more of myself into the brush strokes as I added to the canvas. Fond memories and landscapes yet imagined leapt onto the page, encouraged by my allowing myself to let loose.

The ways in which I displayed and considered the use of color was heavily based in the landscapes that I saw within my mind with color theory taking the helm. My use of photography to capture trees mid-bloom was accentuated by my remembrance of the Nashville Cherry Blossom and the Boston cherry blossom blooms I had seen in which the skies became a fluffy cloud of pink. The use of bright colors was also a contrast to the drab mood that many adults seem to find themselves in when the reality of responsibility is in plain view. I decided that I wanted to return to the era of carefree laughter and a time without heavy expectation, giving the audience a sense of eased consciousness and a moment of respite to relax from their weary lives.

Throughout this process, I have learned proper professional material creation skills as well as valuable skills such as working with website development, learning proper printer procedures for high-quality prints, as well as the maintenance and creation of a digital gallery.

Self Reflection

While I had hardships during this time, I found myself blessed to still have the capability to put on a show in the trying times that COVID-19 had placed upon the realm of studio arts.

Before entering 4160, I had plenty of experience with building websites and designing things such as business cards yet I had not had the opportunity to properly implement them as I tend to have technical difficulties before I am able to properly do so. Having this class allowed me to have a flexible time schedule that allowed me to have plenty of time to complete the professional materials and have the implementation process looked over by a professional and other individuals who were more tech savvy to assist me in case of computer errors like crashes or wipes.

During my working on my thesis, I had many plans that came to mind with the inability to always have the plans come out exactly how I had envisioned them. As such, I learned to improvise with the materials that I had on hand and learned real-time adaptability to allow for my showcase to bloom the way it did, regardless of situations such as online galleries or having to redo pictures and representations of my pieces at times. In these times, I learned to better trust myself and my process and to practice self advocacy when individuals want me to change from my vision when I know it is still possible.