



# UNTITLED THE COLLECTION

Christa Curtis

## THESIS STATEMENT

With this work, I want to force both myself and my audience to confront the negative emotions that we usually try to ignore or repress.

# THESIS PROPOSAL

Having and expressing emotions is a pivotal part of being human. However, that task can be difficult when it comes to more negative emotions like sadness, anger, and anxiety. Those feelings are usually kept closer to the chest and less likely to be outwardly expressed than positive emotions, like joy or love. I myself have fallen victim to this mindset constantly usually accepting my positive emotions and ignoring the negative. For my senior thesis I want to create an emotional confrontation forcing myself and the audience to come face to face with the emotions we usually work hard to try to repress or ignore.

In order to do that, I want to create large scale drawings using both charcoal and pastels. These two materials allow for a plethora of expressive mark making that can result in some emotion bleeding through. Each piece will focus around the eyes, as those are the most expressive part of the face. Then the image will be fragmented and abstracted to show other figural features that depict the emotion, such as a furrowed brow, clenched fist, tension in the neck, or placements of hands. I want to focus on the more negative emotions that people are less likely to openly express and therefore need to confront. I will use elements of color psychology and theory to help further represent different emotions. Specific colors have been assigned different emotions that they help to invoke, red is anger, blue is sadness, green is fear, etc. I would like to incorporate these color elements into my pieces to make the presentation of emotion even stronger and to lead the viewers eyes to the most important parts of the image.

## ARTIST BIO

Christa Curtis is an artist originally from Louisville, Kentucky. She is currently studying to get her BFA in Studio Art at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. Her work employs a wide range of media from acrylic paint to charcoal, but tends to mainly focus on the creation of gelation silver prints and digital photographs. She is interested in exploring the human psyche in the ways of self-reflection and introspection, creating work that explores how humans express and process complex emotions. She shows all her works, both past and currently in process, on her Instagram under the handle, @christacurtisart.

# ARTIST STATEMENT

Throughout my work I explore the world of human emotions. I have always been interested in how we as human beings go about our days reacting to stimuli, interacting with people, and responding to our emotions. Personally, I have always struggled with the expression of negative emotions like anger or sadness. Hopefully with my work I can help myself normalize and feel more comfortable expressing and talking about these difficult emotions, and maybe others can relate to my situation.

For my work I wanted every aspect to be expressive and carry some emotional weight. I use charcoal as my main medium because of the variety of marks you can make. With charcoal I can also be very expressive in how I interact with the material, getting really hands on and putting myself into the work. I create a fluidity of emotions, where one can bleed into the other and they are ever changing. To capture that nature, I incorporated colored water media elements as well. Throughout the works I use collaged elements to show the overlapping of emotions and how they can constantly build and influence one another.

This body of work centers around different facial expressions and gestures, how those can convey emotions and how the expressions change with those different emotions. The subjects range from eyes, hands, and even body language showing that a subtle shift can completely change the emotions evoked. Through this work I want to challenge us as human beings to come face to face with and accept that it is okay to feel emotional.

# ARTIST CV

cncurtis08@gmail.com · ccurtis11@my.apsu.edu · <https://www.instagram.com/christacurtisart/?hl=en>

## EDUCATION

Anticipated May 2021 • Austin Peay State University, Bachelor of  
Fine Arts in Studio Art

## EXPERIENCE

September 2018-Present • Self-Employed Photographer

July 2017-Present • Commissioned Artwork

## EXHIBITIONS

April 2021 • 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Juried Student Exhibition

March 2021 • *Untitled: The Collection*

April 2019 • *Flux* (Small Group)

## SKILLS

- Photoshop
- Lightroom
- Illustrator
- InDesign
- MacOS
- Analog Photography
- Digital Photography
- Darkroom Process
- Oil Paint
- Acrylic Paint
- Charcoal
- Oil Pastels
- Chalk Pastels



# 4150 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESENTATION

## SENIOR THESIS PROPOSAL

Christa Curtis



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## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



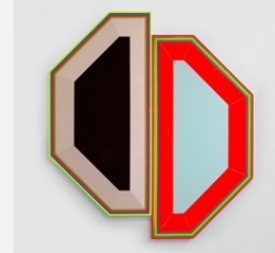
Francesca Woodman



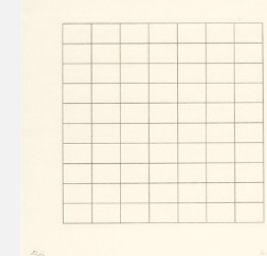
## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



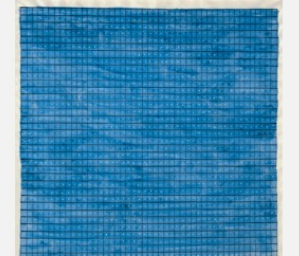
Beverly Fishman



## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



Agnes Martin



# 4150 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESENTATION

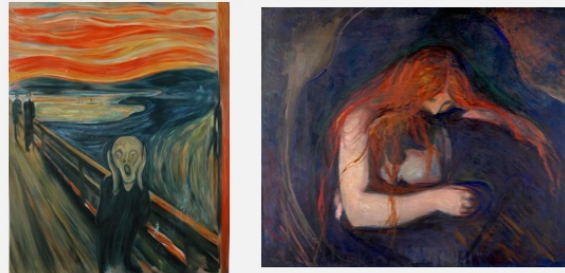
## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



Pablo Picasso



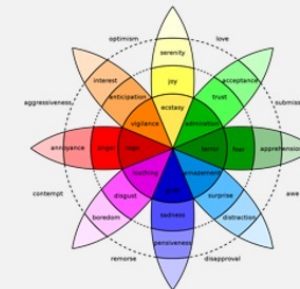
## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



Edvard Munch



## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



Plutchick's Wheel of Emotion



## PROGRESS



## PROGRESS



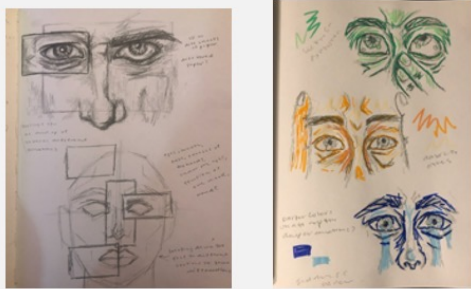
## PROGRESS





# 4150 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESENTATION

## PROGRESS



## PROGRESS



## TIMELINE

- 9/7-9/20: begin sketching process, refine thesis, start on presentation
- 9/21-10/4: finalize proposal for review process, faculty review, make changes to thesis proposal based on faculty feedback, begin work on final pieces
- 10/5-10/18: work on pieces
- 10/19-11/1: work on pieces
- 11/2-11/15: work on pieces, begin to finalize thesis proposal for review
- 11/16-11/29: work on pieces, finalize and present final thesis proposal to faculty for review
- 11/30-12/6: work on finalizing pieces and begin to think about how to present the work in a gallery space.



## SPECIAL CONCERNS

- If I do large scale drawings what substrate will I use?
- How to safely transport large scale drawings?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



# 4150 2<sup>ND</sup> PRESENTATION

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## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



Marlene Dumas



## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



Robert Arneson



## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



Tip Toland



# 4150 2<sup>ND</sup> PRESENTATION

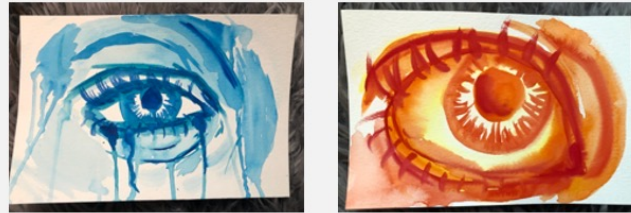
## RESEARCH/INFLUENCES



Sue Williams



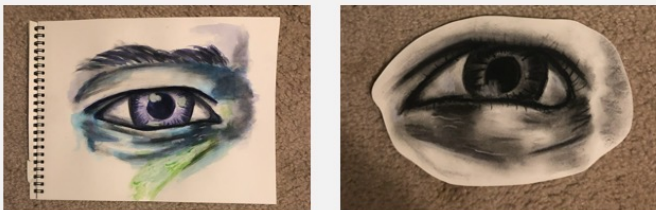
## CURRENT WORKS



## CURRENT WORKS



## CURRENT WORKS



## CURRENT WORKS



## CURRENT WORKS



# 4150 2<sup>ND</sup> PRESENTATION

## CURRENT WORKS



## REMAINING TASKS

I am going to continue making these "sketchbook pages" of emotions learning and exploring my personal emotional range along the way. I am also going to start thinking about my final show next semester and how I plan on displaying my work in the gallery.



## TIMELINE

- 11/16-11/29: work on pieces, finalize and present final thesis proposal to faculty for review
- 11/30-12/6: work on finalizing pieces and begin to think about how to present the work in a gallery space.
- 12/7-1/19: work on making a bulk of the pieces over winter break.
- 1/20-2/2: continue working on pieces and start to finalize how things will look in the gallery.
- 2/3-2/17: make any final changes to completed pieces and work on creating any additional pieces.
- 2/18-3/1: work on finalizing pieces to be displayed in the gallery and move into the space for the show

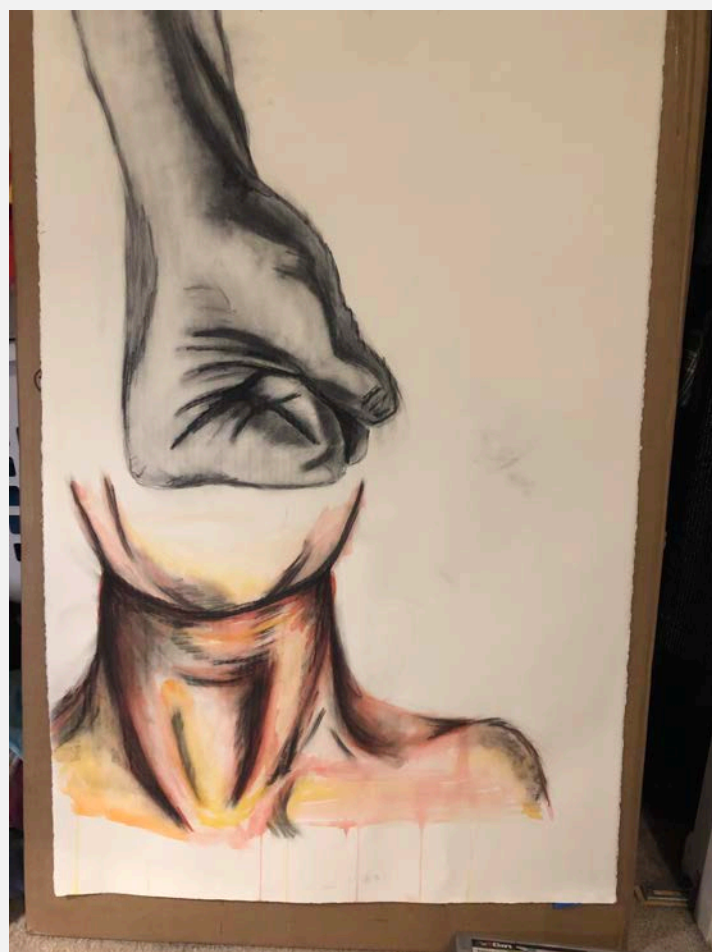
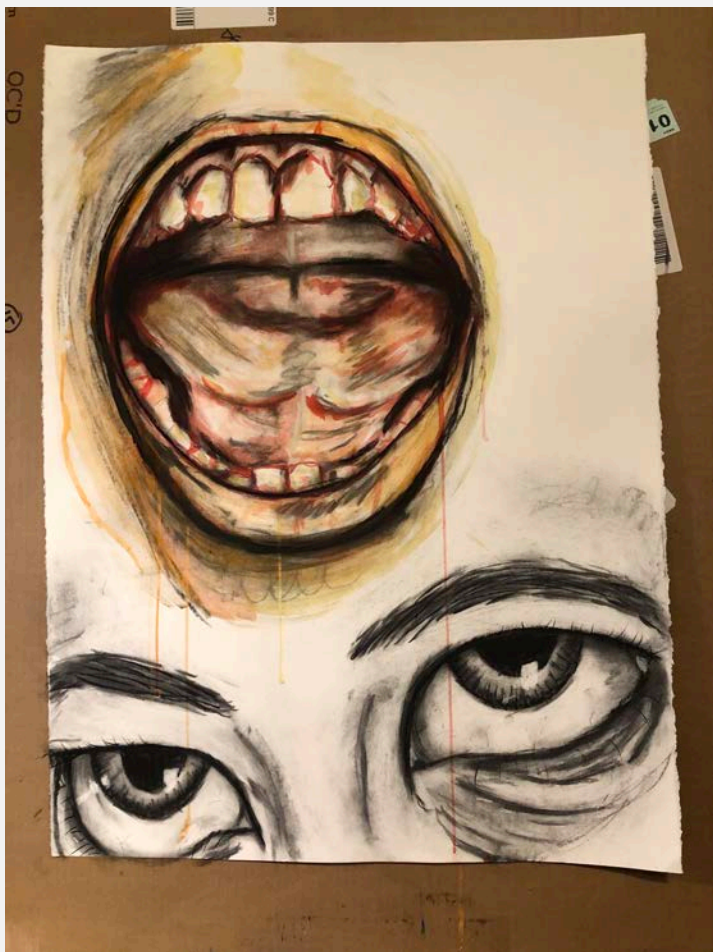


THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME





## ADDITIONAL PROCESS





## ADDITIONAL PROCESS



# FINAL SHOW



Earthbody  
Brook Jones

UNTITLED  
— the collection —  
Christa Curtis

Barbara Beach Gallery

March 22 - 25, 2021

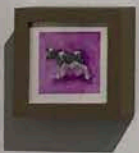
Artist Talk: March 22  
at 5:30pm on Zoom





# UNTITLED

## THE COLLECTION



# FINAL SHOW







# UNTITLED

THE COLLECTION





# FINAL SHOW

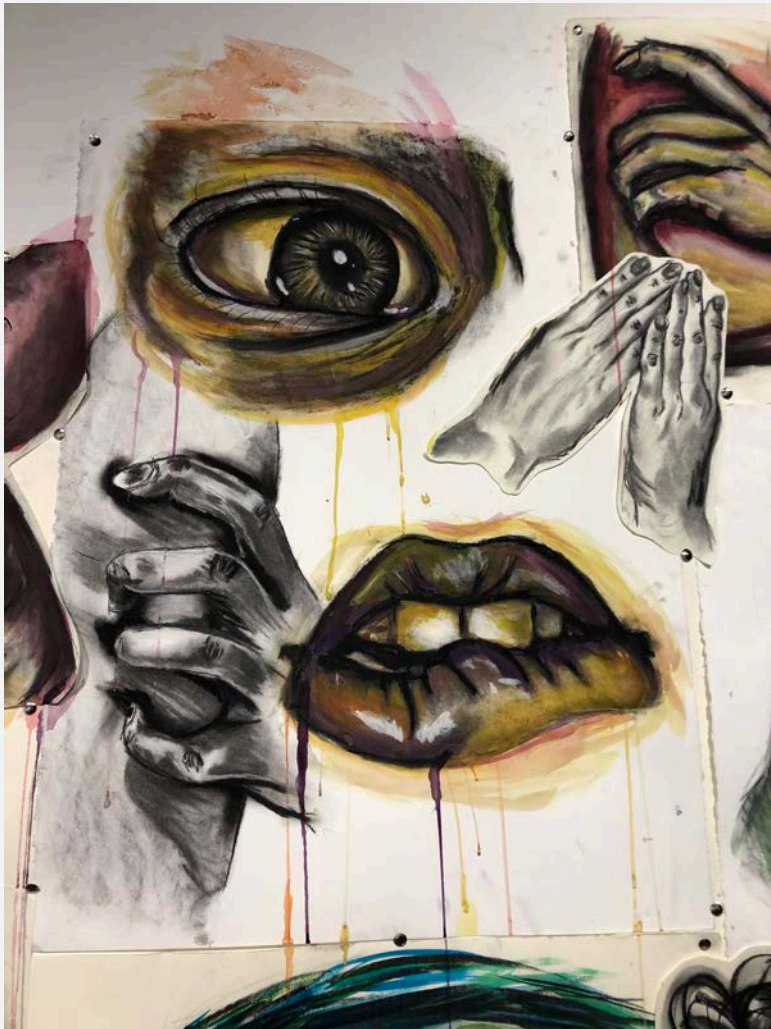


# FINAL SHOW





# FINAL SHOW



# FINAL SHOW

*Mementos Gouache 2021*  
4.5 x 4.5 inches



08.02.99



07.12.16

# FINAL SHOW



01.13.15



11.23.13



# FINAL SHOW



06.20.17



08.02.17

# FINAL SHOW

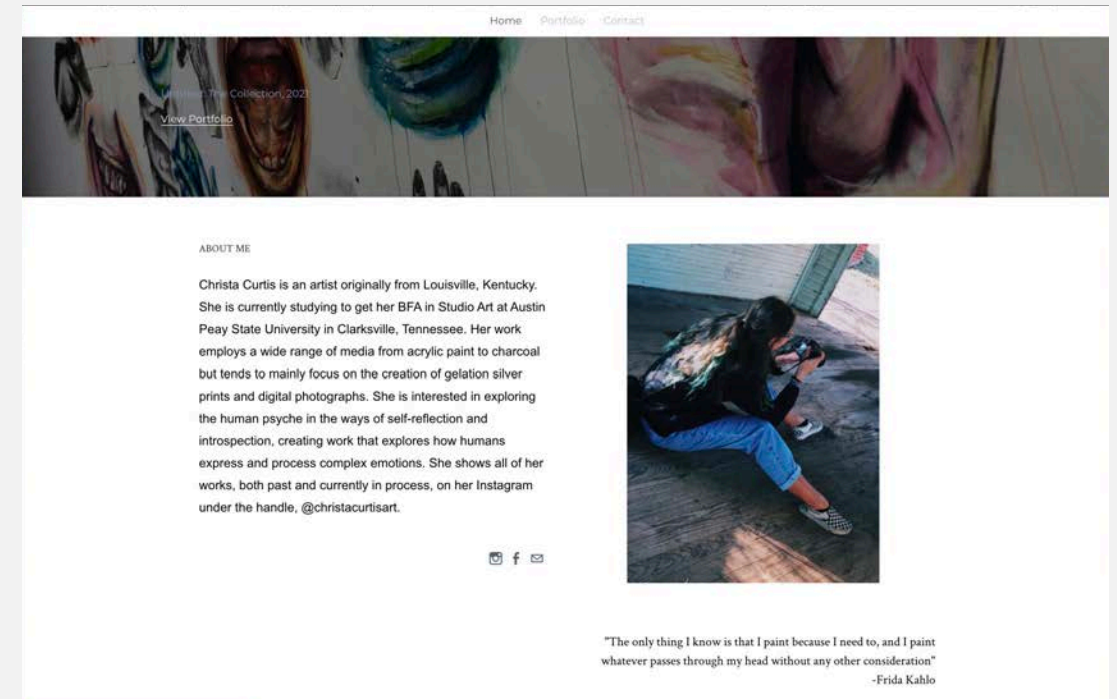
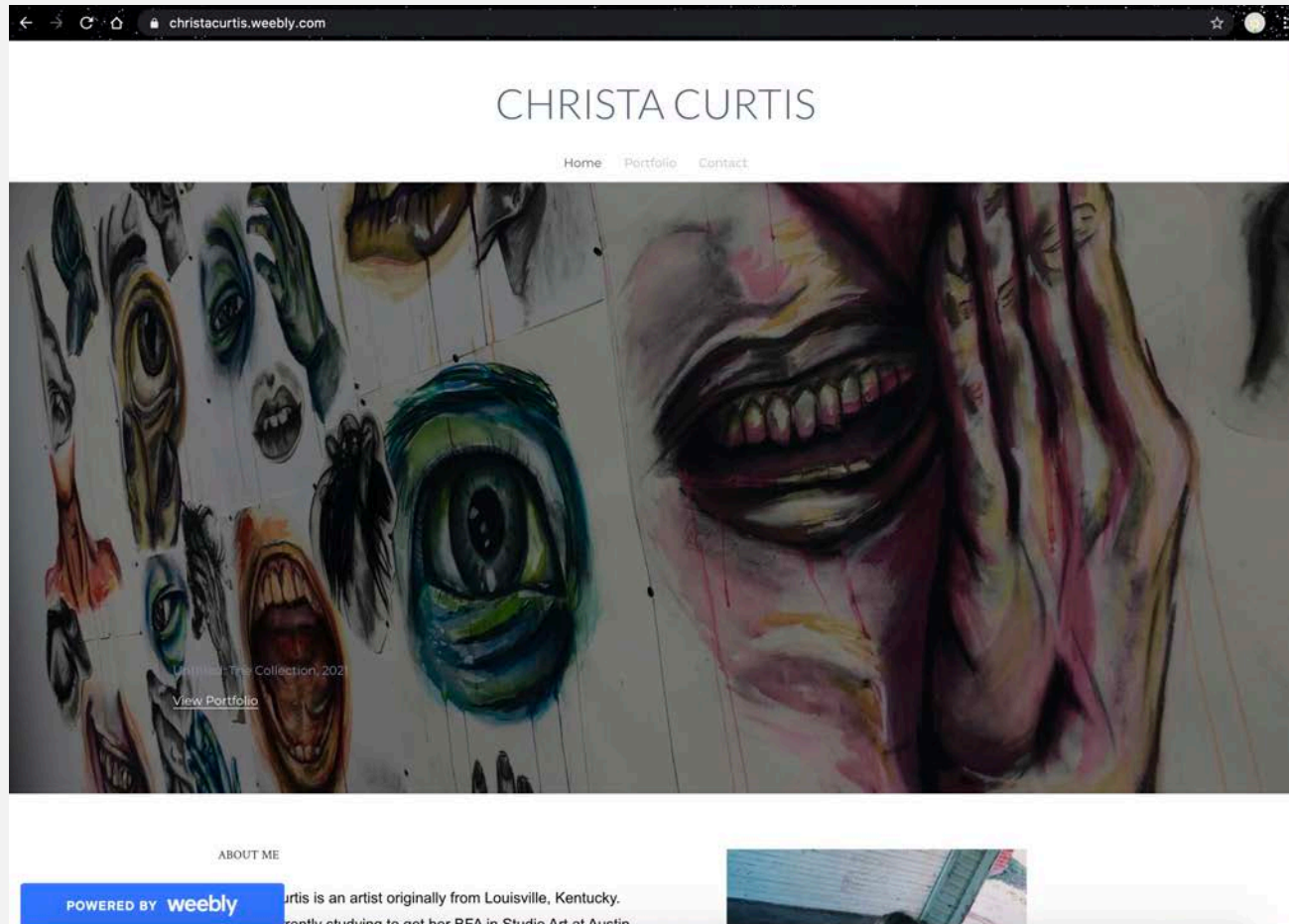


09.04.05



05.17.14

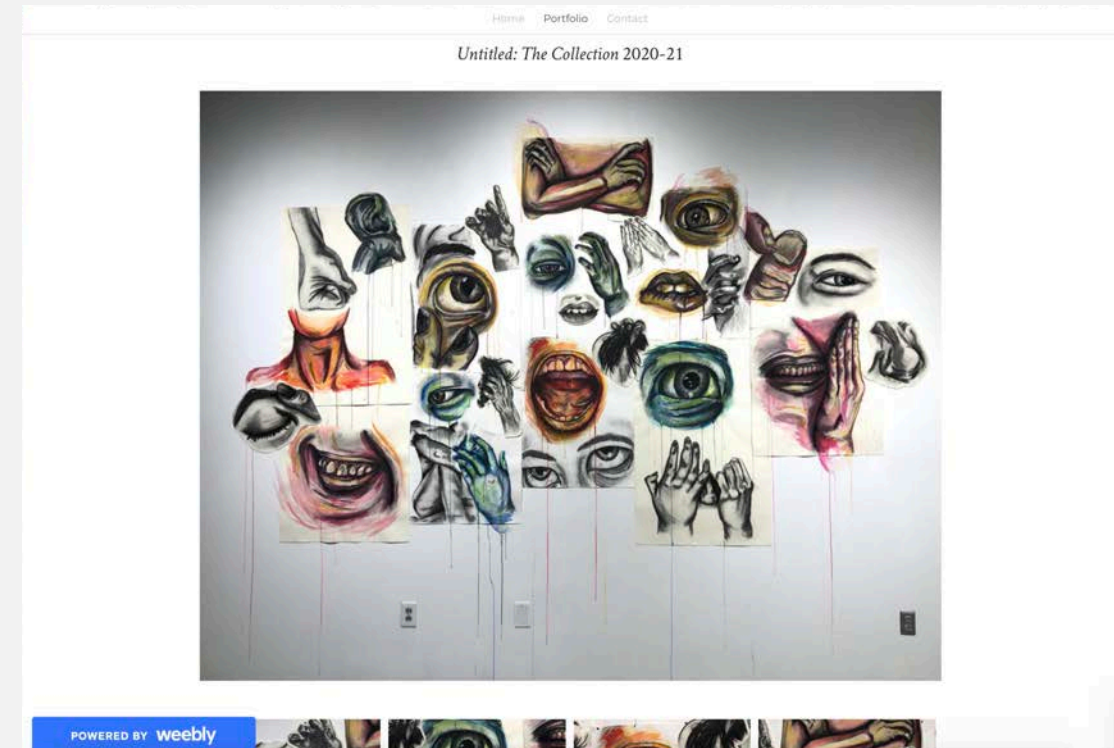
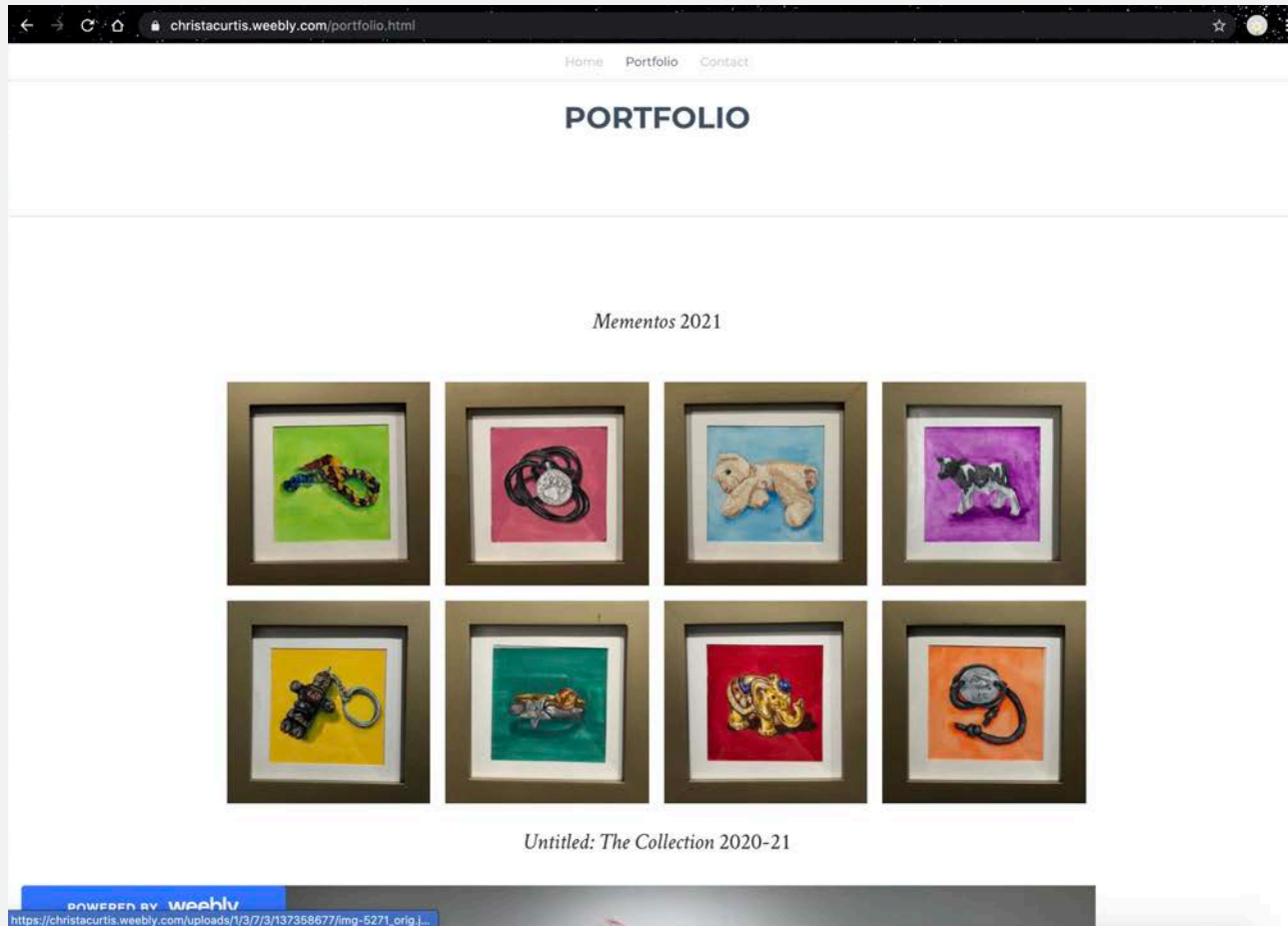
# PROFESSIONAL MATERIALS



<https://christacurtis.weebly.com/>

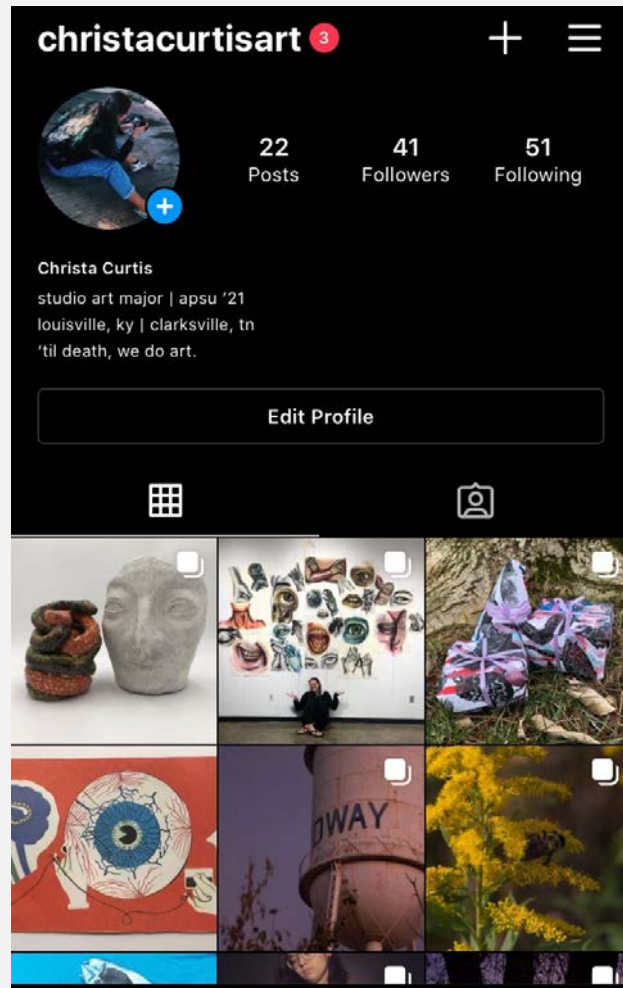


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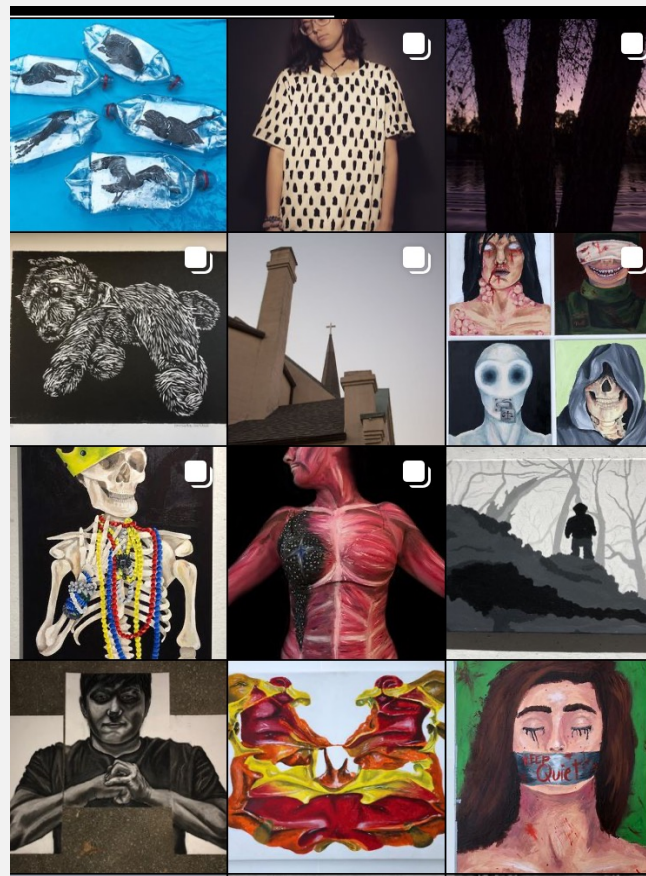


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# PROFESSIONAL MATERIALS



<https://www.instagram.com/christacurtisart/?hl=en>





# REFLECTION

This body of work as a whole was quite difficult to make both in the content and overall. Untitled: The Collection was really the first time I, as an artist, made work entirely centered around myself and such a personal matter as my emotional state, so that in itself proved to be challenging. Also, the overall size of the works proved a challenge because I had no real space while working on them to view all 8 26 x 40 inches papers at one time, so it wasn't really until I moved into the gallery space that I truly knew what I was working with. Overall, I think this process really showed me that I can make work about myself and that it might even be beneficial to do so. Throughout making this work I kept a journal almost everyday recording my thoughts and feelings, a practice I have continued to keep even after the work was completed, and I think that practice has truly helped not just as an artist but as a human and learning how to better understand and deal with some of my more negative feelings.

When planning what my final exhibition would look like I feared that the large collage piece wouldn't fill the space enough nor be able to represent all I wanted to say. That was when I thought of including the smaller works to represent the softer more tender emotion I feel. I think in the end the two separate bodies of work complemented each other nicely as one was loud and bold with the emotions it was proclaiming, while the other was more intimate and quieter.

This process also taught me the importance of collaboration. I shared my gallery space with fellow student and senior Brook Jones and throughout the whole process we bounced ideas off one another. In the gallery it was extremely helpful to have another set of eyes to help picturing and adjusting layout of the work on the walls. I also think having two people in the gallery really got me thinking about the audience and how we wanted them to move through the space, transitioning from one show to another, and distinguishing the two.

In the end I think all my long nights and hard work paid off and I was able to create a body of work I was extremely proud of and even helped myself to become more comfortable with my emotions and hopefully helped a few others along the way.