Undergraduate Symposium 2010
Celebrating Research, Creative Endeavor and Service-Learning
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Main Lounge, Memorial Union
April 15, 2010

Gallery of Artwork:

Laurel Iber
Sponsor: Art Lecturer Erin O'Connor
two panels from the series: Get Them in the Light
Artist Statement:
Through the integration of serigraphy with other 2-dimensional media, I am interested in the development of loosely woven visual narratives. The process is one of analysis and assembly, by which, I deconstruct various textual and visual sources, manipulating them to accommodate the construction of my own system of semiotics. These symbols or signifiers work in conjunction to relay fragments of a narrative amalgam comprised of the personal, the imagined, and the appropriated. Though some of the symbols I choose to work with are simple, direct, and singular, most of them have the complexity of bearing multiple referents. While I have attributed them to specific concepts for my own purposes, those signifiers that represent objects recognizable in the concretized world take on meanings according to the individual readings of the viewer. In this sense the authorship lies in part with the spectator, as the meaning falls somewhere in the convergence of our respective and collective idea.

Janis Finkelman
Mentor/Sponsor: Prof. Fred Stonehouse
Symbioptic
Medium: Ink on paper
Dysfuntive
Medium: Ink on paper
Artist Statement:
My art contains reoccurring visual motifs that are the structural foundation upon which I can experiment with what variables and aberrations I notice in my experience of the natural world. In reassembling imagery referencing natural phenomena, I attempt to generate a chaotic new suggestion of reality. The contrast between universal visual "languages" utilized by the scientific community and the new ones I create echoes the tension between hard reason and fluid emotion that dogs much of human activity. My pieces speak not only to the relationship between the known and unknown aspects of the natural world but also to the unavoidable emotion that colors human exploration of it. Even as I value the intellectual advancement of society made possible by research, I am simultaneously aware of the scientific method's limitations at the hands of a sometimes brilliant, sometimes myopic species. I am interested in creating works that reference the dynamic relationship between a feeling humankind and its attempt to corral its environment into orderly sets of hypotheses and theories.
Crystle Mae Revilla Dino
Mentor/Sponsor: Art Lecturer Anna Moisiadis
Healing Grounds
Artist Statement:
As an artist, I am drawn by themes and stories of tradition, movement, and dislocation. My work focuses on several issues that I hold dearly to my heart, from Mother Homeland and Hip-Hop, House, and Soul to my Filipina Identity and Sacred Callings. I want to celebrate and share my story of the mixed cultures that make me who I am and what has shaped me as the woman/daughter/sister that I’ve become. I integrate culture into my work to give voice to the people and to liberate unrestful souls. My art is the portal that brings me to the memories of my ancestry and acts as an account to echo stories of the forgotten, the unspoken, and the unknown. Mitakuye Oyasin.

Nicole Powers
Mentor/Sponsor: Art Lecturer Erin O'Connor
Family System 1.a&b
Media: Mixed Media
Artist Statement:
“Family System 1.a&b” explores issues of connection and isolation within relationships from a vaguely scientific frame of mind. Small cages serve as stand-ins for people whose interactions and proximity are always shifting, making each piece a document of a specific moment in time.

Samuel Schlenker
Mentor: Art Lecturer Erin O'Connor
Stratification
Artist Statement:
Through socially conscious art I hope to investigate the interaction between the individual and their modern environment. How does one survive in a world whose ideals of self-serving individuality have become unhindered by any sense of humanity? How does one ground themselves in a media saturated environment where self worth is defined in term of the material and not the moral? How does an individual exist in a man made system which no longer serves man? Building off of ideas such as these and through the use of surrealist imagery and loaded symbols, I hope to share questions and observations which are both accessible and thought provoking.

Julie Novakofski
Mentor: Prof. Frances Myers
Perfect Time Space (Luca)
Medium: Etching
Artist Statement:
Recently, my work has been most influenced by the ideas of poetry and of a poetic experience—as encountered and made visual through materials, relationships, gestures, and lines. Recalling or indicating a memory or a story (many), the quality of light as it unfolded, as well as the look of a face as I have recalled it, is an intrinsic process within my art practice and everyday life. Concepts of comfort, death, beauty, romance, loneliness, and playfulness also have their place—blurred, transformative, and distinct. Something like preserving (incarnating and enshrouding) an emotion, a poem, a body, is what I feel my work pursues.
Wesley Johnson  
Mentor/Sponsor: Art Lecturer Anna Moisiadis  
*The tree Goes On*  
**Artist Statement:**  
My work is an exploration of my heritage and namesakes. Printmaking really opened me up to composing a series that questioned aspects of my heritage. The printmaking medium is about repetition. The repetitive feature throughout my work is a bird a Western Meadow Lark that symbolizes my name, which means western meadow. Through my print's I talked about my name being a family name, and how I’m the only female to receive it. Using the Western Meadow Lark as my main image I explored creating a complete series through combining the prints with stamping, pencil drawing, embossments, stencils etc.

Jena Schleis  
Mentor/Sponsor: Prof. Tom Jones  
*Hint of the Celestial*  
**Media:** Digital Print  
**Artist Statement:**  
Identity Astray  
I paint the human body in order to blend it, transform it, and showcase it. This body of work has given me a new glimpse into the possibilities of making portraiture less about the individual and more about line, shape, color, and form. Identity has become an important aspect of this work. The mere act of covering skin tone with paint seems to raise questions of the individual and their meaning. The ability to be recognized by others and self is striped away and a new set of undefined characteristics is produced. Although the paint seems to prompt more questions than answers, it is simply that curiosity which drives me to keep creating.

Jordan Robert Anderson  
Mentor/Sponsor: Prof. Tom Jones  
"*Untitled #52*"  
**Media:** C-type Photographic Print  
**Artist Statement:**  
Corrosion  
I strive to find beauty normally overlooked in everyday life. I ask my viewer to actively view the world that is so often only take in at a glance. Paint, metal, concrete, brick and rust often form the most interesting compositions that are ambiguous in time, scale, and place.
Genesis Lewis
Mentor/Sponsor: Prof. Frances Myers
*Stand Up (Put Ya Hands in the Ayer!)*
Media: Etching on Zinc Plate
Artist Statement:
Growing up in Milwaukee’s inner city I was able to see first hand the deterioration of a community and a culture. In high school I was a very active advocate for my community. The groups I involved myself with focused on equipping youth with the tools they needed to change their communities and themselves. Now that I am in college I have found an outlet in advocating those same beliefs through my etchings. Before I begin an etching I think back to my community and I recall the events and experiences that influenced me to leave and achieve higher education, then the happenings that are holding some of my peers back. I then take those thoughts and create a satirical narration by juxtaposing an image that should inspire with an image that demonstrates ignorance. When people see my work I hope they stop, look, think and change. You must be the change you wish to see in the world- Mahatma Gandhi

Candice O'Neill
Mentor/Sponsor: Prof. Frances Meyers
*Untitled*
Media: Etching