


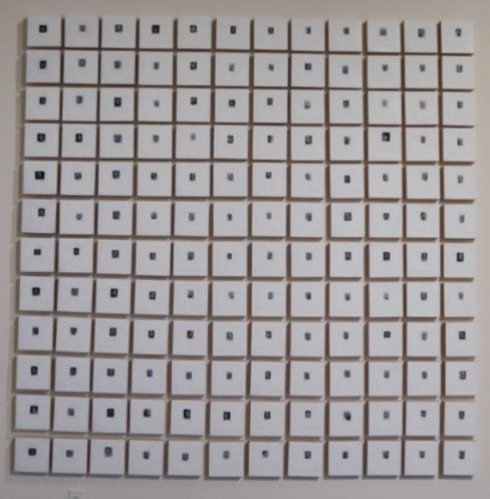


Lehman College Thesis Exhibition 2024

Exhibition Dates: May 15 – May 29

Image	Label	
  	<p>Debbie Ali MFA Printmaking</p> <p>Spine, Prints: Ink and nib on paper, 13 x19 inches</p> <p><i>Spine</i>, 2024. Bound book: Ink and nib on paper, jewels, 24 x 36 inches (open on pedestal)</p> <p><i>Heart</i>, 2024. Bound book: Ink and nib on paper, resin, 2 x 4 inches (on pedestal)</p> <p><i>Eyes</i>, 2023. Bound book: Handmade paper, ink and nib on paper, 12 x 12 inches</p>	<p>The <i>Bodybooks</i> series, my thesis, depicts my artistic journey by ink drawings bound into four anatomical parts of the human figure. Each book, the spine, heart, eyes, and legs, represents a core part of my identity as an artist and as an individual in the cosmos. The books are delicately drawn with a pen nib and incorporate patterns and symbols inspired by both the history of ink drawing and illuminated manuscripts. The largest work in the series is the <i>Spine</i> book, and just as the spine of a book creates stability and strengthens the core of the object, this book represents the core of my artistic journey. The <i>Eyes</i> book is crafted from handmade paper from recycled scraps and pulp. This process, along with the diaristic thoughts written on each page, mirrors how I take in</p>

		<p>information with my eyes and process the world around me. <i>Heart</i> contains chambers of tiny worlds that circle my inner body and thoughts. It depicts the home of a creature that is seen in the spine book, and represents deep negative feelings that plague me and other artists when making work. <i>Legs</i> is a life-sized book of female legs and the first book I created for this series. Each page contains ink drawings of legs that relate to the female experience, including the themes of body image, violation, and objectification.</p>
	<p>Darlene A Aschbacher MFA Painting</p> <p><i>COLLECTIVE SCREAM Death by Illegal Abortion</i>, 2024. Oil and collage (NYTimes obituary pages) on gallery cradled panel, 74 x 74 x 144. 6 x 6 inches</p>	<p>Fury... is what happened to me on that fateful day, June 24, 2022. The day SCOTUS (The Supreme Court of the United States) overturned <i>Roe v. Wade</i> in a majority 6 to 3 vote. The day women lost the right to an abortion, the right to choose, and the right to control their own healthcare.</p>

		<p>Taking a woman's fundamental rights away after almost 50 years left me stunned. My need to process what has happened to me as a member of the 51percent– the majority–of the United States population who no longer has legal control over her body is forcing me to respond. I am a conceptual artist dealing with issues of silencing and power politics – A Feminist, An Activist. In intimate serial portraits of illegal abortion victims, I strive to bring forward a visual picture of the human consequence of the loss of a fundamental right and the inability of women to have control over our bodies and healthcare. I want to make evident the legal, political, and social victimization of women and the ultimate human consequence–death. This work is an ongoing documentation through the portrait of the victim and is always changing.</p>
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Barby Beauvais
MFA Painting /
Printmaking

Le Journal Mauve,
2024. Publication
Le Journal Mauve,
2024. Silkscreen
and acrylic on
newsprint, 18 x 24
inches (5 prints)

My work reflects my identity and cultural roots as a Haitian multi-disciplinary artist. It delves into themes of womanhood, Black identity, and popular culture. Being a Black woman and an artist, I believe there is a profound narrative to share and express, and for which to advocate. I use a variety of mediums, including painting, photography, and printmaking to breathe life into these themes. *Le Journal Mauve* is a women's publication that echoes the voices of past publications, such as *La Revue Du Monde Noir* and *The Black Panther*, the official newspaper of the Black Panther party. My publication serves as a platform for women in all industries to share their work and emphasizes the contemporary issues women face, providing space for discussion.



Lauren Caminero
Susana
BFA Painting

The Gathering,
2024. Acrylic on
canvas, 60 x 64
inches

Fly in Face of, 2024.
Acrylic on canvas
60 in x 64 inches

My thesis series, 23, is made of large-scale acrylic paintings on canvas. I explore my journey into adulthood with an emphasis on my feelings of insecurity, loss, grief, and frustration. As both the painter and the subject, the self-portraits highlight self-sabotage through the false lens of self-reflection. My work is based on the mental battles caused by anxiety and overthinking.



Rosemary Campos
BFA Design

Who are you looking at?, 2023. Linoleum print, collage, oil paint

Burnside, 2023. Photography, linoleum print, oil paint, silkscreen print, and white-color pencil, 21 x 31 inches

Skeletons in the Closet. 2023. Oil paint, printmaking, and oil pastel on canvas paper, 21 x 31 inches

El Cantarito. 2023. Linoleum print, charcoal, oil pastels, and oil paint on canvas paper, 21 x 31 inches

My theme is family, since family is the most important thing to me. The paintings depict how I see my family and what they've taught me. We never had family meetings or healthy discussions, but we always came together to celebrate with each other. As a first generation Mexican American the weight of our parents' sacrifices are on the shoulders of myself and my siblings. My Mom was born in Puebla, Mexico where she lost her father and didn't have the opportunity to continue school after the second grade. She stayed home and at a young age went to work. My Dad was also born in Puebla, Mexico, dirt poor with an abusive alcoholic father. When I was growing up, my father worked making pizza and my Mom would stay at home with me and my four younger sisters. We had to look out for each other. As kids, we translated doctors' messages, school information, and important

government documents. Growing up with heavy responsibilities at a young age had long-lasting effects on me. As a mixed media artist, I use oil paint, linocut, photography, and oil pastel to create my works. My inspiration comes from my family: the beauty, the culture, and the history. I am influenced by artists like Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, and Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints. I want the viewer to see the uniqueness and imperfections of my work because that is as real as it gets.

Jasmine Cruz
Masters Art
Education
Literary Lens, 2024.
Inkjet prints, size
variable

When Covid started, I got back into my love for reading. Dr. Seuss once said. "Reading can take you places you have never been before" and I wanted to convey that feeling through my photos – putting it into visual terms was a challenge. Reading can evoke a plethora of emotions, transporting you to different worlds and experiences. It can make you feel joy as you celebrate victories




with characters, empathy as you share their struggles, and sadness as you witness their losses. Through the power of words, reading has the ability to ignite passion, stir curiosity, and provoke reflection, leaving a lasting impact on your heart and mind. I've included text from some of my favorite books mixed with images of my loved ones sharing one of my favorite pursuits.

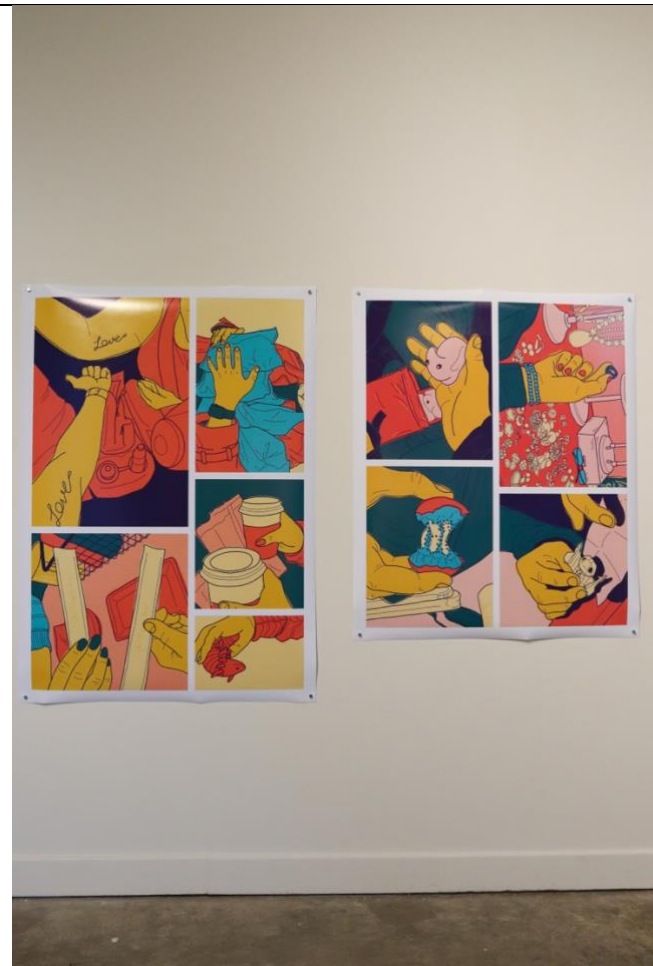


Emmy De Leon
BFA Animation
Amor Caribe, 2024.
Animation Set:
Digital and mixed-
media animation

Immersed in the captivating realm of animation, I've found my passion in the meticulous artistry of stop motion, inspired by the craftsmanship of Laika Studios where animation is captured one frame at a time with real objects that are moved between frames. My thesis is a celebration of the Dominican experience, intricately weaving my memories and nostalgia for childhood. Through meticulous planning, I craft characters and sets that resonate with cultural significance. Set to the soulful melody of


		<p>"Que Me Des Tu Cariño" by Juan Luis Guerra, my animation serves as a poignant reminder of simpler times in the Dominican Republic. Each frame offers a visually captivating glimpse into our rich cultural tapestry, inviting audiences to rediscover the essence of Dominican life.</p>
	<p>Marisol Díaz-Gordon MFA Printmaking</p>	<p>José. I first began to unravel with the experience of losing my father, José Ángel Rodríguez Díaz, to COVID-19 on April 26, 2020. There were all the emotions one experiences after a traumatic loss – Denial, Depression, Anxiety, Anger, Regret, and so many, many more, along with PTSD. In my search to understand this tragic experience, I opened myself to the spiritual universe that has consistently been my invisible partner in life. My father initiated communication with me and other worldly entities. In those moments of spiritual awakening, a blanket of comfort embraced me. I use these as</p>


guides in my artistic practice. This installation is an extension of my connecting with the ancestors and honoring them. I use audio, printmaking woodcuts, silkscreen multiples, and woodwork as my language translator.



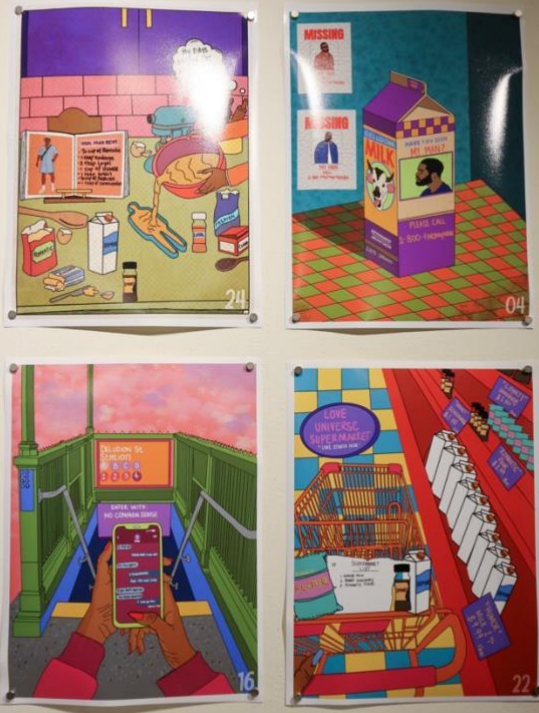
Steph Gonzalez
MA Art Education
Untitled (i love the way you love), 2024. Inkjet print (Adobe Illustrator file), 62 x 44 inches
Untitled (i love the way you love) II, 2024. Inkjet print (Adobe Illustrator file), 53 x 44 inches

Untitled (i love the way you love) celebrates the queer people in my life, who I hold dear to my heart. My primary influence for this series is the quiet and personal work of Felix Gonzalez-Torres. Like him I sought to explore and express my queer experience, while allowing room for the audience to insert themselves and create their own personal connections with the work. I, along with the subjects of these portraits, recognize the stories behind each image, but the lack of context and recognizable figures is meant to encourage the construction of new narratives. Each moment was first captured in a photograph. I used that photo as

		<p>reference for a colored pencil sketch that then became the basis for the final drawing in <i>Adobe Illustrator</i>. Instead of working directly from the photograph, I decided to draw on paper first so I could take time to fully reflect on who and what I was rendering. Through that love I hold for each person, this collective of moments ultimately became a self-portrait.</p>
	<p>Destiny Jones BFA Design / Printmaking</p> <p><i>The Blasphemist</i>, 2024. Silkscreen print, 22 x 30 inches</p> <p><i>The Gossip</i>, 2024. Silkscreen print, 22 x 30 inches</p> <p><i>The Shrew</i>, 2024. Silkscreen print, 22 x 30 inches</p> <p><i>The Loudmouth</i>, 2024. Silkscreen print, 38 x 50 inches</p>	<p><i>Don't look at me</i>, my thesis, is a series of screen prints created from self-portrait photographs. The concept is based on the history of the scold's bridle used in the Middle Ages in England to instill shame in women. Its use on women was a form of misogynistic torture that sought to control and condition women into submissiveness. The masks I have placed on myself show various ways women were silenced by the shame of covering their faces with a mask that held their tongues with an iron</p>

		<p>gag. The black silhouette style I chose represents myself as a Black woman under the same systems that continue to oppress all women. By wearing the masks, I am owning the shame that has been instilled in women over the course of their lives.</p>
	<p>Saul Maldonado BFA Animation</p> <p><i>Too Late...</i>, 2024. Animation video, 1920 x1080 pixels</p>	<p>Character and background design as well as visual storytelling are my passions. I draw big inspiration from history and current events as well as metaphysics. I draw inspiration, too, from color, music and vintage toys and cartoons from my childhood to help me establish my visual style. In my current work in illustration and animation, I am experimenting with different directions, trying to digest the stress of modern life post-COVID and addressing universal themes, such as lack of stability and clarity and the setbacks due to extreme circumstances. These themes are embodied by the main character</p>

		<p>in my animation as he uses all his efforts to get to his class, despite the world working against him.</p>
	<p>Devin McDougal BFA Drawing</p> <p><i>The Eyes</i>, Issue 1.2024. Standard cover. Digital illustration printed on satin paper, 8.5 x 11 inches</p> <p><i>The Eyes</i>, Issue 1. 2024, Variant A, Digital illustration on satin paper, 8.5 x 11 inches,</p> <p><i>The Eyes</i>, Issue 1. 2024.Variant B, Digital illustration on Satin Paper, 8.5 x 11 inches</p>	<p>Becoming an artist and actor is a lifetime career goal that has resonated with me since childhood. I use traditional and digital mediums to tell stories that separate the viewers' perspectives of reality. I bring in a video game and comic book style inspired by artists such as Todd McFarlane, Akira Toriyama, and Stan Lee. My goal is to create comics and graphic novels, while also dubbing my work with my proficiency acting. By gathering the influences in my life and writing my ideas, I plan to bring my stories to life. "The Eyes" is a story I've been writing since 2021 and the reason why it's called that is because the characters and even the viewers will always depend on their eyes.</p>



Michelle Medina
BFA Design

The Making of a Perfect Man, 2023.

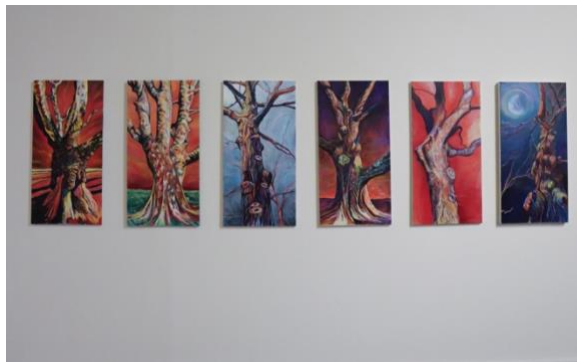
Digital illustration, 16 x 12 inches

Have you seen my man? 2023. Digital illustration, 16 x 12 inches

Delusion St. Station. 2024. Digital illustration, 16 x 12 inches

Love Universe, 2024. Digital illustration, 16 x 12 inches

My inspiration comes from personal experiences and how I choose to interpret the world around me. I make digital illustrations of these experiences to better understand both myself and my reality. My book is a collection of comic illustrations based on dating in New York City, which I started to do in my 20s and continue to this time.



Rebecca Menashe
MFA Painting

A Knotty Explosion Large Sycamore, 2024

Looking up at the Cut Branches, 2024

Her Majesty at Sunset, 2024.

Dancing Tree. 2024

Far away in the Moonlight, 2024

Intertwined Lovers 2024.

Each: Acrylic on canvas 18 x 36 inches

My thesis is a series of paintings which highlight the unique and divine qualities of trees that exist in our everyday world. Nature is all around us and trees are like sculptures that share our spaces. Each tree represented I see regularly in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. I painted the trees in non-naturalistic colors and set them in various stages of daylight. Most of the trees, standing alone, project human qualities seen

Acrylic on canvas,
12 x 36 inches, all
2024


in the genre of
portraiture. In the
twists and turns,
bumps, knots, and
scars of woody,
elongated trunks,
trees, organisms of
the plant kingdom, can
display,
metaphorically, human
characteristics we
believe are indicated
in the irregular
features of a human
face. The supposed
flaws or irregularities
in a tree trunk, as in a
human face, don't
diminish beauty or
strength but instead
indicate character.



Jesus Munoz
Masters of Arts

*La Isla del
Enchantment*, 2024.
Digital painting, 4 x
6 inches

Puerto Rico is an island filled with rich culture, vibrant scenery, and most importantly, compassionate people. These characteristics are emblematic to Puerto Ricans. Unfortunately, the United States has interfered with its culture and laws, which is causing dissatisfaction among the Puerto Ricans. I want to highlight two important things in my thesis project: first introduce viewers to the beauty of Puerto Rico's iconic landscapes by creating images in the software *Procreate*. One source of inspiration for these images is the richness of color on the Puerto Rican island; second feature some of the issues that Puerto Rico faces today. I allude to these issues in the images and further explain them on the back of each postcard. Since postcards are intended to be delivered to another person, I thought it would be a unique way to spread awareness. Gallery visitors are


		free to take a postcard.
	<p>Amanda Nin MA Printmaking</p> <p><i>Nin-stellation's</i>, 2024. Screenprint on hand-dyed muslin fabric, 6 x 6 feet</p>	<p>For as long as I can remember I always found myself looking up at the stars. Whether the glow of the dark stars on my childhood ceiling to the airplane window where, as an adult, I almost broke my neck trying to see the night sky, I have always loved all things celestial. <i>Nin-stellation's</i> is a playful screen-printed rendition of real constellations that can be found in the northern and southern night sky. I have added my own animal interpretations to the celestial mythology.</p>



Hector Nunez
BFA CGI

Order V Freedom,
2024. Animated
video, 4:20 minutes
Order V Freedom,
Figurines. 3D
Printed (opposite
wall on pedestal)

My animation represents two ideals: Order and Freedom. For the main characters maintaining the status quo would be fulfilling one's duty as a collectible figure and remaining an "ornament" for others to see. The Samurai (our antagonist) stands as a pillar of order and defends this status quo. The Fighter (our protagonist) defies this status quo. He searches for free will and a different destiny for himself. The Samurai sees this search as an act of treason and confronts the fighter and a conflict of order versus freedom unfolds. It's always been important to me to question the constraints of society and the "norms" that I've been told to conform to (whether the message is coming from teachers, parents, or, even bullies. In this piece, I wanted to create a film that touches on these autobiographical themes and also

		<p>incorporate a wide range of animation techniques.</p>
	<p>Emelin Peralta BFA Painting</p> <p><i>The Renewal of the Wounded Temple (Self Portrait)</i>, 2024. Acrylic on canvas, 52 x 52 inches</p> <p><i>Embraced by the Spirit (Self Portrait)</i>. 2024. Acrylic on canvas, 70 x 52 inches</p>	<p><i>Body, Soul & Spirit</i>, a new series of my self-portraits done in acrylic on canvas, explores themes of identity and self-perception through the lens of disability and spirituality. During my early twenties I was diagnosed with a chronic illness, which affects every area of my daily life. After learning of my condition, I struggled with uncertainty about my future. In these paintings, images of myself represent my physical struggles, including my recovery from major surgery,</p>

my attempts to embrace life and to accept my condition. The colorful lyrical lines represent my soul, especially my emotions, and vulnerability when I am shaken by things I cannot control. The yellow ground represents a spiritual atmosphere, which is an acknowledgement of my faith, of my reliance on God, and on the praying that I do, which brings me a sense of peace and self-acceptance.



Jahzeel Peralta
BFA Sculpture

Perinatal.
2023. Terra-cotta,
14 x 12½ x 14½
inches

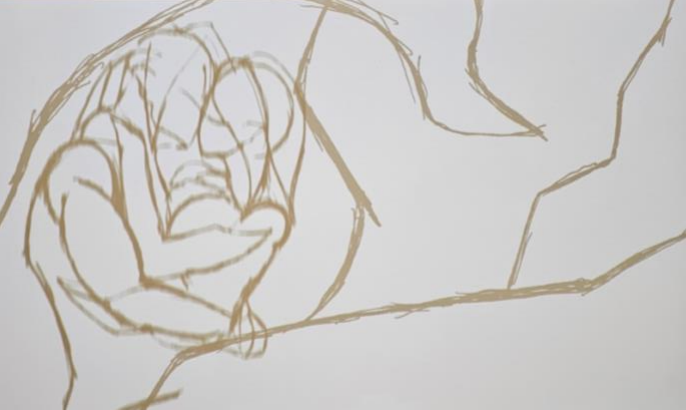

The Lie. 2023. Terra-
cotta, 8½ x 7½ x
8½ inches


Illusion. 2023. Terra-
cotta. 8½ in x 6½ x
10½ inches

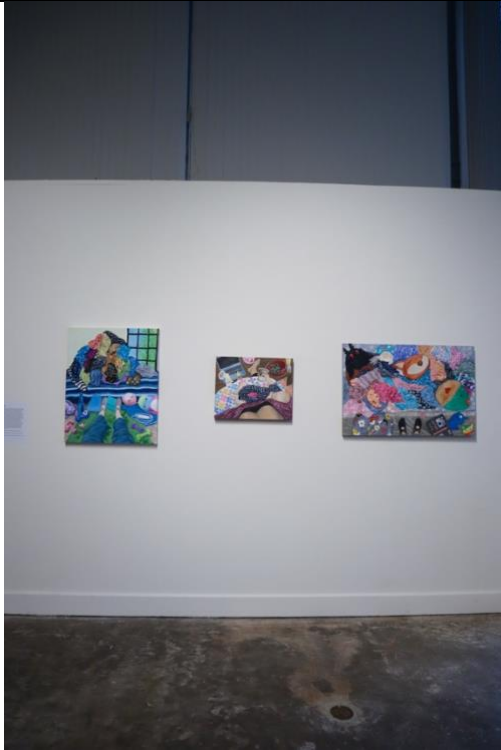
Nova

Genesis. 2023. Terra-
cotta. 12 ¼ x 12½
x 14½ inches

My thesis interweaves grotto intimacy and monumental scales. The human face as monolith is juxtaposed with the niche scenery. Both sides combine to create the narrative – themes of life and death, fear and anxiety, and the transcendent merit of life with emphasis on pro-life values. Additional elements delve into concepts of death with embodied feelings of betrayal and my personal approach to navigating deceit. A third aspect explores notions of peace, freedom, and


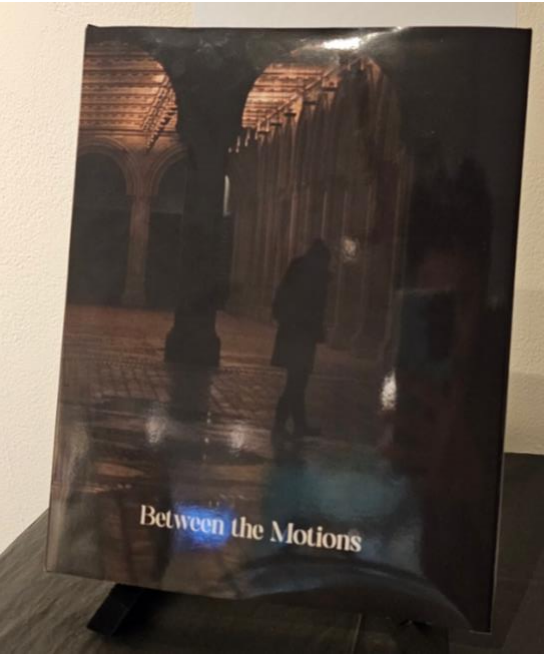
		<p>spirituality, which express how I feel when I trust God with my life and burdens.</p>
	<p>Fernando Perez-Robles BFA Animation</p> <p><i>The Exiled King</i>, 2024. Digital animation</p>	<p>"Exiled Legend" is a digital comic based on my father's character. In the story he looks back on a savage and merciless monster "Nazu Torrez." The character realizes how his old sins were passed to his sons, as in the old saying "the sins of the father are passed on to the son." My process involves roughing in sketches, which I then scan, refine, and animate.</p>
	<p>Kenia Castro BFA Animation</p> <p><i>Mind Weather</i>, 2024. 2D animation, 1 minute, 13 seconds</p>	<p>I have created a 2D animation called <i>Mind Weather</i> about anxiety as seen from the perspective of a fictional character that conveys my own experience. The animation takes a humorous view of what anxiety may look like to some people as well as to those around them. I hope that by sharing my perspective of the world I can speak to a broad group of people who can relate to the experience of anxiety</p>

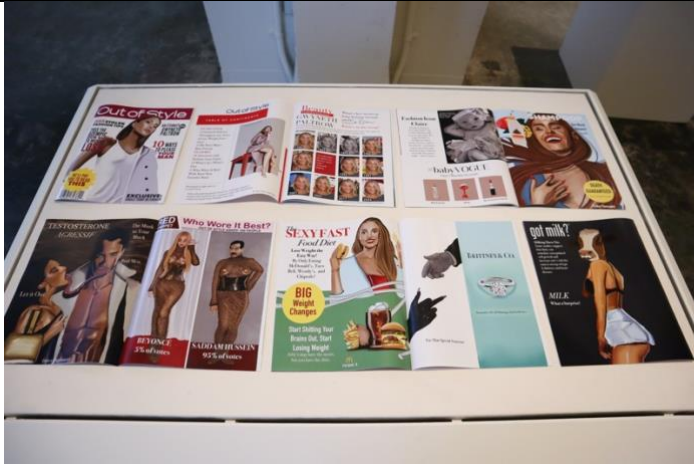
		and enjoy a laugh of recognition.
	<p>Rajesh Rajeevan MA Digital Media</p> <p><i>20/20 hands,</i> 2024. Digital video</p>	<p>My thesis is a short film about Professor Janet Skolnik, a beloved ceramics professor at Lehman College, who continues to offer her talents and passion to her students despite her visual impairment. Professor Skolnik has worked at Lehman College for almost fifty years and continues to teach because she loves her craft. This film also highlights Professor Skolnik's wisdom regarding the process of artmaking and the community which has developed within her ceramics department.</p>
	<p>Carla E. Reyes MFA Painting</p> <p><i>Self Care?</i> 2024. Acrylic and mixed-media on panel, 24 x 30 inches</p> <p><i>Latte with a Pump,</i> 2023. Acrylic and mixed-media on panel, 16 x 20 inches</p> <p><i>Endless Cycle,</i> 2024. Acrylic and</p>	<p>I am a painter and mixed-media artist whose work incorporates textured surfaces and an examination of the interaction between the human-made and natural worlds. I create semi-abstract scenes from my urban environment and excursions in nature, and explore themes in motherhood and women's issues. I am</p>



mixed-media on panel, 24 x 36 inches

interested in focusing on specific moments in time through making art or meditating on seemingly mundane everyday things that have an often unrecognized beauty and profundity. My thesis work, *The Motherwhelm Series*, explores the complexities and contradictions of motherhood and domestic daily life. The works encapsulate the humor, bittersweetness, absurdity, irony, and expose the hidden longing and loss of self, often unexpressed by many mothers due to social pressures and expectations surrounding motherhood. Physically, the work incorporates relief texture and a strong emphasis on surfaces, as well as an interest in pattern and materials often associated with domesticity, craft, the "feminine," and children; such as textiles/fabrics, brightly colored plastics, bubbly, fuzzy, and plush objects. The

		<p>rigid surface of the wood panels provide a strong support for the textural treatments and sculptural elements applied.</p>
 	<p>Elijah Rodriguez BFA Design</p> <p><i>Between the Motions</i>, 2024. Book; printed photographs, 8 x 10 inches</p> <p><i>Between the Motions</i>, 2024, Digital video</p>	<p>Even though most New Yorkers love the city that never sleeps, they also crave calm, comfort, and quiet moments. As a photographer and graphic designer, my work utilizes nostalgia, discovery, and solitude. I explore and photograph empty spaces during the blue hour when there's minimal light and I use found light to encourage feelings of beauty, hope, and peace.</p>
	<p>Stephanie Rodriguez BFA Drawing</p> <p><i>Out of Style</i>, 2024. Digital illustrations made into a</p>	<p>Rooted in cartooning, my work takes familiar elements and exaggerates them into absurdism. When I was younger, it was a hobby of mine to</p>



magazine, 5.5 x 8.5 inches

comb through fashion magazines—I later took advantage of that hobby in an internship at Time Inc. Now, with my satirical magazine *Out of Style*, I've combined my love of cartooning with my love of making fun of fashion magazines. For decades these magazines have been telling women how they should eat, dress, and behave; now I have siphoned all this through my filter of absurdist humor and social commentary.



Jotaro Tadehara
BFA Animation
Unclouded. 2024.
Animated video;
1920 x 1080 pixels

Unclouded is about a college student who struggles to concentrate and stay focused on assignments. The student also has difficulties passing his classes and begins a journey to improve himself. The film employs humor to explore the challenge of keeping on track in a world filled with distraction. I incorporated a range of animation techniques and worked in the softwares *Clip Studio Paint*, *DaVinci Resolve*, *Procreate*, and *Procreate Dreams*.



Cristian Jose Vasquez
MA Painting

Lemon Bubs, 2023.
Acrylic on canvas,
48 x 36 inches
Rose Fringes, 2023.
Acrylic on canvas,
48 x 36 inches

My work is intended to create arboreal organisms originating solely from my imagination, independent of the boundaries of established natural facts. Through acrylic paint on large canvases, I create distinct and unique visual depictions. Beyond the interest in artistic innovation, my paintings have another purpose: advocating for the preservation of our planet's ecological balance and botanical diversity. The paintings also function as a reminder of both the undiscovered species awaiting revelation and the gradual extinction of existing flora. It is my aspiration that these works prompt viewers to contemplate familiar trees in their surroundings with a renewed sense of appreciation and inspire environmental mindfulness and conservation.

Steven Vieira
MFA Digital Media

As a designer, I consider myself a problem solver, not an artist. Yet I recognize



Evolve, 2024;
Acrylic on
Plexiglass; 17 x 14
x 18 inches

the shared essence of creativity that unites us. Witnessing the evolution of creativity from traditional painting to cutting-edge AI, I've come to appreciate the inevitable progression of time and innovation. My work seeks to bridge the gap between past and present, tradition and innovation, illustrating the symbiotic relationship between designers and artists. By embracing the spirit of evolution, I aim to inspire others to reimagine the possibilities inherent in the dynamic interplay of creativity and change.