

Graduating Student



Study Bunny
Kayla Bonello

ART AWARDS 2020



Pretty Paws Series
Sarah Pereux



Ice Orb
Courtney Downman

Flip the Switch
Mackenzie Boyd



Graduating Student

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*Supernova Blue:
Connecting
Creativity and
Neuroscience*
Zelda Middleton



Pride
Victoria Guy



Developing
Andy Romanchik



ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Graduating Student Art Awards recognize outstanding graduating students and purchase their artwork for inclusion in Sheridan's Art Lending Library.

Through the Art Lending Library, members of the Sheridan community can borrow student and alumni artwork to install across our three campuses.

For the Awards, the Creative Campus Galleries team visit the studios and exhibitions of graduating students from across FAAD. They evaluate individual artworks as well as the professional profile demonstrated by students, who hone their skills writing artist statements and interacting with curators. Through this program, the curators provide students with mentorship opportunities to learn more about best practices and the acquisition process.

Now in its third year, this annual initiative is a collaboration between the Creative Campus Galleries (CCG) and the Faculty of Animation, Arts, and Design (FAAD), with generous funding from Sheridan's Alumni and Advancement department.

In 2020, we received over 150 submissions for the Graduating Student Art Awards. We are pleased to showcase the 21 shortlisted artists and 11 award winners in this publication.

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Amy Assabgui

Art Fundamentals
Class of 2020

Sutured, 2019
Digital illustration
15"x10"

Artist's Statement:

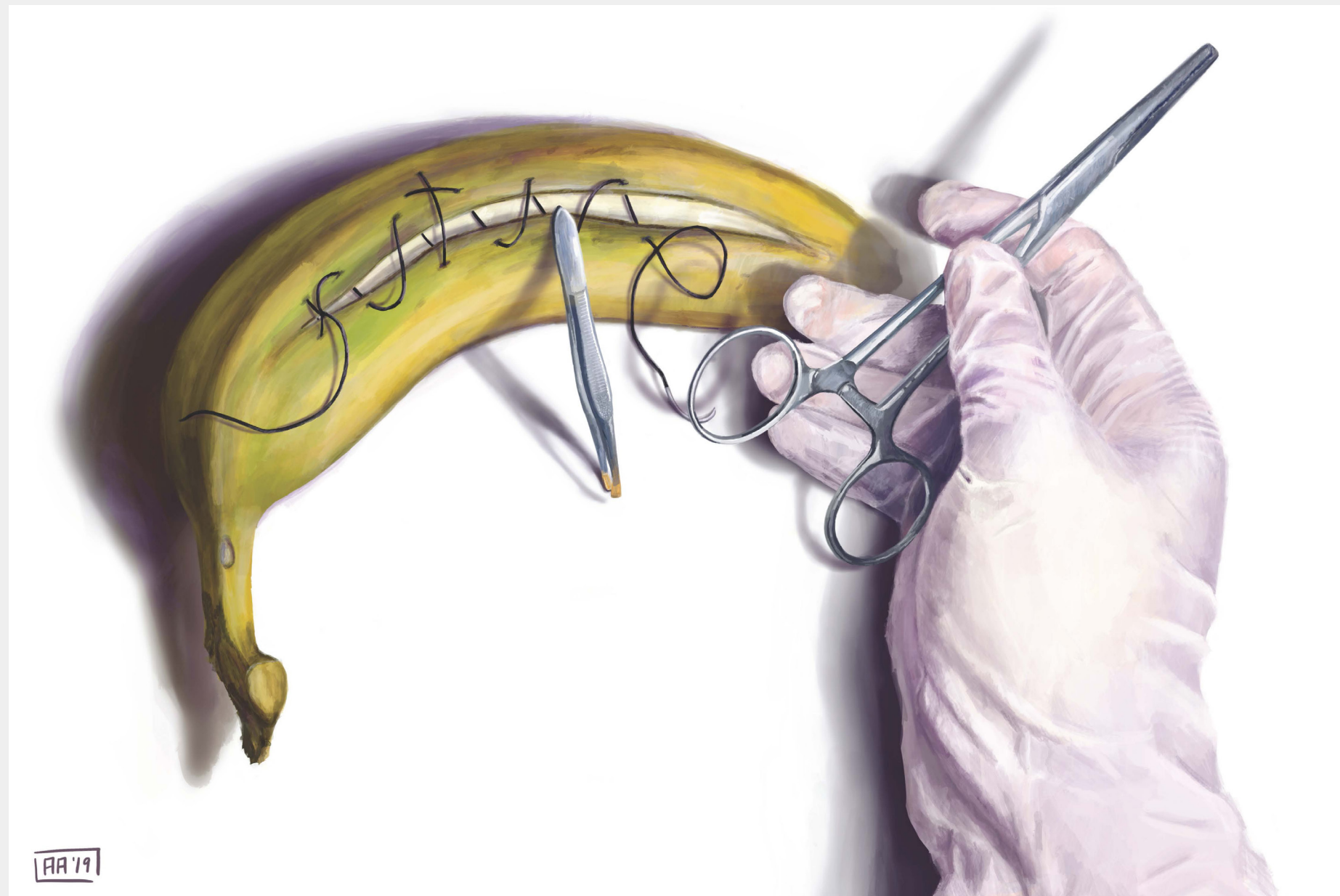
Sutured is a digital illustration that is inspired by the learning process of suturing up a wound. As a high school student, I was first introduced to the concept of suturing by practicing on a wounded banana.

Although the main goal of this illustration was to communicate the meaning of a word typographically, I aimed to create a piece that had different meanings based on the background knowledge of the viewer.

The banana is a subject that can be replaced with any item, mental or physical that needs repair.

Additionally, by keeping the background canvas white and with the inclusion of medical tools, it gives the feeling of a sterile operating table that is capable of completing any surgery. The end goal of this piece is to show that anything can be mended and that we should never lose hope.

Award Winner: \$750



Kayla Bonello

Honours Bachelor of Interior Design
Class of 2020

Study Bunny, 2020

Acrylic on canvas

12"x12"

Artist's Statement:

I wanted to create a piece that I had fun making and enjoyed the process, and something that sparked joy for others. I didn't have to look hard to see how much joy my best friend Winnie (subject of painting) brings me when I'm up late finishing assignments and she is 'binkying' around my studio. Animals bring a sense of peace, and comfort to their owners, and that is what I wanted to portray through Winnie's portrait. It was all about capturing her joyous and exuberant curiosity and share that humour with the observer.



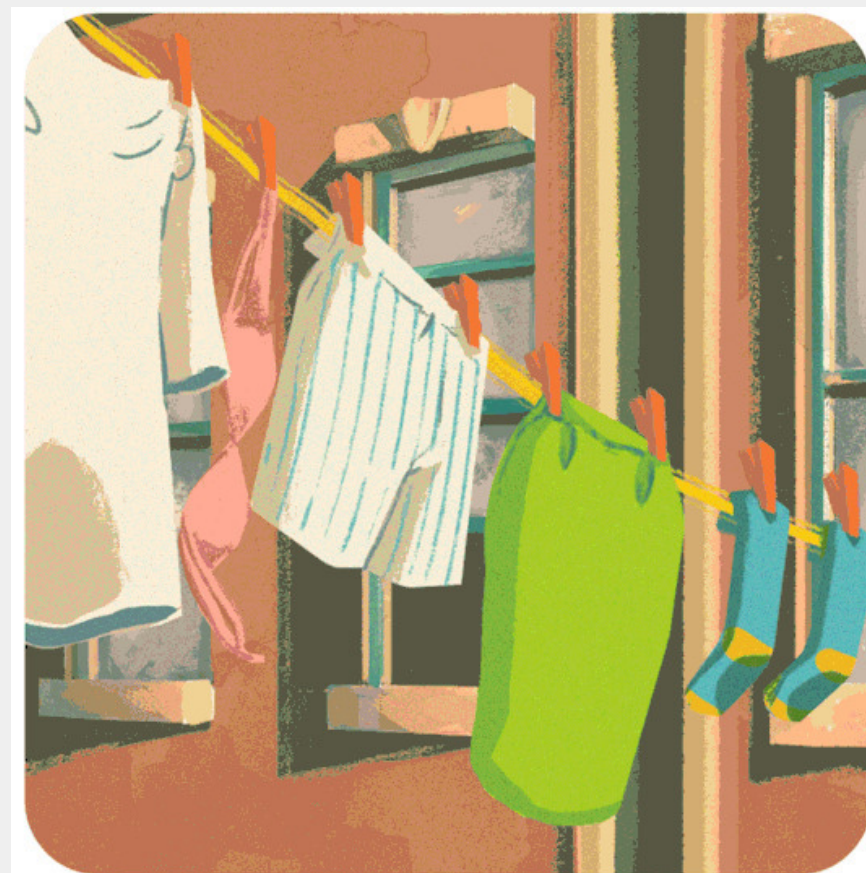
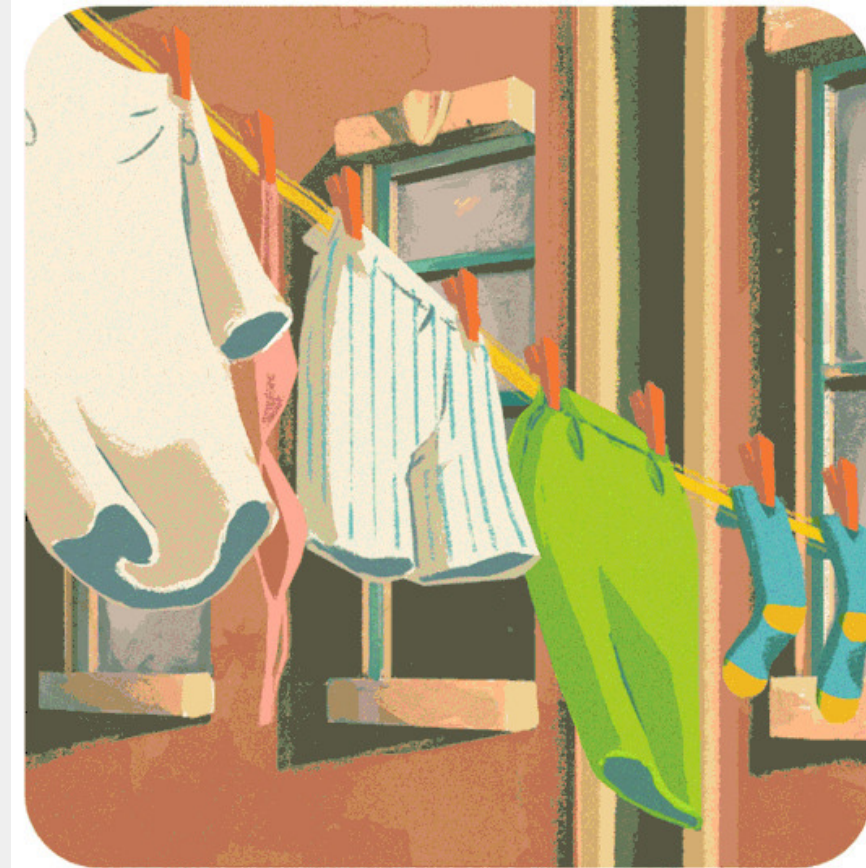
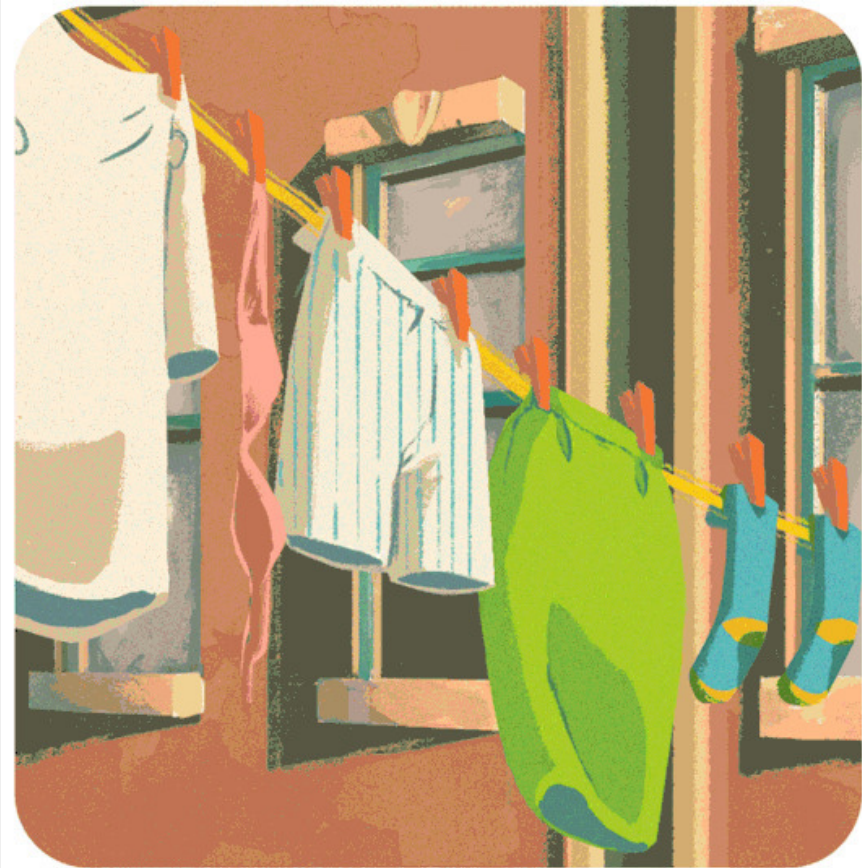
Susan Bordas

Honours Bachelor of Illustration
Class of 2020

Clothesline, 2019
Digital animation (GIF)
7.5"x7.5"

Artist's Statement:

I wanted to create a looping gif showing the subtlety of everyday life in the 60s. Throughout my process, it was important that the motion didn't take away from the illustration but enhanced it. The biggest challenge throughout this project was working around the constraints of a gif, and how I could utilize the limited number of colours I was able to use in a gif.



Mackenzie Boyd

Art and Art History (Honours Bachelor of Arts)

Class of 2020

Flip the Switch, 2019

Oil on canvas

54"x72"

Artist's Statement:

In all honesty, I am not very neat or tidy, I have zero desire to organize your home and I am certainly not obsessed with cleaning. Regardless, when we hear "OCD" this is usually what springs to mind. I have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, but that's not me. Someone once told me that they hated the term "mental illness," instead referring to it as "a more interesting way of thinking." My OCD acts as a sort of lens through which I see the world. It is a part of my reality. It mediates my relationships with people, mundane objects and tasks. Acting, not only, as an excellent platform for discussion, my practice is primarily a means to confront my own lived experience as I come face-to-face with irrationality, deep-rooted fears and explore psychological spaces, narratives and my domestic surroundings. Typically, one's home is a safe space or sanctuary of sorts. For someone living with OCD, our domestic space can simultaneously feel like a trap; full of triggers which keep us bound in a ritualized, compulsive cycle. *Flip the Switch* has acted as a sort of foray into painting these paradoxical domestic surroundings. The viewer's perspective is that of my own, as I stand before the threshold into my bedroom. For all the coziness that exists in the scene, there is a darkness and roughness that suggests a sense of uncertainty. Depicted is a moment from a nightly ritual of mine as I mentally prepare to flick the light switch and "safely" enter my bedroom.

Award Winner: \$2,000



Anson Chan

Honours Bachelor of Illustration
Class of 2020

Preference for Fantasy, 2020
Digital illustration
8.5"x5.5"

Artist's Statement:

Part of a series titled, *The Fear of Adulthood* about the mental challenges one faces when growing up into adult maturity. *Preference for Fantasy* is about the desire to escape from the struggles of reality and hardships in life as an adult.



Jinghe Chen

Honours Bachelor of Illustration
Class of 2020

Day in Subway, 2019
Digital illustration
48.5"x8"

Artist's Statement:

This was the thesis I did last semester "Subway Station". It describes the coincidence of the monster world and the human world at different times in subway station. In here, humans are no longer the only beings. There are all kinds of weird creatures in our living space. When the two worlds overlap together, what interesting scenes will happen when we meet monsters in our daily life. This is a fold out format illustration piece which records a human girl's day at the subway station.

Award Winner: \$500



Courtney Downman

Glass, Honours Bachelor of Craft and Design
Class of 2020

Ice Orb, 2020

Blown, saw carved and sandblasted glass
10"x10"x9.5"

Artist's Statement:

This piece is the most recent in my series of *Saw Carved Vessels*. I begin each piece with a blown glass form made by gathering, blowing and shaping the molten material. Once cooled the glass becomes rigid. Using a diamond bladed saw I then delicately carve into the surface of the glass to create linear texture. I then gently cut the bubble open and create each spike one at a time with the edge of the saw blade. I then sandblast the finished piece to create the matte finish. This series is an exploration of our perception of glass as a fragile material.

Award Winner: \$500



Victoria Guy

Glass, Honours Bachelor of Craft and Design
Class of 2020

Pride, 2019

Blown and carved glass
15"x10"x7"

Artist's Statement:

I create sculptures of the female torso in glass, using colour and pattern to create a visual representation of my emotional and mental state at the time of creation. This method of creation began by a long-time habit of repression and led me on a journey of questioning and discovery. By making these sculptures I am challenging the idea of being "female" and biological sex, the ideals and expectations ingrained in my mind because of my body.

Each stage of creation is part of the process to work through an emotion.

By choosing a pallet of opaque layers of colour, I begin creating the mood of the piece, through carving I choose which colours get revealed, what type of patterning, and where on the body, or whether it gets engraved at all. By cutting through the glass, I create patterns that represent control and balance of those emotions, or lack thereof, reacting to the initial act of creation with fresh eyes.

On their own each sculpture makes for a beautiful object, however by placing the individual sculptures together based on similar coloration the sculptures then begin to relate to each other and speak to the collective effect of these experiences and emotions, and how these small individual feelings have a larger impact overall. When the sculptures are placed together as one piece, it also speaks to a shared experience between individuals.

Award Winner: \$750



Carah Hager

York University/Sheridan College Program in Design
Class of 2020

Toigo, 2019
Wood and textiles
13"x13"x13"

Artist's Statement:

Toigo is a natural, sustainable product and package design created as a means of educational, open-ended play for young children. *Toigo's* package design not only carries its product but it's meant to be used as the product itself. *Toigo* consists of four product designs that make up its entirety:

1. Vegetable toys. Beautiful, durable, eco-friendly vegetable toys are made entirely of wood, copper wire, wood glue, and lastly fabric made entirely from re-purposed and recycled natural fibre clothes.
2. Trilingual cards corresponding to each vegetable toy are mechanically designed to spin when prompted. They read the vegetable names in English, French and German to promote educational play.
3. A multi-functioning wooden bucket made to look like a flower pot. The top half of the bucket detaches from its bottom by simply twisting the top, releasing it from its locking system inside. Once the top of the bucket is removed you have a completely functional water-sealed wooden bucket that can be used in a variety of ways.
4. A multi-functioning bio-degradable untreated cotton drawstring bag. The bag is meant to carry the bucket easily from place to place while securing all moving parts of the bucket inside. The bag is to be synched at the bottom of the bucket creating a fabric to bucket seal making it possible to lift the bucket effortlessly. The bag can also be used on its own to transport items. This is done by simply synching the bag fully and tucking the drawstring inside the bottom of the bag.

Award Winner: \$2,000



Kelly Han

Computer Animation
Class of 2020

Freedom, 2020

Short film

2:09 minutes

Artist's Statement:

Growing up in a rural community, I became very accustomed to clean air and nature all around me. When I started going to university in a much larger town and travelling to cities more often, what always caught my attention was the stark contrast in pollution and the large ecological footprint we have had on the environment and the animals living in it. Instead of grass everywhere, there were streets littered with cigarettes and empty wrappers. Instead of forests, there were landfills, and so, so many buildings; each one large enough to fit half the population of my hometown. Through this film, I originally intended to use empathy, for the life of a black bear, to highlight the environmental influences we have had on our only home - earth - in terms of waste, pollution, and animal habitat loss. But as my film developed, the world moved forward, lockdowns and empty city streets became a recent norm, and my film took on a new meaning. With the impact that COVID-19 has had on our lives, I focused on the theme of freedom as an ironic twist to my story, and the relationship between it and the viewer. Whether we want to have the freedom associated with thinking, dreaming, or acting how we would like to, seeing the ones we love, or being where we would like to be, both in life and physically speaking; the hope for this freedom is what drives us to keep moving forward, and create change for a better, freer, and hopefully a more environmentally friendly world.



Meaghan Hettler

Honours Bachelor of Animation
Class of 2020

Snail Sr., 2019
Puppet, mixed media
14.5"x16"x10"

Artist's Statement:

Snail Sr. is a character from *Plume*, a stop motion group film done in 2018/2019 by Fiddlehead Studio as part of the Bachelor of Animation program. Puppet made by Meaghan Hettler. *Plume* is the story of an injured moth meeting a travelling beetle, their adventure and journey of healing. They cross paths with *Snail Sr.* early on, and he teaches them the importance of pacing yourself and taking it slow! *Snail Sr.* is made from upholstery foam, insulation foam, aluminum wire, latex, sports wrap, wool, and a variety of other materials. He is fully articulated and ready to be animated!

Award Winner: \$500



Hilary MacDonald

Illustration, Honours Bachelor of
Class of 2020

Breakthrough, 2019

Acrylic painting on wood panel
18"x24"

Artist's Statement:

This painting explores the topic of "exposure" through the use of a double exposure look and using watered down layers of paint. This style is inspired by Alyssa Monks' gritty oil paintings that show a range of raw emotion. I really wanted to give the audience the feeling that they are witnessing something that should be more private, but that feeling lends to the theme of exposing oneself and letting others see things that usually wouldn't be revealed.





Jennifer MacDonald

Textiles, Honours Bachelor of Craft and Design
Class of 2020

Circles and Squares, 2019
Hand dyed and silk screen wool
36"x36"

Artist's Statement:

The circle motif was originally hand blocked on paper and subsequently digitized in Adobe Photoshop to create the positive negative circle design. The resulting image was 'shot' on to a screen in the textile studio through a photo emulsion process. A mordant resist paste was pulled across the screen print placing the design on the undyed wool fabric. The fabric was then steamed to set the mordant after which the cloth was immersed in a natural dye bath. The mordant works to resist the dye providing for the circle design to manifest. A marigold dye extract collected by others from the Sheridan College Dye Garden was used. The threads along the edges have been gently pulled away to create the fringe on the finished scarf.

Zelda Middleton

Textiles, Honours Bachelor of Craft and Design
Class of 2020

Supernova Blue: Connecting Creativity and Neuroscience, 2020

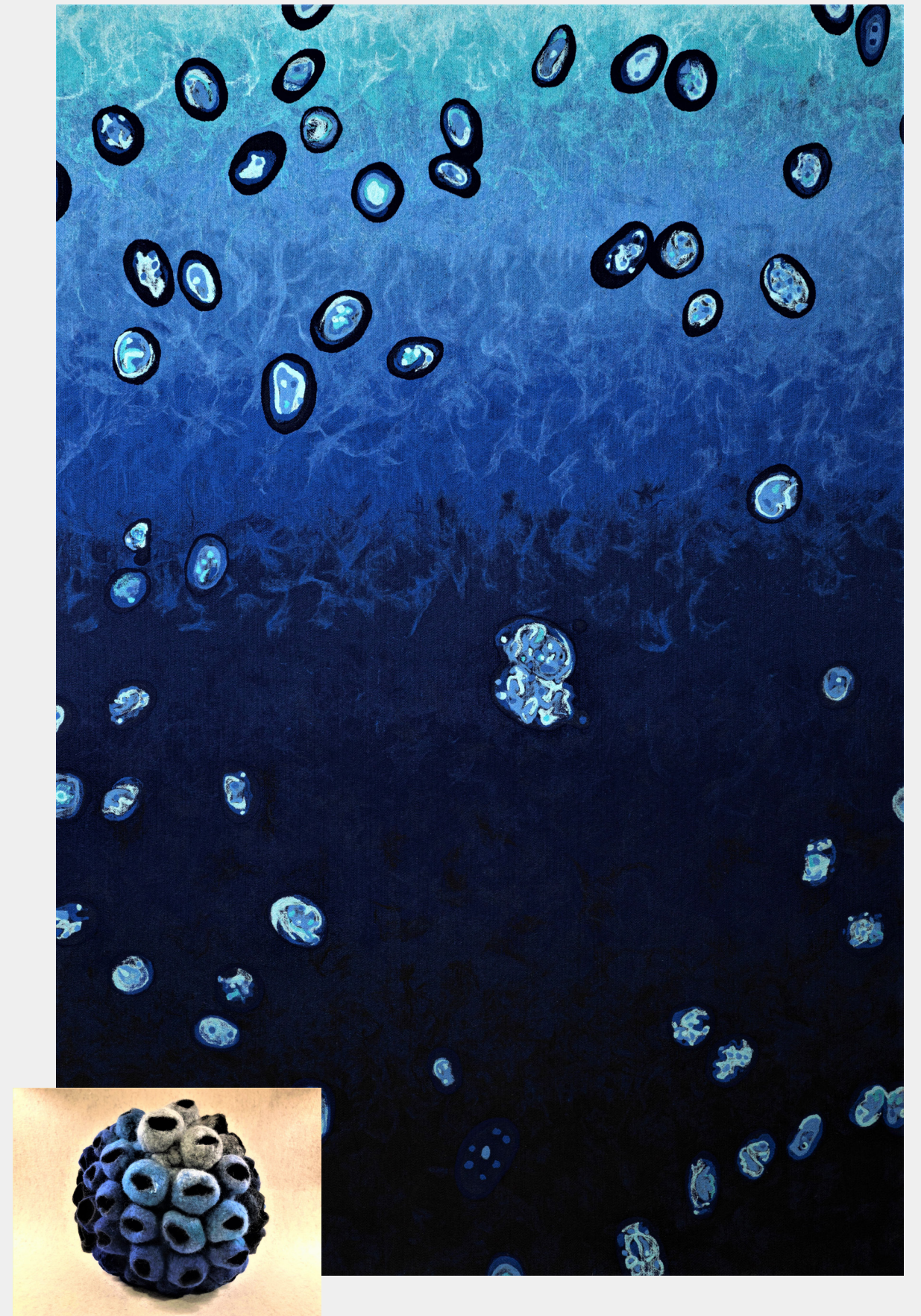
Mural and sculpture - merino wool, acid dye

48"x72", 10"x10"

Artist's Statement:

The idea for this project was sparked by my interest in how creative thoughts originate in the brain. My research delved deeply into the genesis, brain location and actual moment of the creative thought. Throughout the project my knowledge, experience and technical skills increased vastly. I interviewed and visited experts and read and learned extensively about creativity, whilst contemplating how my creative process was nurtured, stimulated, interrupted or stunted and how this would ultimately contribute to my future body of work as a textile artist. I chose the felt medium for its rich symbolism of fibers connecting with each other to create the magic of a new textile and I saw in this a beautiful metaphor for creative thoughts, transforming into materiality and craft. The design was created in Photoshop and Illustrator, inspired from actual neurology lab images. The design was then sampled by hand needle-felting to establish colour accuracy and thereafter needle-felted with an industrial needle felting machine. The accompanying sculptural versions of the cell design elements were created by wet felting techniques including the shibori stitch technique. The wool used was 100% Corriedale and Merino wool and was hand-dyed by myself in the Sheridan Textile Design Studio. I would like viewers of this work to stand before it and internalize the strong relationship between creative thought and craftsmanship through design, against a bold gradient background which rises from dark and sombre to light and uplifting.

Award Winner: \$2,000



Anson Ng

Honours Bachelor of Illustration
Class of 2020

A133, 2018

**Acrylic gouache on illustration board
8"x6"**

Artist's Statement:

This painting was created in the summer of 2018 after my second year of illustration. It represents to me a time of my life where I was able to express myself for only myself. Room A133 was also where I took my first illustration class at Sheridan College and it will forever be where I started to believe in myself as a creative individual and as an artist.

Award Winner: \$1,000



Sarah Pereux

Art and Art History (Honours Bachelor of Arts)
Class of 2020

Pretty Paws Series, 2019

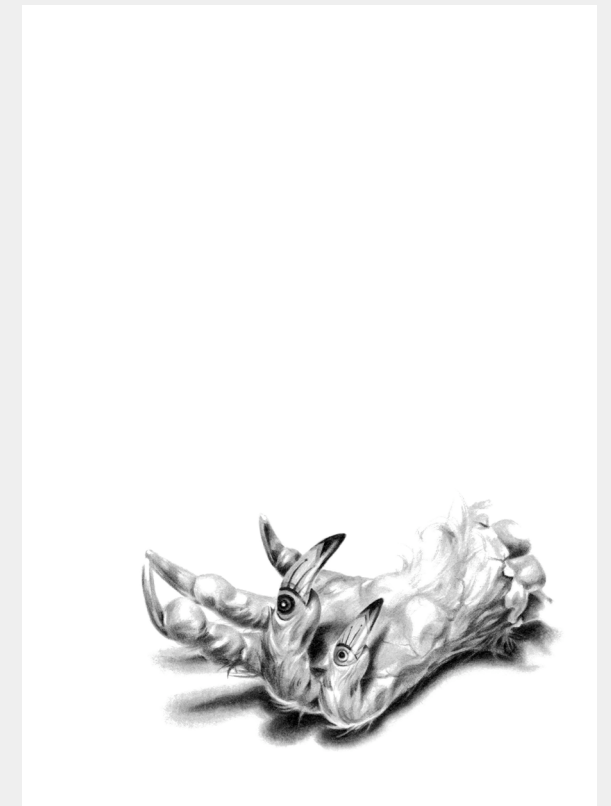
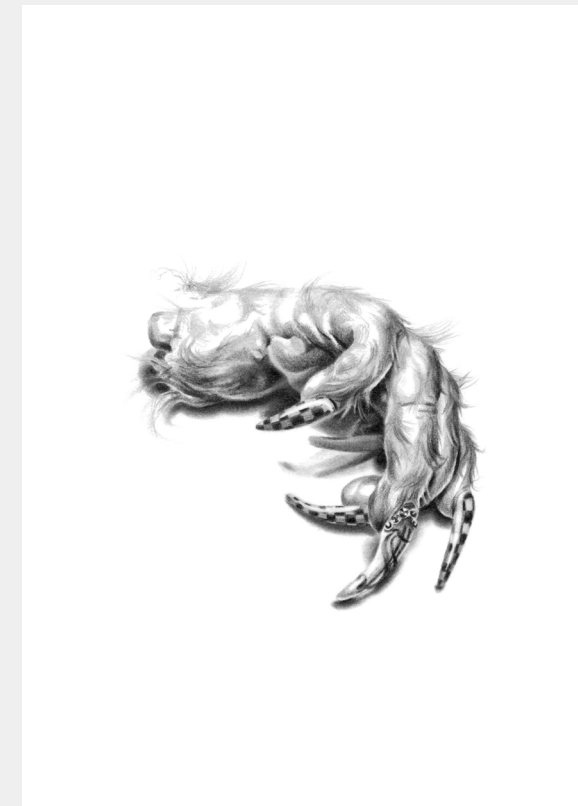
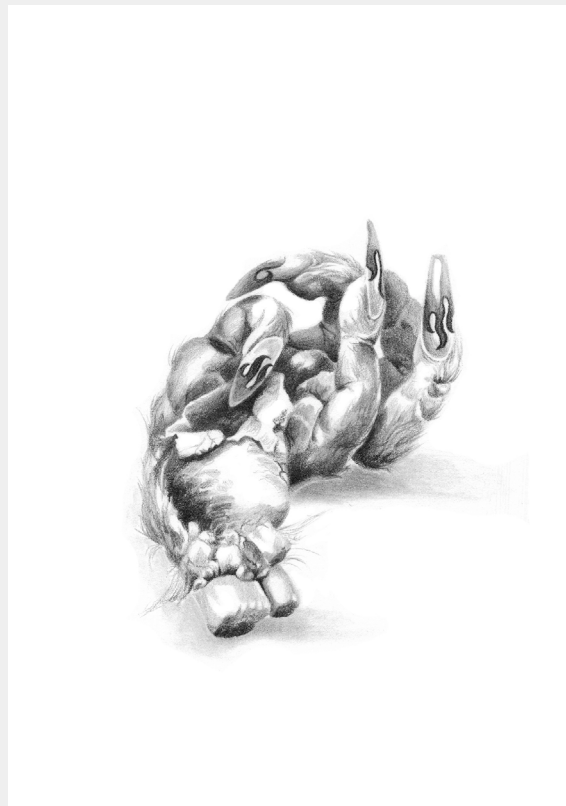
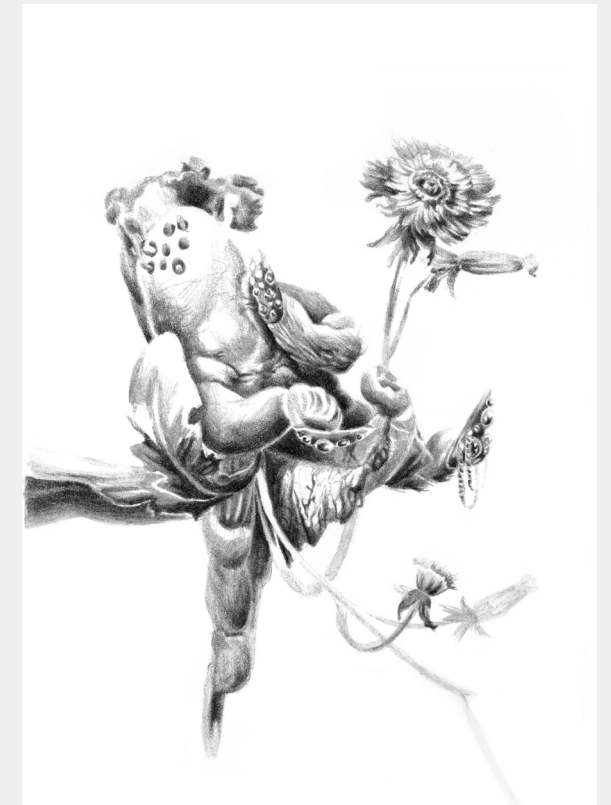
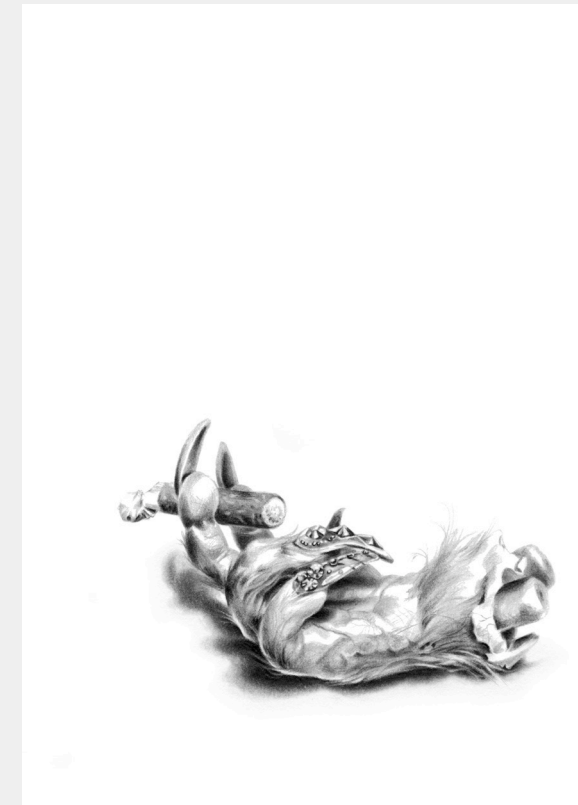
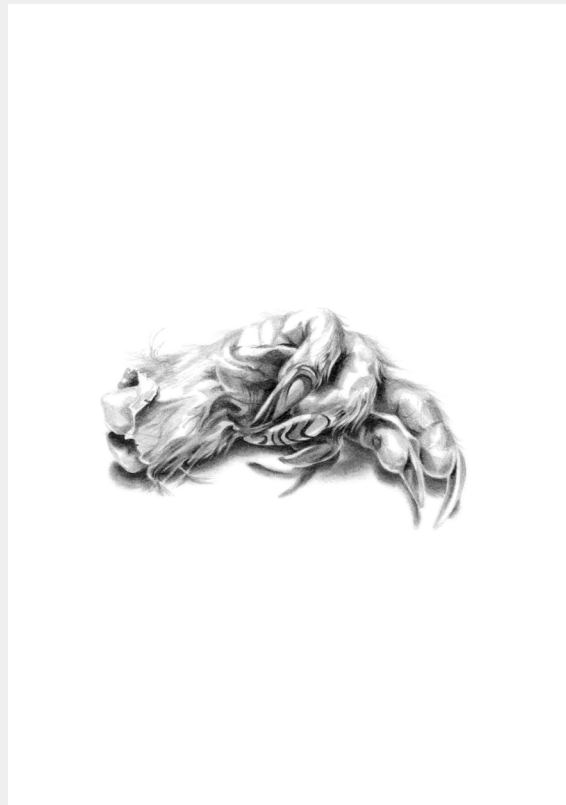
Graphite on paper

Six drawings, 5" x 7" each

Artist's Statement:

Pretty Paws is an on-going series of miniature graphite drawings, depicting severed beaver hands and feet with manicured nails. This series accentuates the natural lengthy shape of beaver claws by applying playful, over-the-top nail art. These nails embrace the kitsch, meaning excessive and tacky ornamentation, which is absurd on both beaver hands and as a beauty standard for women. The application of this artificial beauty onto the decaying beaver appendages creates an uneasy tension by referring to the outstanding issue of cosmetic testing on animals.

Award Winner: \$1,000



Tori Richards

Honours Bachelor of Animation
Class of 2020

Scribblings, 2020
Animation

1920 px x 720px, 2:57 min

Artist's Statement:

In Tori Richard's final year of the HBA of Animation at Sheridan College, she endeavored to make a final Capstone thesis film. This film, called *Scribblings* showcases her sense of art direction, storytelling, as well as the developed skill after being a student for four years.



Andy Romanchik

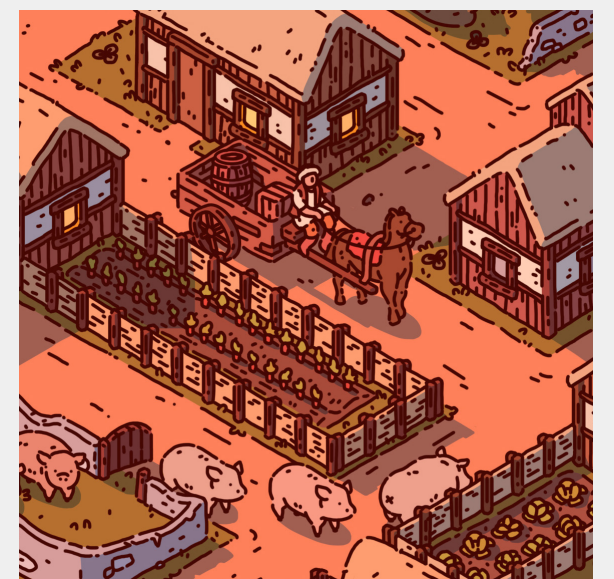
Honours Bachelor of Illustration
Class of 2020

Developing, 2019
Digital illustration
12"x16"

Artist's Statement:

This is an interactive maze that explores character and environment through the lens of the early stages of development; the land is young, and the community is just starting to grow. The audience can experience the excitement of youth by guiding the mischievous child (located in the top left) as he tries to escape town by avoiding all of the adults after a daring carrot heist.

Award Winner: \$1,000



Stephanie Singh

Textiles, Honours Bachelor of Craft and Design
Class of 2020

Ethereal, 2020
Dried flowers and resin
9"x9"

Artist's Statement:

Ethereal is a decorative form inspired by the exploration of natural material studies of natural dyeing. *Ethereal* is a tactile surface design made up of multidisciplinary materials that allows the user to place the form into an interior space. The preservation of *Ethereal* allows its users to embrace in the moment and to remember treasures that may or may not be attainable all season. People are often comfortable in natural environments; we as humans are able to engage our five senses of smell, touch, taste, sight and hearing around the world.

Stephanie designed *Ethereal* with flower pressing, flower dehydration and resin; accomplishing designs that combine art and science while individuals can embody natural plant materials in the moment.



Ernest Wong

Furniture, Honours Bachelor of Craft and Design
Class of 2020

Flow Stool, 2018

White oak & paracord
12"x16"x15"

Artist's Statement:

Flow stool is an exploration of visual lines. Combining a woven seat allows the flow to continue from front to back. The shape of the stool and the weaving technique was intentionally created to visually mimic a wave. By creating a compound curved surface, the stool is not only visually interesting, but it also provides an ergonomically comfortable surface to sit on.





Anamnesis Team

Honours Bachelor of Film and Television
Class of 2020

Directors: Mark Edwards, Ryan Gransden
Director of Photography: Matthew Mosley
Producers: Rose-Marie Daniels, Richard Ferguson

Anamnesis, 2020
Short Film
1080p, 8 minutes

Artist's Statement:

The main idea behind this film was to craft an experimental narrative that allows the viewer to dive into layers within the human mind. We tried to take concepts from several religious and ancient stories about the process of death, with the main influence being 'Bardo', a Buddhist term to describe an individual's state of being - between death and rebirth. We also were inspired by the river Styx from Greek mythology, one which involves being guided through the transition of life and death.

By taking these core concepts and wrapping them in a contemporary setting, we tried to form a minimalist, visual narrative that gives the viewer a sense of the beauty and catharsis in the acceptance of one's death, and ultimately, life.

Thank You

We would like to thank all of the artists who submitted their work for the 2020 Graduating Student Art Awards.
Congratulations to all of the award winners and shortlisted artists!

Creative Campus Galleries

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Visit the online exhibition by scanning this code or by going to galleries-sheridan.ca/awards2020

