

SKYWAY Juried Art Exhibition 2020

Presented by the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference and Waubonsee Community College





"I want my piece to show what pain and sacrifice look like in the eyes of an immigrant in America." Lissa Santos

"I'm less interested in capturing reality as I am manipulating it because reality bores me." Ryan Grandt

"I want to emphasize the beauty of undying decay." Michelle Mathis



Featuring the work of student artists from: College of Lake County Elgin Community College McHenry County College Moraine Valley Community College Oakton Community College Prairie State College Waubonsee Community College

COVER IMAGE: Shannon Henderson, Prairie State College Untitled, Painted construction, 14 x 15 x 14 inches

Selected Works

COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY

Ben Levitt

Bracelet Sterling silver, CZ, 6 x .5 inches



"It means a lot to have my work selected by the Skyway Jurors! I never thought that a piece of mine would be worthy of such high praise. I had my very first jewelry class at the College of Lake County during the fall 2019 semester. That was when I learned how to utilize tons of different skills; one of which was the cabochon setting used to create this bracelet. As part of my final project, I decided to take inspiration from the Marvel Comics' Infinity Gauntlet made popular by The Avengers movie series. This bracelet features the largest stone that I have ever used, and it was the last element added to the piece. It is actually one of the pieces I am most proud of to date. I spent countless hours refining the finish and shape of the piece. I encourage my fellow students to keep experimenting with creativity, and to see where their inspiration takes them!"

This artwork is a unique piece, although it is inspired by the concept of the Infinity Gems of the Infinity Gauntlet. Infinity Gems of the Infinity Gauntlet from Marvel Comics (1991-2017), and of the movie series *The Avengers* from Marvel Cinematic Universe (2008-present).

Diana Gonzalez

Untitled Charcoal on paper, 20 x 18 inches



AWARD OF MERIT

"At the beginning of my first semester in college, it was easy to feel unmotivated and intimidated by being on my own. I had to learn to push and motivate myself. Getting accepted into the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition brings me great satisfaction.

I believe that it's a result of all my hard work. Furthermore, it gives me the drive I need to keep going and to do the best I can to accomplish my goals."

Diane Moreno

Wood fired basket Wood-fired stoneware, 5.75 x 11 x 7.75 inches



Roberta Ulrich-de Oliveira

Extruded Flow #1 Wood-fired stoneware, 11 x 8 x 5 inches



BEST OF SHOW

"Process drove my approach with this piece. The character of the initial extruded square cylinder gradually shifted from static and mechanical, to something more dynamic and flowing. My goal was to use an easy to produce die-cut clay component to create an organic vessel that might elegantly hold a floral stem. It features a surface glaze achieved by the natural ash in a wood fueled kiln to embellish the vessel's form."

Ed Watson

Skeleton Study after Robert Liberace Mixed media on paper, 18 x 24 inches



"Being part of the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition is a great experience for me. I'm told the show brings together student work from eight colleges. I am honored to have been accepted.

I don't normally use mixed media, so this was something of an exploration for me. I was working from Robert Liberace's painting entitled *Spearthrower*. He captures so much about the figure in all of his small figurative works. It was interesting using his clues about the surface anatomy to identify the position of the skeleton within each of these figures. It is surprising how much you see when you really look and attempt to reconstruct another artist's work."

This artwork is a unique piece, but it does respond to *Spearthrower*. Robert Liberace, *Spearthrower*, Oil on paper, 24 x 32 in., Principle Gallery, accessed October 18, 2019, https://www.principlegallery.com/alexandria-artist/robert-liberace/.

Brandon Filas

Butcher Digital pigment print, 20 x 15 inches



"The piece Butcher is part of one of my previous series called Connections. I was looking at ways of telling the story of the subject in a way that mirrored the style I was working with (i.e., getting rid of any unnecessary elements from the image, and leaving it with the essentials)."

Brandon Filas

Drowned Digital pigment print, 20 x 20 inches



"The piece Drowned is part of my current series called 'See' Me. This series is meant to be a way of talking about my thoughts, my feelings, and the experiences that I've had – or how the experiences of those around me have affected my thoughts or feelings. To do this, I focus on things such as wardrobe and posture as a way to get my ideas across."

Brian Garbrecht

Clinton Cyanotype, 20 x 16 inches



"I am honored to have my artwork selected to be included amongst my peers. My artwork, *Clinton*, was made by initially taking a 35mm black and white negative and blowing it up to create a digital negative which I used to make this cyanotype. A cyanotype is a handmade blue print. To make it, you use chemicals on printmaking paper, put the negative on top, and expose it to the sun which burns the image into the chemicals. After going through a water bath, the image you see comes to life."

Bo Russell

you have the most beautiful thoughts Silver gelatin print with pressed flowers and band-aids, 20 x 16 inches



AWARD OF MERIT

"My work from the Stigma series is synonymous with a modern take on surrealism. I'm inspired by tradition, and I greatly value using the tried-and-true techniques of photography. I often find myself experimenting with many unconventional materials and processes to help me convey the overall tone and story of my work. The thought process behind this piece was derived from a state of constant wonder and the perpetual feeling of failing expectations. I also use found objects. The pressed flowers were gathered from a local landscape where I meditate on my concepts, and the band-aids allude to the fragility of a creative mind at work. I'm very pleased with this piece, and I'm looking forward to building on the idea of fusing organic shapes into melancholy portraiture to breathe new life into my artwork.

I am incredibly honored to represent Elgin Community College and the Elgin art community at the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition 2020. It's always encouraging to see great minds at work under the same spotlight, and I wish nothing but the best of luck for all of the artists featured. Lastly, I just wanted to thank my professors, friends, and fellow peers who always keep my inspiration thriving."

Deanne Ferguson

Curve Box Stoneware, 9 x 5.5 x 5.5 inches



"When designing this piece, I utilized a bold glazing technique to create a form with a visual duality; perception shifts when one varies the viewing distance and angle. My glazing style creates an optical illusion that transforms a traditional organic form into a sharp geometric piece by using a bold pattern that seems to jump from the surface.

It is an honor to be recognized in the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition, and I encourage all artists to enter shows periodically. Formal recognition encourages an artist like myself to continually put in that extra effort, and to continue to aim for precision in achieving the vision in one's mind's eye."

Tarren Garcia

3 Oil on canvas, 26 x 26 inches

AWARD OF MERIT



"Participating in the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition has encouraged me to continue making art and pursue it as a career. This achievement has given me confidence in my current artwork and future endeavors. This recognition of my talent and hard work feels validating, with my process of making art there is always doubt and dissatisfaction. If I feel bad about a piece I am working on, I can remind myself of this achievement. I am very thankful that I have been given this opportunity to be in the Skyway art show and it means a lot that I am able to share my artwork with more people."

Ryan Grandt

The Boys Archival inkjet print, 24 x 48 inches



"In my work I take simple concepts and push them as far as I can. My style is very chaotic and my goal is to create art that is as overwhelming as possible. I'm less interested in capturing reality as I am manipulating it because reality bores me. This piece is composed of images of my childhood friends who I believe encompass the energy I've been trying to capture."

Anne Marie Whitmore Lenzini

Pomme Porcelain w/ vintage apple decals, 18 x 7 x 3 inches



"It is such an honor to have been selected by the Skyway Jurors and to be able to display my pieces in the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition 2020! The fact that my artwork was chosen reinforces the strength of my work, and the creative process that brought me thus far. It will challenge me to continue creating artwork that is 'out of the box.'

I am now more confident in what I have learned, and in the skills I have developed. I'm comfortable enough to finally publicly display my work. It is one thing to create items for one's home, but it is so much more validating when one is able to share their work with others within the arts. As they say, 'art is in the eye of the beholder' and by competing, one is open to appreciation and constructive feedback.

My interest in slip casting has reached a point where I am now studying more complicated sculptural designs in advanced ceramics. Pomme is a prime example, as it involved stacking multiple pieces in a repeated pattern. I wanted to go beyond the typical 'single pour' process of slip casting. I also wanted to innovate new shapes, removing traces of the original idea of a jar, and to elevate it into an artwork.

Vintage apple decals were added as a final touch, and as a nod to their use in the craft industry. I chose sections of the apple decals based on their texture and color. Moreover, I felt that the 'circle within a circle' formally carried quite a bit of visual impact."

Michelle Mathis

Eight Oil on canvas, 24 x 18 x 1.5 inches



"To have my artwork accepted by the Skyway Jurors gives me a rewarding level of accomplishment. I am delighted to be one of the celebrated artists to show work in this year's exhibit.

In this painting, I want to recreate years of rust and peeling paint by cutting, gouging, and scraping many layers of applied paint away. I rubbed and dripped into the painting's wounds to imply the neglect weathered by nature. I want to emphasize the beauty of undying decay."

Cheyenne Turley

Crooked Teeth Sterling silver, raccoon tooth, .75 x .787 x 1 inch



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

"Getting the chance to represent the art form I have fallen in love with, by having a piece in the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition, is such an incredible and validating experience for me and my work! It really means a lot to me!

There's limited visibility of jewelry as an art form. Jewelry-making/silversmithing does not get as much credit, or recognition, as some of the more traditional art forms. People often underestimate the process of making jewelry. They often think it's just assembling things bought from craft stores, but what I'm doing is metalsmithing. I cut, shape, solder, and polish sheets of metal and wire into pieces of jewelry while using fire, chemicals, and tools that are specific to this art form.

In my piece, Crooked Teeth, I wanted to explore creating jewelry using unconventional materials. I thought about how people usually view jewelry as a 'pretty' thing. They usually want the shiniest and most perfectly cut diamonds. Similarly, people usually want the brightest and straightest teeth. I thought it would be interesting to present something like a tooth in a classy way, similar to how a gemstone, like a diamond, would be presented."

Jenny Vigh

On the Beach Silver gelatin print, 8 x 10 inches

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



"In my art making I frequently find myself more connected to the process than the final result. The development is full of disarray and the intense fervor of raw emotions and thoughts, and it is the responsiveness of direct creation that keeps me coming back to re-engage with the work. As a painter I find my creative course easily but I have struggled with stoking that fire in regards to my analog photography practice. On the Beach is a part of the series entitled Violent Delights. This body of work is the result of my exploration into sharing a specific moment with the viewer, combined with their impending creative conception of the work. My intention is to change the viewer's role from commentator to companion, from analyst to ally, and to spotlight the inevitable mistakes that accompany any effort to find meaning, artistic or otherwise. I hope to make sense of a chaotic world together."

Jamie Fields

Untitled Graphite, 17 x 14 inches



"In this piece I took a surrealistic approach in combining two objects together in a naturalistic manner. I am honored to be a part of the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition, and I am grateful to be able to share this piece."

Jamie Fields

Untitled Ink, 17 x 14 inches



"In this piece I took a stylized approach in capturing the scene of a place that I have held dear to my heart since childhood. I used the perspective of peering outside of a tent, and the contrast of values to convey a sense of depth and layer. It is an honor to be a part of the *Skyway Juried Art Exhibition*, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share this piece."

Jolene Fritsch

Who Designed Who? Adobe Illustrator, 17 x 11 inches



"Being a part of the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition is truly an honor. I am very excited this piece was selected. I love the fact that I can now share my thought process for making this piece with you. My goal was to try and incorporate robotic and human elements to play with the idea of who really designed who? Are humans a race advanced enough to develop this A.I. technology, or are robots the first inhabitants of this world and are we their creations? This idea was based off the novel I, Robot by Issac Asimov, that asks these questions as well. I had a lot of fun interpreting these ideas and making this piece."

Image used: Dhyamis Kleber, Untitled (cropped version of Stock Photo used), Digital image, Dimensions variable, Pexels, accessed November 17, 2019, https://www.pexels.com/@dhyamis. Book cover concept: Isaac Asimov, Reason science fiction short story in *I*, *Robot* (New York: Gnome Press, 1950), 34-47. Linear design, text, and layout are all

original Jolene Fritsch creations.

Saja Khalil

Palestine Traditions Photograph, 18 x 20 inches



"When I decided to participate in the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition, my initial thought was that I didn't think I would get selected by the Skyway Jurors, as it is so competitive. But I participated in the show because Professor Taylor Hewitt encouraged us to enter our artwork into the competition, and helped us through everything in the process until the final step of submitting our art pieces. That being said, I encourage every student to try and believe in themselves, because even if you don't win, you won't lose anything – it's an exciting experience. As long you know you worked hard and tried your best, you'll always be a winner!!"

Areli Salgado

Late Night Wrenching Times Digital photograph, 18 x 24 inches



"The idea behind this photograph was to showcase the personality of the two people while being in a group photo. Both males in the photograph have a love for auto mechanics and automobiles in general, so having them work in the garage while shooting them was a no brainer. The trick was only showing their passions for certain parts of auto mechanics. While the male standing seems to just be the helper, he is the one who has more knowledge and experience with automobiles. He encourages and helps the other male learn how to make changes and do repairs to his vehicle by first experimenting on the red car in the photo. Their relationship can be seen as more of a father son relationship, where the more experienced individual is guiding and helping the other learn."

Lissa Santos

El Sueño Americano Screen-printed stoneware, 12 x 3 x 3 inches



"The process of creating my sculpture took a couple days, including planning out where I should place my screen prints on the ceramic vessel. My ideas and thoughts are mostly from stories my parents have told me about the challenges they faced coming to the United States. My piece is a mixture of what my parents went through, and stories of immigrant children who are locked up for reasons that are out of their control. I agonize over these children's situation because I empathize with them. They trusted their parents to protect them, and yet they are stuck with the detrimental decisions others have made for them – they don't even have a say in it. I want my piece to show what pain and sacrifice look like in the eyes of an immigrant in America."

Emmanuel Ramirez

Riverside Forest Pastel on panel, 12 x 16 inches



"My landscape piece is personal to me. The forest is a place I visited to get relief from feeling my depression. In the forest I would always stop at this particular area and get lost in the water. I want the viewer to feel drawn into the water while viewing my piece."

Laura Ramirez

A Moment to Myself... Oil on canvas, 24 x 42 inches (Diptych)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



"It is an honor for me to be part of the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition. It makes me feel special that my art has made it this far and I am thankful for the opportunity to have others see what I can do. Participating in the exhibition motivates me to keep learning about art and to improve my art.

The idea for my diptych, A Moment to Myself..., was to create a surreal composition that will express the often-chaotic life of motherhood where finding some time to be alone and at peace is almost impossible even in the silence of outer space."

Eric Vallejo

Anima Ink on bristol, 17 x 11 inches



OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eli N. Abramowitz

The Mellow Lemons Photograph, 30 x 40 inches



"Being included in the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition is like being on the top of the world for a community college student. It means that all of the hard work that has gone into many years of learning, creating, and crafting your skills has paid off.

The Mellow Lemons is actually one image in a series of fruit images that I made entitled Art De Fruit. In this series I wanted to use the different colors of fruit and match the background to the fruit. The process of making The Mellow Lemons was actually very intensive. The yellow background was a very difficult color to shoot. The correct lighting for the shot took quite some time to figure out. The funny part about this piece is that it's not so mellow, but rather it is a very vibrant yellow. This piece is also about looking for the bright sides of things, even in the mundane. It is very easy to overlook the small things in life and take them for granted."

This artwork is a unique piece, but it does respond to Comedian. Maurizio Cattelan, Comedian, (in an edition of three), 2019, Banana, duct tape, and Art Basel Miami Beach art fair gallery wall at Galerie Perrotin's booth, \$120,000-\$150,000. Elise Taylor, The \$120,000 Art Basel Banana, Explained, Vogue; Arts section, December 10, 2019,

https://www.vogue.com/article/the-120000-art-basel-banana-explained-maurizio-cattelan accessed April 14, 2020.

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Larsa Kena

Min Oopera (From Soil) Mixed media, 24 x 24 inches



Dion Ervin

Blow & Trim Acrylic on canvas, 20 x 16 inches



Karen Harbin

Grace Mixed media, 16 x 10 x 5 inches



AWARD OF MERIT

"I am truly honored that my artwork Grace has been chosen for the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition. I am proud of the work that went into this piece and I am truly grateful for the support and guidance I received, from the beginning to the end of its creation.

I wanted the piece to have an old, antique feeling, therefore I used striped paper inside the box to resemble old wallpaper. I also wanted it to feel worn and abandoned so I used a small torch and burned the box, along with some of the elements within the box. The nails represent sorrow and grief and the barbed wire represents a warning to keep at a distance. At the time of its creation, this piece and all the elements within it had a rhythm and a flow, they all felt like they belonged together."

Shannon Henderson

Untitled Painted construction, 14 x 15 x 14 inches



Teferi Hill

Self Portrait at 21 Acrylic on canvas, 16 x 12 inches



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

"Being recognized by any art committee on its own is reassuring to an artist. I can speak for myself and my peers, we are constantly conflicted as to whether or not the career path we have chosen was the right one. It is a blessing to be a part of such an event knowing there are others with similar talents. This will certainly help me be more grounded in my work, and it will also help me overcome any doubt along the way."

Jeri Mendenhall

Untitled Mixed media, 14 x 12 x 5 inches



"Acceptance into the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition 2020 is a great honor. I enjoyed creating this sculpture, and I am glad others seem to enjoy it as well. I wanted to keep the shapes somewhat simple, and to primarily focus on the blending of colors with acrylic paint. I created all these beautiful colors by mixing complementary colors, and then tinting with white. I find the fact that so many colors that can be created from simply pairing of a few colors quite magical. This technique often shows up in my paintings as well. I really love color, and my hope is to share that love through my piece in this year's Skyway exhibit."

Nick Cipra

Untitled Archival inkjet print, 14 x 21 inches



"My piece Untitled was primarily an assignment for the Studio Lighting class at Waubonsee Community College. We essentially got to play director for a day and we chose all the lighting, composition, actors and we really worked on delegating tasks and working together to make an image. I really wanted to focus on using light and light modifiers to create an image that looked like it was in natural light but using artificial light. I chose to use a big light that swept across the front of the bookcases along with lights from behind that went down each aisle of the bookcases. We all worked together in the classroom to try to develop an overarching theme that would connect each of our photographs. We agreed on the idea of trying to show indifference in our images, I did so by having the woman on the ground and all the other subjects just going about their business.

I think if you are a photography student and want to try getting your work seen by people, you should be submitting to every show that you possibly can – especially *Skyway*. If you are making work that you are proud of then you should want to get it out into the world for people to see it. Submitting to galleries through school is the easiest way to have your work get into shows. Typically, juried exhibitions outside of the school require a submission fee (just to submit a few images), creating your own prints, matting, framing, and delivery to the gallery. The *Skyway* Exhibition is the easiest and best way to have your work seen in person by people all over the area."

Johnny Lo

Ginko Bowl Woodfire B-mix, Anagama fired, 4 x 9 x 9 inches



"I see being in the Skyway Juried Art Exhibition as a step in my journey as an artist, to step outside of the only home I know, namely the Waubonsee Ceramics Studio. To step out, however briefly, from the familiar clay community I know well, to venture out and make other connections.

The Ginkgo Bowl builds on two tracks of esthetic development. The ginkgo leaf represents an ancient Asian origin, which manifests in the free-hand carving and gentle triangular shape of the bowl. The wood fire flashing on the outside complements the hare's fur Temoku glaze on the inside. Together they become whole."

Angus Noack

Paper relief Charcoal on paper, 24 x 18 inches



"Waubonsee Community College has a blind-juried process to identify the artworks that represent Waubonsee in the annual Skyway Juried Art Competition. Those works then compete against all the works from the other seven Skyway colleges. To have been selected in two separate juries out of several schools and hundreds of student work is a great honor especially after getting selected last year by the Waubonsee Juror but not by the Skyway Jurors.

This particular work was made using charcoal on paper. It developed from a Drawing II class assignment that encouraged me to focus on accurately capturing what I saw from my still-life. It consisted of a sculpted paper relief under strong lighting. Even though I worked for many hours in the studio, I had to finish the drawing at home by looking at a photograph of it because there was so much detail involved. This leads me to my advice for other students; if you want to make your work the best that you can, it means putting in the time both in class and outside of it."

Hope Novack

Fragmented Bristol board, 24 x 14 x 2 inches



Becca Overton

Third Time's a Charm Newspaper, 15 x 15 x 1 ½ inches



"I thought it was an honor to have been considered for Skyway, but the fact that my work was selected by the Skyway Jurors is so exciting! This is an incredibly validating experience for me. It makes me feel like a 'real' artist.

This was the third piece I made for my Design I assignment. It was the best one I had made, hence the title *Third Time's a Charm*. The rules were to make a composition out of newspaper. The newspaper could have elements added or subtracted but we couldn't use any glue in the construction of the piece.

I didn't have much of a plan at first, but then I decided I wanted rows of triangles inside of squares that alternated between pointing up and down. This was a nod to the 'stonks' meme that had been popular on the internet at the time, especially since the paper I was using was an issue of Investor's Business Daily. Initially I was going to cut the folds of newspaper so they would just remain triangles, but after looking at my piece from a distance, Professor Stuckey and I decided that it looked better with the folded paper intact. I think it adds dimensionality to the work that makes it quite visually captivating."

Newspaper used as material to manipulate: Investor's Business Daily, print edition, date unknown. This artwork is a unique piece inspired by the 'stonks' meme (Facebook: Special Meme Fresh's page, June 5, 2017; Imgur: photo dump posted by 186000000001, March 15, 2018; ad infinitum). Accessed April 13, 2020, https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/stonks.

Best of Show

Roberta Ulrich-de Oliveira Extruded Flow #1, Wood-fired stoneware College of Lake County

Awards of Excellence

Teferi Hill

Self Portrait at 21, Acrylic on canvas Prairie State College

Laura Ramirez

A Moment to Myself..., Oil on canvas (Diptych) Morton College

Cheyenne Turley

Crooked Teeth, Sterling silver, raccoon tooth McHenry County College

Jenny Vigh

On the Beach, Silver gelatin print McHenry County College

Awards of Merit

Tarren Garcia

3, Oil on canvas McHenry County College

Diana Gonzalez

Untitled, Charcoal on paper College of Lake County

Karen Harbin

Grace, Mixed media Prairie State College

Bo Russell

you have the most beautiful thoughts Silver gelatin print with pressed flowers and band-aids Elgin Community College

Meg Duguid

Director of Exhibitions Department of Exhibitions, Performance, and Student Spaces (DEPS) Columbia College Chicago

Meg Duguid is a performance artist with a studio-based practice. She believes that documentation is paramount to her art making and is invested in the ways that documentation and art can be integrated in a single practice. Additionally, Duguid co-manages an arts event calendar and an archive, The Visualist/ Chicago Visual Arts Calendar.

Laura Kina

Vincent de Paul Professor of Art, Media, & Design and Director of Critical Ethnic Studies DePaul University

Laura Kina is an artist-scholar-educator. Kina's visual artwork focuses on themes of distance, belonging and the fluidity of cultural difference and the slipperiness of identity. She has exhibited widely in galleries and museums nationally and internationally.

Kina is also an avid editor and curator. She is lead curator for a Chicago-Midwest module for the Virtual Asian American Art Museum. Kina is a co-founder of the Critical Mixed Studies conference, journal, and association. Currently she is working as co-editor for forthcoming special issues on Asian/Asian American art for Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas, and Verge journals, and is a series editor for The University of Washington Press for a forthcoming series on Critical Ethnic Studies and Visual Culture.

Thank you to all the student artists, faculty, staff and jurors for your enthusiastic participation.

Special thanks to Waubonsee Community College:

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