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The Gallery at Barrington Center for the Arts | Gordon College Announces

SENIOR THESIS ART EXHIBITION

(delayed from May 2020)

Hannah Andres, Kathryn Berchin, Meredith Free, Elizabeth Girardy, Vi Khuc, Michaela Lick MaryKate McKinney, Josh Peterman, Emily Sheetz, Emmy Short, & Kaitlyn Wulf

The Gallery at Barrington Center for the Arts, Gordon College is proud to announce the Thesis Exhibition of its art graduates from the Class of 2020. The exhibition was cancelled in May of this year due to the Covid pandemic but is now installed in the two main galleries and Loggia Exhibition Hall of the Barrington Center. At present the exhibition is not open to the public until the Commonwealth of Massachusetts removes this limit – but the exhibit will be featured in an online “virtual exhibition” beginning the week of August 31. This exhibition is the culmination of four years of intensive studio art study and practice and constitutes the main artistic “statement” of the graduates — revealing genuine insight, artistic excellence, and high motivation of these young artists.

Painter **Meredith Free** states:

“...by using tree imagery to capture memories I associate with loss, [I have sought to] provide a *place* for the *unplaceable* memories of trauma and grief... to lead the bereaved back through the ambiguities of memory. By reflecting on the death of my mother four years ago, I sought a visual language to capture the incomprehensible significance of memories in grief.”

Printmaker and installation artist **Kathryn Berchin** states:

“My work pre-and-post-quarantine must have this difficult conversation— this current place speaking into the places I’ve embodied and those places helping me embody this place. The space inside my heart and mind is where they intersect—this one space, which I have been surprised to find brings many ways to one.”

Author and illustrator **Hannah Andres** writes (in the voice of one of her characters):

“I, cross-legged and moored to reality, sit at the crossroad between a dream I once saw and a history I once heard. Together, they become a myth, a story which springs from my lips and pours with ink from my hands. I am Pythia, and I know the folly of man. The cold ocean spits out the names of the mighty heroes that sailed on its surface and weeps at my feet for the forgotten that sank to its floor...”

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Painter **Michaela Lick** states:

“The process of making this body of work became reflective of more than just the imagery within my dreams but began to encapsulate more perplexing notions. The allure of painting stems from its ability to explore beyond the ideational inception of an idea, allowing one the ability to enter and inhabit other spaces.”

Installation artist **Kaitlyn Wulf** states:

“This piece is a manifestation of the fragmented nature of our lives—of memory, of the self, and of our relationships. It is a meditation on the selectiveness of our memories and experiences, on what we choose to share and what we choose to keep hidden. The simultaneous connection and disconnection in our personal and social lives creates a stage on which we present our obscured selves and interact with obscured versions of others. In dark images and harsh reflections that shut out intimacy, the selective presentations of ourselves are set up as monuments, but in disorienting isolation.”

Muralist **Emily Sheetz** states:

“I began this work in June of 2019, long before a pandemic would shut down our world, before everyday life would cease to exist... all of us stressed, anxious, tired, weary... how had our everyday lives become so unbearable to take part in? We were all doing wonderful things—working hard to be our best... [but] I had lost my sense of peace. The sun is a wonderful thing. It rises once a day and sets once a day. It will never do any more or any less... Pick one sunset. Watch the colors change and melt into the horizon. Tomorrow, it will rise and tomorrow it will set.”

Installation artist **MaryKate McKinney** states:

“My mind is my room. I allow myself to simply be—and I am transcended [moving] into my thought patterns and memories. They are coated in gems and dreamlike hues. To step into my mind is to step into an ethereal incandescence. Memories are hazy. They have rhythm. I reflect; feeling when moments were like a warm glow or when they were a biting cold, flashing back and forth between the past and the present. Each memory carries a weight: pain, neutrality, or euphoria. I revisit. I feel what I felt...”

Each of these young artists has spent more than ten months gestating and producing a body of work uniquely expressive of their own research, internal struggle, vision and insight. We are very proud at long last to mount an exhibit of this compelling new work.

Campus members (Students, Faculty, and Staff only) are invited to view the exhibit in-person during limited open-hours with a Barrington Staff member. Socially distancing guidelines must be followed. More information to be sent out.

Off-campus visitors: Please view our Virtual Gallery at
<https://www.gordon.edu/seniorexhibits2020>

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