

Blue-Ring

Year: 2019

Medium: Ceramics

As someone that solely practiced realism in pencil drawings, this mug was my first venture into the abstract -- and one of my first into ceramics. While it still has some realistic aspects, I definitely felt more comfortable with constructing things that don't quite make sense. This mug was slab-built and the handle was pulled. Each sucker on the handle was sculpted individually before being attached. I chose to paint the blue-ringed octopus, which is an animal that I've been fascinated with since the first time I saw it on National Geographic. Octopi, in general, are such intelligent creatures that can virtually shapeshift to blend into their surroundings, and I find that incredibly mesmerizing. In particular, the blue-ringed octopus has a striking pattern that made it extremely fun to paint.

Height: 9.8 cm Diameter: 7.7 cm



Waterfall

Year: 2019

Medium: Ceramics

This is my largest ceramic piece, standing at about 10 inches tall. Continuing my exploration of surrealism, I coil-built this piece. I started knowing that I wanted to layer the coils in a way that branched out of its original shape. When I finished, I felt that the cascading manner of this piece was similar to a waterfall. There is another opening on the reverse side of the piece (not pictured) that completes the waterfall. To begin, this is NOT a middle finger. I have decided that it is a ring finger. The inclusion of this finger plays into the surreal aspect of the piece. Why is it there? We'll never know.

Function: vase

Height: 25.5 cm

Finger Height: 6.9 cm

Diameter @ widest part: 8.3 cm



Mikaela's Nose

Year: 2021

Medium: Ceramics

The body of this planter is wheel-thrown. I made the decision to add a nose after the body became warped in the trimming process. The nose itself is based off of that of my dear friend Mikaela, which is why this piece is named "Mikaela's Nose". She has an aquiline nose that I spent several classes trying to replicate. The ears are of my own design and were added after I deemed the piece to be too plain, with holes specifically drilled to put real earrings. Unfortunately, the glaze (chosen by Mikaela) closed up the holes, despite cleaning them out before firing. There is a crack above the nose bridge that appeared after the initial bisque-firing. I had hoped it would be more apparent after glazing, but it was incorporated well nonetheless. Furthermore, I had initially envisioned a more grey-toned glaze, but chose this color upon Mikaela's insistence.

Height: 6.8 cm

Diameter: 7 cm

Diameter including ears: 11.3 cm

Ear height: 4.4 cm

Nose height: 4.2



They're Eyes

Year: 2021

Medium: Ceramics

This piece is named “They're Eyes” mainly due to the fact that some people likened them to breasts, and I wanted to clear up any misconceptions. It's initial function was a cup, but it now stands as a jewelry dish. The body was thrown on a wheel and the eyes were attached after trimming. Since making Mikaela's Nose, I had an interest in other facial features. The eye-making process was a new challenge for me. I based their form on how human eyes are constructed on wax figures, specifically those at Madame Tussauds. A lot of it was trial and error; I redid them at least three times before being satisfied with the final product. Some things I would consider trying with a similar piece is adding more eyes around the circumference of the cup and changing their shape to show more variation. One of my favorite aspects of this piece is the inside. I chose to take a risk with the glaze-firing process by placing a bright blue marble inside prior to firing, despite my teacher advising me against it. He was unsure if the marble would pair well with the glaze. However, it turned out just the way I had hoped, and I couldn't be happier with it.

Height: 4.5 cm

Diameter: 7.9 cm



Cobras

Year: 2021

Medium: Ceramics

This vase was largely based on antique double-handled vases. The body was thrown on the wheel, and the cobras were attached after trimming. Each cobra was sculpted by hand; adding the details was a painstaking process. The scales on the belly were gently carved out with a needle tool, and maintaining its shape proved to be harder than I thought. The hardest part, however, was when the snakes broke off in an almost bone-dry state. After all that work, I was devastated. Fortunately, I was able to fix it (clearly) and it now proudly stands in my room. I had initially used a smoky matte black glaze to create an iron-cast appearance, but discarded the idea and used a clear glaze instead as I felt that the subtle details would be more noticeable. My signature (bottom of handle) shows my initials in a yin-yang symbol.

Height: 8.2 cm

Diameter: 7.9cm

Diameter including snakes: 11 cm

Snake height: 6 cm



She but the H is silent

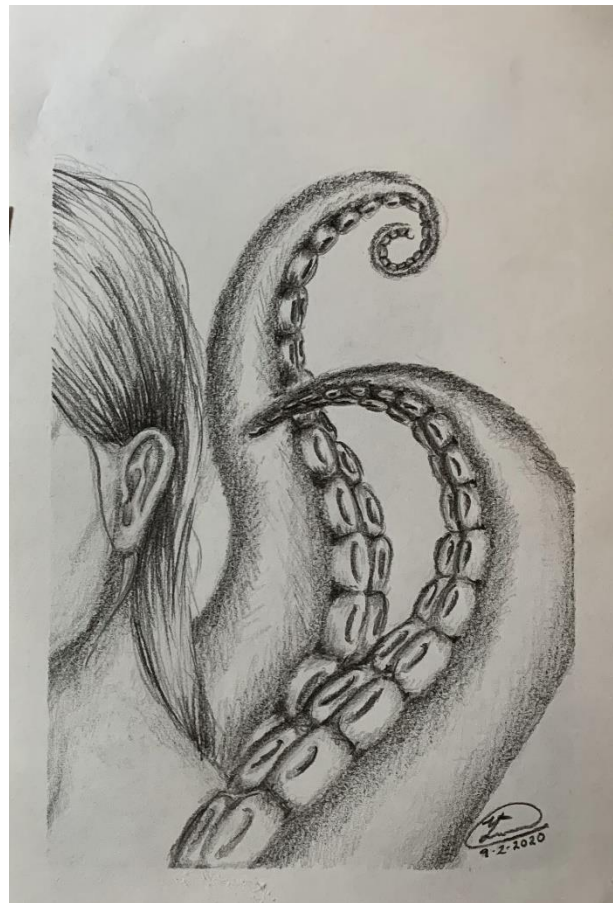
Year: 2020

Medium: Pencil on paper

I started this piece with the intent to only draw a portrait. However, I again branched into the surreal theme with the octopus tentacles. I've titled this piece "She but the 'H' is silent" because then it would be pronounced "sea." Since octopi live in the sea, I believe it is appropriately named. I wanted to know how a piece would be perceived if a portion of it was missing or if it was divided into two (in this case, both). I found that the right side, which shows no facial features, was significantly more eerie than the left. The left, however, was more fantastical. A part of the face is missing from both sides, yet one can infer that it is a human being. This project really made me consider doing similar studies in the future.

Width of one sheet: 6 in

Height of one sheet: 9 in



Dec. 31st, 2021

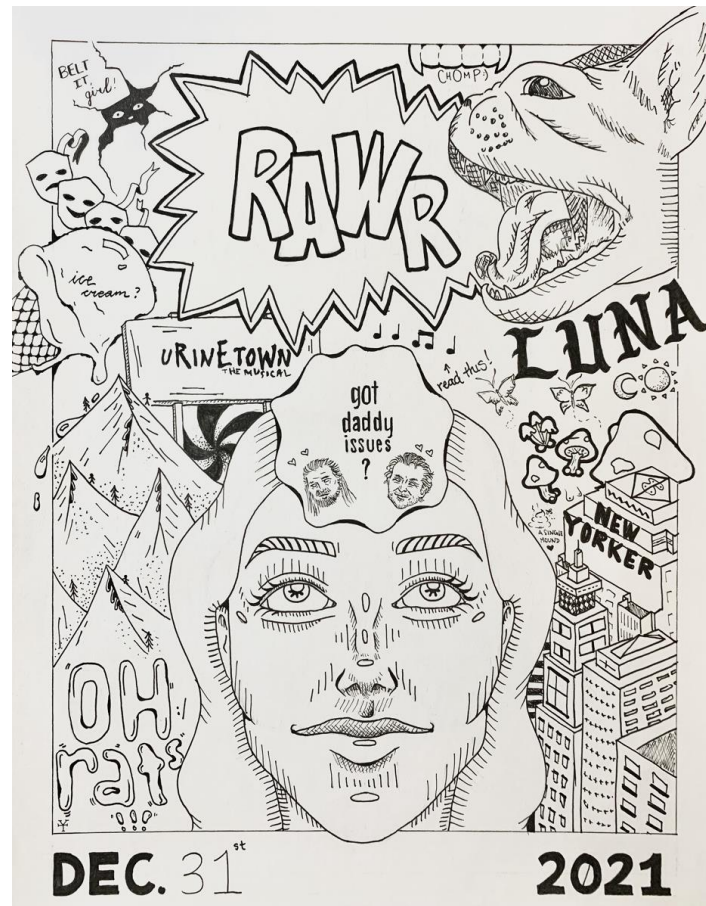
Year: 2021

Medium: Pen on paper

Continuing my series with pen on paper, this piece, which I started in November of 2020, was largely based on one of my friends. First off, she has ridiculously long eyelashes and is obsessed with her dog, Luna. She is also very involved in the theatrical arts, and is looking to pursue a career in theater. Our most recent school production -- and her favorite, at the time -- was the musical, Urinetown. Her catchphrase is, "Oh rats." I loved I am heavily inspired by manga artist Junji Ito in how much of the page he fills in his work, and hoped to incorporate that style in my own.

Width: 8.5 in

Height: 11 in



Do you know the mushroom man

Year: 2021

Medium: Digital Art

This was created in February of 2021, when the power in my house was off for four days due to a winter storm. Since most of my teachers could not assign work, I opted to draw this instead. This gave me the opportunity to explore several different brush settings and stroke controls. A trending theme on social media at the time was mushrooms, which manifested itself in this piece.

