



36th Annual Fine Arts Exhibition: CAT & MOUSE

PRESENTED BY: The Decatur Arts Alliance in collaboration with the Decatur Branch of the Dekalb County Public Library System, and the Georgia Center for the Book

EXHIBITION DATES: May 2 – June 13, 2025

GALLERY HOURS: Thursday – Saturday, 1-5 PM

LOCATION: Fourth Floor Gallery of the Decatur Library, 215 Sycamore Street, Decatur, GA 30030

Cat and Mouse...

Is a playful way to illustrate a certain type of power struggle. This game of constant pursuit, capture, and escape is a trope of fables, fiction, movies, and cartoons. Will one win over the other, or are the combatants locked in a never-ending game where the upper hand is gained, but eventually lost?

After her enemies forced her to abdicate her throne on July 24, 1567, leading to unsuccessful attempt to regain the throne, Queen Mary of Scotland fled to England, seeking the protection of her cousin, Elizabeth I. Perceiving Mary as a threat, Elizabeth confined her in various castles and manor houses in the interior of England.

Queen Mary was a skilled needlewoman and sewed many embroideries while she was under house arrest in England. An important means of expression for Mary, her amazing collection of embroideries featured fantastical beasts, Latin sayings, and hidden meanings...

One embroidery in particular, Mary's embroidery of a cat, is imbued with hidden meaning. The cat depicted has red fur, a nod to Elizabeth I's red, Tudor hair. The cat has its paw on the tail of a mouse, stopping it escaping. Is this a reference to the power struggle between these two female monarchs, or to Mary's imprisonment, where the meek mouse, though under the cat's foot, is bound to escape?

The Decatur Arts Alliance invites artists working in all media to submit work that explores the meaning of the game of "Cat and Mouse" in all its aspects: historical, political, and moral. Like the embroidery of the imprisoned Queen of Scotland, hidden meanings, games, and feints are encouraged in all works...



Sudden Savant Syndrome

by Brad Barrington, Fort Worth, TX

Bronze

21 x 10 x 6 inches

2024

Artist Statement

"Sudden Savant Syndrome" is a visual depiction of a man that went out for a drink, sang karaoke, and when he left the bar was beaten up badly. On his way to the hospital he came to and noticed things looked differently. When he awakened the next day things again looked very different. While he was never good at math prior to the accident he was a mathematical savant afterwards. This is a true story. Scientists have since tried to reverse engineer the accident with the hopes of solving the mystery of how savant syndrome occurs.

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Better Run

by Arabella Brown, Marietta, GA

Watercolor

10.5 x 14 inches

34 1/16 x 26 1/16 inches (framed)

2024

Artist Statement

This piece is a large scale watercolor painting exploring a colorful recount of the last days of the dinosaurs. How does nature control creatures, and how do they try to escape?

For Purchase Information contact 404-371-9583 or FineArts@decaturartsalliance.org



Lose Control

by Armando Chacon, Lilburn, GA

Oil on canvas
24 x 24 inches
2025

Artist Statement

This painting is a result of a long study of music. This piece describes how a song like "Lose Control" by Teddy Swims and its lyrics can mean visually. Composition, color and harmony (visual & audible) are meshed into a work of art.

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Samsara Sushi

by Marc Chicoine, Raleigh, NC

Pastel and encaustic on canvas

36 x 48 inches

2023

Artist Statement

Arjuna saw in that universal form unlimited mouths and unlimited eyes. It was all wondrous. The form was decorated with divine, dazzling ornaments and arrayed in many garbs. He was garlanded gloriously, and there were many scents smeared over His body. All was magnificent, all-expanding, unlimited. - Inspired by this excerpt from the Bhagavad Gita, whether we are cat or mouse changes based on the turn of the wheel. Which side will you be next?

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Don't Touch My Cat

by Natalia Cole, Decatur, GA

Acrylic paint, ink, paper on canvas

10 x 20 inches

2024

Artist Statement

In “Don’t Touch My Cat”, I explore the journey of finding our identities through the eyes of a girl. The cat, her animal sidekick in her story, is being shielded in her arms. She protects the cat, representing femininity and innocence, from the world. The paper in the background raises the surface slightly and shows the girl's separation from the world. I also explored vibrant hues such as quinacridone magenta and ultramarine blue to show the strong emotions of our formative years.

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Just Keep Going

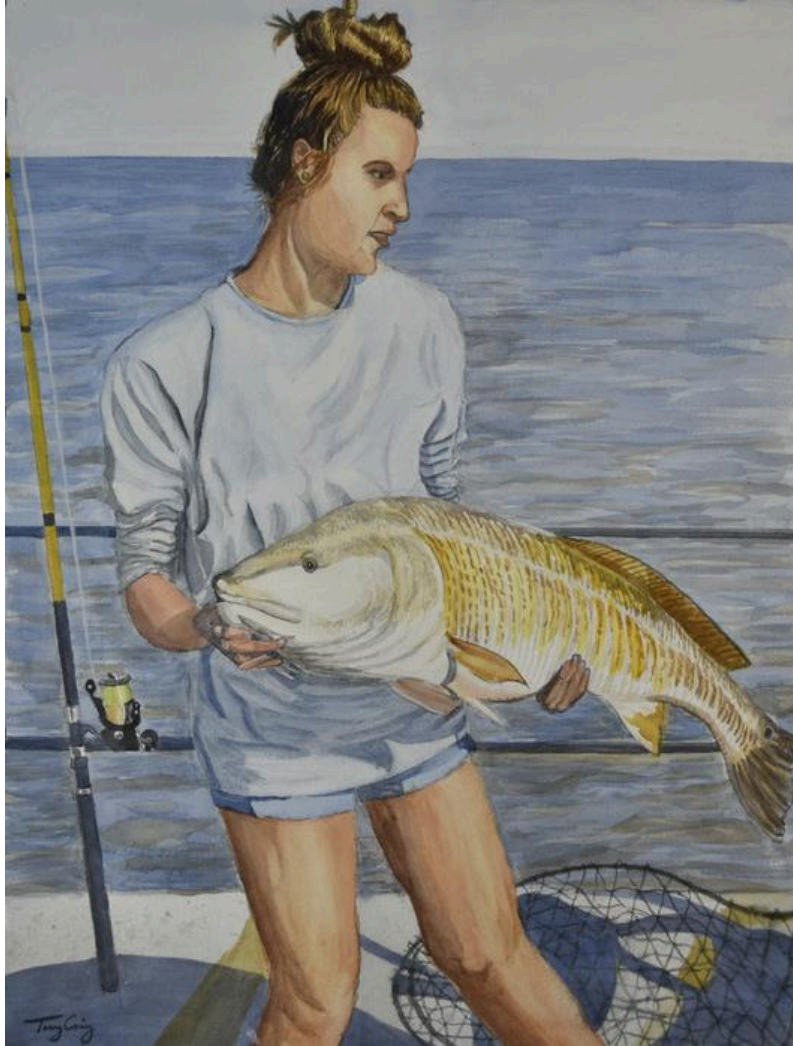
by Tara Coyt, Atlanta, GA

Archival pigment print
26 x 22 x 1 inches
2025

Artist Statement

Two pedestrians -- one clad in work attire, the other carrying groceries -- struggle against the elements as they traverse a maze of snowy footprints to reach their destinations. The coexistence of humans and nature is often fraught, with each trying not to be overcome by the other.

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Redfish

by Terry Craig, Brunswick, GA

Watercolor
28 x 24 inches
2025

Artist Statement

After being enticed to come closer, the big redfish took the bait and he was caught! The fisherwoman brought him in, measured him and threw him back for another day. Fish taken off the fishing pier on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

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It's A Maze To Find You

by Ansley Denihan, Marietta, GA

Acrylic, oil, cold wax, posca pen on canvas panel

16 x 18 inches

2024

Artist Statement

This is a piece from my "High Frequency" series that pays homage to the teen sleuth, Nancy Drew. Always twisty, her stories are full of the intrigue of the chase to find the guilty party. To create this piece, I wanted to use the layering of images and textures to draw the viewer deeper and deeper into the thickening plot.

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This Month's It Girl

by Jala Ealey, Decatur, GA

Oil paint
24 x 30 inches
2025

Artist Statement

I wanted to take the theme of "cat and mouse" in a metaphorical sense, and I thought about what "cat and mouse" things exist in today's society. The first thing that came to mind was the beauty industry. An industry that literally feeds/profits off the insecurities of individuals. I feel like every month there's a new beauty standard set, and a new insecurity to worry about that I hadn't thought about before. So you buy, buy, buy in hopes of fitting the new standard, but oops, a new month enters, and now you have a new beauty standard to attain. It's a game of cat and mouse. Beauty is subjective, and in a way, the "beauty standard" is a myth since it varies so heavily. So we're chasing after something extremely unattainable. It's made for us to lose.

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Open the Door

by Cynthia Frigon, Decatur, GA

Collage

12 x 16 inches

2025

Artist Statement

Made entirely of cut postage stamps and envelopes, these collages are based on photos of doorways and passages inside historic American forts along the gulf coast. The men and their cannons are long gone, leaving behind green and black molds and calcium efflorescence on the intricate brickwork.

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Modern Day Moses

by Gabriel García, East Point, GA

Photograph - Archival pigment print
18 x 23 inches (framed)
2024

Artist Statement

"Modern Day Moses" is a subtle representation of humanity's struggle between materialism and spirituality. On one side we see a man riding a bicycle and carrying a board with the Ten Commandments written on it. Going in the opposite direction, we see a shiny luxury car. The photograph conveys the conflict between the different journeys humans can follow. Do we take the road laid out by society's emphasis on material wealth and status? Or, do we choose a path that values personal growth and personal relations?

The image also illustrates how difficult it is to reconcile these two paths. Materialism's mundane goal of material accumulation is in constant conflict with spirituality's search for meaning beyond our everyday existence. It is a battle that rages within each person, even when we do not notice.

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Walking By

by Gabriel García, East Point, GA

Photograph - Archival pigment print

18 x 23 inches (framed)

2024

Artist Statement

"Walking By" depicts the frictions between disparate socio-economic groups. Homeless people are often seen as being outside the social body. However, homelessness is a fact of our society. Local governments are constantly trying to remove the unhoused from downtown areas, business, commercial and tourist districts. City dwellers are equally keen on their removal or just turn a blind eye to their situation.

But as shown in the photograph, the homeless can sometimes offer passive resistance. Through a seemingly small act, the man on the sidewalk defies people's indifference and claims possession of the space he inhabits. He forces an acknowledgement of his existence, of his place in the urban environment, even if for a brief moment before passersby continue with their lives and only remember him as a nuisance.

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Heritage

by Don Gilmer, Hiram, GA

Mixed media

39 x 26 x 2 inches

2025

Artist Statement

“Heritage” is a contemporary couple's celebration of their African culture and roots. The piece features textured hairstyles, tribal clothing, and is surrounded by a frame made from modified male and female African statues. Their elongated faces are Atlanta road maps with one side dyed dark and one side light showing an element of cubism. Their noses are painted wooden kitchen spoons.

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Vessel of Resistance

by Carol Harvey, Decatur, GA

Ceramic sculpture
29 x 18 x 9.5 inches
2025

Artist Statement

"Vessel of Resistance" is a three-part ceramic sculpture that delves into the complex games of cat and mouse, exploring themes of power, resistance, and the fight for women's rights. The piece is an allegory for the struggle between those who seek to control and those who resist.

First Piece: The Predator

The 1st piece of the sculpture is a scowling, smug cat, its teeth clenched around a uterus. It embodies the oppressive forces that seek to control women's bodies.

Second Piece: The Shipwrecked Vessel

Behind the cat lies a shipwrecked boat, its hull cracked and battered, yet miraculously afloat. A crew of mice valiantly protects and carries a variety of female reproductive medical devices and drugs.

Third Piece: The Dinghy of Liberation

A small, weathered dinghy trails behind the main vessel, carrying a single mouse that is tasked with shepherding the drug combination used for medical abortions.

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Split by Myth, Bound by Blood

by AnnMarie Jalmasco, Atlanta, GA

Acrylic and gold leaf on canvas

48 x 60 inches

2025

Artist Statement

"Split by Myth, Bound by Blood" captures the intense struggle between two mythical beasts—representing the East and West. A fiery red dragon, symbolizing Asia, coils around a deep blue unicorn, an emblem of Europe, in a dramatic clash. While the dragon seems dominant at first, the historically peaceful unicorn shifts the balance, piercing the swirling beast. From the stab wound caused by the unicorn's horn, golden blood pours to the earth, symbolizing both the sacred and extreme nature of the encounter. This reversal reflects the artist's personal journey as a mixed-race creative, balancing Asian and Scandinavian identities, and confronting their previous rejection of the Asian half of their heritage. Inspired by medieval artistic traditions, the piece uses gold leaf to emphasize the mythical and otherworldly tension between opposing forces, where conflict transforms into understanding through an inevitable, playful, yet gravitational encounter.

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Expectations

by Morgan Burton Johnson, Gold Beach, OR

Oil on board
19 x 27 inches
2023

Artist Statement

The parlay of this painting, "Expectations", is created by the juxtaposition of the atmosphere of the immediate subject and the discovery of a secondary image that confounds the initial view. The subject appears to be a happy occasion, one of celebration, given the numerous lit candles, the formal table setting for two, and the reference to wine. The second reading finds a dark figure peering in from outside: is this a guest or a party crasher? In assessing the elements of the composition, the viewer may wonder why there are three chairs, two settings, but two of the chairs are on the opposite side, and only one setting has a chair. Deciphering why the silhouetted figure is outside, and why two people as represented by chairs are not present becomes the cat and mouse gambit. Have the celebrants left hastily, have they not arrived, what is the intent of the figure outside?

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Brightside

by Lauri Jones, Decatur, GA

Quilted cotton textile with free-motion stitching

31 x 23 inches

2023

Artist Statement

In this work, I delve into the battle between optimism and despair. Despair can feel all-consuming, seeking to trap me in its unrelenting grip. Optimism, however, leads me toward light and possibility. While despair may feel inevitable, optimism is a choice—one that requires my constant pursuit and belief in myself, in others, and what lies ahead.

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Contradictions

by Lauri Jones, Decatur, GA

Quilted cotton textile
35 x 35 inches
2022

Artist Statement

Through abstraction and color play, I seek to capture the tension between the opposing energies of order and chaos. Order, symbolized by symmetry and structure, represents my desire for control. Chaos, on the other hand, is embodied in spontaneity and fragmentation. I juxtapose these elements to mirror the constant push and pull that exists in my mind. It is in this dynamic tension that innovation is born. The conflict between opposing ideas sparks new perspectives, and the friction of contradiction drives my creativity, forcing me to look beyond the obvious and uncover deeper truths.

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Inheritance

by Lauri Jones, Decatur, GA

Quilted cotton textile with free-motion stitching
40 x 40 inches
2023

Artist Statement

This work explores the complex relationship between nature and nurture. Nature includes the innate qualities and characteristics we are born with—fixed and unyielding. Nurture is the environmental influences and experiences that shape us over time. While our natural instincts may guide us, our experiences and choices are equally powerful in shaping who we become. This tension between the two forces is not a battle to be won, but rather a dance that allows them to coexist in harmony. This quilt is a homage to that dynamic partnership, illustrating how both inherent traits and external influences work in tandem to shape the complexity of the human experience.

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Shrunken Mother

by Eric Kaeplinger, Atlanta, GA

Canvas, acrylic, graphite, mica, frames and wood
30 x 38 x 3 inches
2024

Artist Statement

A work based on owl versions of me and my two younger brothers.

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Peaches Secret

by Romas Kukalis, Landrum, SC

Acrylics on board
26 x 33 inches
2023

Artist Statement

We don't know what they do when they go out.

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Alert Cat

by David Kwak, Schuylerville, NY

Wood-salt fired wild iron-rich stoneware with wild porcelain slip

4.25 x 3 x 3 inches

2024

Artist Statement

This cup is part of a series I made after spaying my cat. Tiramisu was a force I had never dealt with before. Medicating and keeping the cone on her was a daily struggle. There were many things in life that I knew were outside of my control, but this cat was something different. I never felt so powerless and useless in front of this cat. These cups were made as an outlet for my frustrations and feelings of helplessness toward this beautiful feline, Tiramisu.

Photo credit: Ray IM

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Tired Cat

by David Kwak, Schuylerville, NY

Wood-salt fired wild iron-rich stoneware with wild porcelain slip

4.25 x 3 x 3 inches

2023

Artist Statement

This cup is part of a series I created in the days after I got my new cat spayed. Tiramisu is the first cat I ever got, and I never realized how much of a handful a grumpy female cat heavily medicated after surgery can be. I knew I could not control some parts of my life, but I never felt as helpless and useless as I did in front of Tiramisu. This series of cups was an outlet for my frustrations towards my beautiful Tiramisu. This particular cup was made after she finally fell asleep the day of her surgery.

Photo credit: Ray IM

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Teetering

by Ryan Lamfers, Carrollton, GA

Bronze

12.5 x 6 x 2.75 inches

2025

Artist Statement

My work emerges from the contradictions of a world both natural and industrial. Inspired by time outdoors—riding a motorcycle alongside elk, kayaking through fog, nearly being swept away while fly-fishing—I explore the tension between humanity and the environment. Using wood, metal, and found objects, my sculptures balance nature's chaos with industrial precision. We once sought wisdom from the land; now, we turn to technology for rescue. My work lives between nostalgia for the past and uncertainty about the future.

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Tempest or the Tide?

by Ryan Lamfers, Carrollton, GA

Cast iron and steel
50 x 24 x 14 inches
2025

Artist Statement

My work emerges from the contradictions of a world both natural and industrial. Inspired by time outdoors—riding a motorcycle alongside elk, kayaking through fog, nearly being swept away while fly-fishing—I explore the tension between humanity and the environment. Using wood, metal, and found objects, my sculptures balance nature's chaos with industrial precision. We once sought wisdom from the land; now, we turn to technology for rescue. My work lives between nostalgia for the past and uncertainty about the future.

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To My Constituents...

by Ryan Lamfers, Carrollton, GA

Cast iron and steel
50 x 24 x 14 inches
2025

Artist Statement

My work emerges from the contradictions of a world both natural and industrial. Inspired by time outdoors—riding a motorcycle alongside elk, kayaking through fog, nearly being swept away while fly-fishing—I explore the tension between humanity and the environment. Using wood, metal, and found objects, my sculptures balance nature's chaos with industrial precision. We once sought wisdom from the land; now, we turn to technology for rescue. My work lives between nostalgia for the past and uncertainty about the future.

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Dancing in the Shadows

by Jessica Lily, Lawrenceville, GA

Watercolor and ink on paper

11 x 14 inches

2025

Artist Statement

“Dancing in the Shadows” is a visual representation of the energy built and gained from the delicate movement between struggle and success. Our compassion, acceptance, inclusion of the other, dance, play, mutual support, and creative expression can be fed by the shadow, and vice versa. May we be mindful of that interplay, and allow ourselves to be “Dancing in the Shadows”.

For Purchase Information contact 404-371-9583 or FineArts@decaturartsalliance.org



Language Barrier

by Jessica Lily, Lawrenceville, GA

Watercolor on paper
24 x 36 inches
2025

Artist Statement

Inspired by the artist's love for improvisational community singing, Language Barrier is an imaginary chorus of characters caught in a silent, yet boisterous song. In some way or another, each character is trying to express itself, while simultaneously the set is mirroring. One "letter" is trying to eat its neighbor, who is floating carelessly with ambivalence, sometimes bumping into the rooted, heavy and unwavering character on the other side. They are a community of anthropomorphic nods to what it feels like to be in language.

Each "letter" was created improvisationally, with the artist present and in the moment, communicating with non-specific graphic shapes, pigment and paper. The artist has a simultaneous body of work that is based in realism. For the artist, communicating with the art process as an abstraction is in itself a disorienting dialect, a Language Barrier.

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On the Road to Find Out

by Jessica Lily, Lawrenceville, GA

Watercolor on paper

18 x 24 inches

2025

Artist Statement

“On the Road to Find Out” is a visual representation of the conflict between our blue and green natural world and the infrastructure we build on top. In our modern careless society, we don’t much ask permission of our Earth, we just build on top. Our planet proves tirelessly to be still giving, still vibrant, still inspiring, still offering a home. This diptych is also a metaphor for our current societal environment, where we are in the fool around and find out stage. We are “On the Road to Find Out”, and may our Earth show us forgiveness, compassion and teach us to live in harmony with our precious planet.

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Sovereign and Captive

by Angela Liu, Diamond Bar, CA

Acrylic
18 x 18 inches
2025

Artist Statement

This piece explores power and defiance—Queen Cat, regal and dominant; Princess Mouse, caged yet unbroken. Their silent standoff challenges the true nature of power, inviting viewers to reflect on strength, control, and the line between predator and prey.

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Thread of Hope

by Angela Liu, Diamond Bar, CA

Drawing
16 x 20 inches
2025

Artist Statement

This piece captures the fleeting moment of survival as a mouse grasps a thread, desperately escaping the queen cat's claw. It symbolizes the delicate balance between fate and freedom, illustrating the power of hope and determination against seemingly inevitable danger.

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Redirect

by Mary Mattimoe, Decatur, GA

Quilted hand-dyed cotton and rayon threads

34.5 x 10 inches

2023

Artist Statement

For the past few years, I pursued a career change that would take me away from my art work. I jumped in feet first, gave it a lot then fell short. Redirection happened when I needed it more than I knew. Classic cat and mouse cycle for me with my work or thinking 'my thing' isn't my quilt work.

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My Power. My Choice. #2

by Cristina Montesinos, Decatur, GA

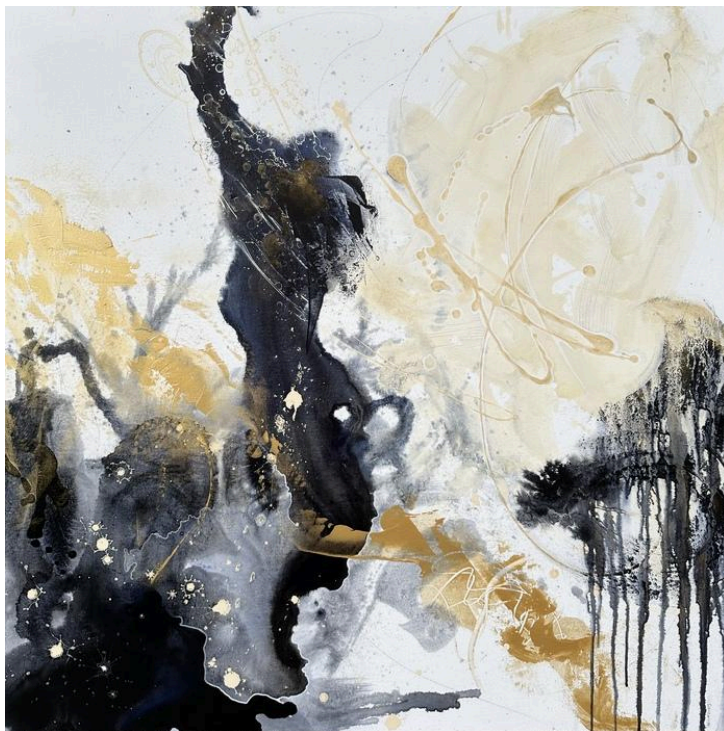
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 48 x 1.5 inches
2022

Artist Statement

In 2022, our country was thrust back into a fight we thought had been won—the right to abortion. Sadly, the battle continues. When *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, I was filled with profound disappointment, boiling anger, deep hurt, and heartfelt compassion for women everywhere. I turned to my art to express my response.

After attending the protest in Atlanta and processing my emotions, I focused my work on love, respect, compassion, and reverence for women. Inspired by my Latin American family's tradition of honoring the feminine divine, my paintings feature strong, confident, curvy female figures, celebrating our sacred and powerful beauty. We have the power to create life, and it's our choice—our choice alone—when and if that happens. It's my power. My choice.

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Rising

by Cristina Montesinos, Decatur, GA

Acrylic and graphite on canvas

41 x 41 x 2 inches

2022

Artist Statement

In a never-ending game of cat and mouse our current President and administration continue to pit “them” against “us”. “Rising” portrays a powerful, confident, and hopeful female figure who will ultimately emerge victorious. She embodies the resistance, rising from the ongoing struggle to reclaim and defend human rights for all.

With grace, beauty, power, and strength, she stands for freedom for everyone: LGBTQ+, women, people of color, immigrants, children, the elderly, the disabled, single mothers, and all those who need support and representation.

She stands for love, not hate; for justice, truth, kindness, empathy, and community. Grounded in deep conviction, she fights for everyone’s right to speak, live, love, learn, and have control over their bodies and choices.

Our Rising women will relentlessly advocate for our rights until they are fully realized. This is a fight she will never abandon.

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Untitled (Mouse with Gift) from the series Ancient Interment
by John Morris, Newnan, GA

Silver gelatin
14 x 14 inches
2025

Artist Statement

The work from the series Ancient Interments hopes to invoke individual musings on the rhythms of cycles and systems, be it pets, loved ones, culture, industries, or that of the known and the unknown.

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Untitled (Snow Covered Mouse) from the series Ancient Interment
by John Morris, Newnan, GA

Silver gelatin
14 x 14 inches
2025

Artist Statement

The work from the series Ancient Interments hopes to invoke individual musings on the rhythms of cycles and systems, be it pets, loved ones, culture, industries, or that of the known and the unknown.

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Garden

by Shijun Munns, Lilburn, GA

Oil on canvas
12 x 16 x 1.5 inches
2025

Artist Statement

Cats and animals have always been one of my favorite painting subjects. I love painting oil on canvas. This exhibition provides a wonderful opportunity to show a cat and mouse theme in a very whimsical nature.

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Gotcha!

by Susan Perry, Fayetteville, GA

Photography
22 x 21 inches
2022

Artist Statement

On a visit to Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge, this heron was playing “cat and mouse” with the small minnows swimming around at the bay shore. It was constantly dipping and splashing its beak in the water trying to distract the minnows which would enable it to catch them. Finally! Being the expert spear fisherman, it struck its beak in the water and successfully captured multiple minnows within its beak.

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Your Fears Face You

by Elizabeth Powers, Cypress, TX

Watercolor
34 x 24 inches
2024

Artist Statement

What does fear look like through the eyes of an animal? The parallel between humanity and nature is undeniable, and this understanding has inspired me to create my watercolor painting "Your Fears Face You." While we may not fear the same things as nature, we can empathize with the emotional struggles that animals feel and relate them to our own. Like the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in my painting, we can often become so entangled in our fears that we have no means of escape! Much like Mary Queen of Scots' needlepoint work, my painting seeks to mirror the cycle of fear and the importance of escape through a metaphorical and natural eye.

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Holiday Calories

by Jennifer Rand, Boston, MA

Oil in panel

23 x 23 inches (framed)

2024

Artist Statement

It's Christmas Eve and the Grinch is back to his old tricks. Emerging from the shadows under the tree, he pulls back the lid on the cookie jar and reaches with his big, furry hand. A few clever gingerbread men scatter for cover, their impish smiles revealing amusement in this dangerous game. They seem confident in their deception, even as the red cloth that shelters them twists into a sinister grin.

Despite the playful theme, this painting posed many challenges. First, the composition needed to draw the viewer in, then keep their eyes moving across the picture as they discover the story being told. Next was to balance the colors, shapes and weights of the elements. The red cloth required glazing, a technique requiring much experimentation to achieve the desired "glow". Finally, there was the task of realistically rendering so many different textures: porcelain, fur, glass, wood, pine needles and crispy cookies. It was a tremendous amount of fun to paint!

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Cock Fight

by Tony Rio, Normal, IL

Oil and plaster on gypsum board

17 x 19 inches

2021

Artist Statement

I work with plaster and oil to create a surface that recalls cave drawings or petroglyphs. This allows the image to be perceived as from the present and the past.

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Sneak Attack

by Tony Rio, Normal, IL

Oil and plaster on gypsum board

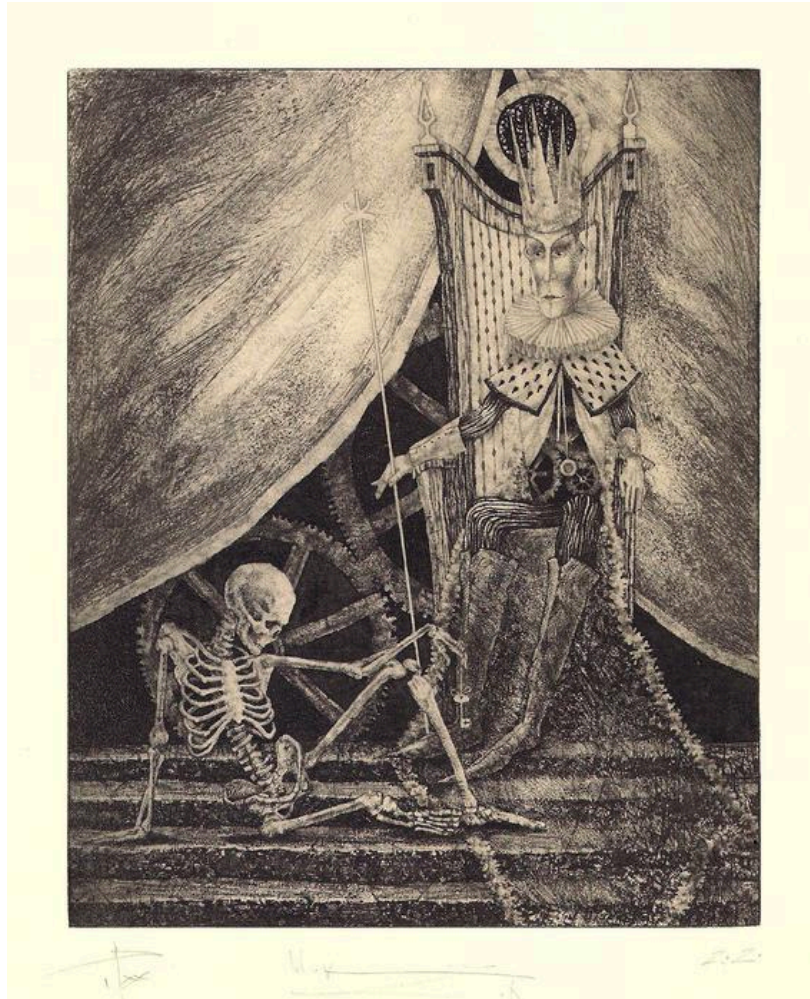
17 x 14 inches

2021

Artist Statement

I work with oil and plaster to create a surface that recalls cave drawings or petroglyphs. This allows the image to be perceived as from the present or the past.

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King and Joker

by Egor Shokoladov, Hillsboro, OH

Etching

Picture size: 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 4 $\frac{9}{64}$ inches

Frame size: 16 x 13 inches

2020

Artist Statement

"King and Joker" (2020) is an etching that explores the eternal game of power, control, and subversion. The king, a symbol of order and authority, faces the joker—the embodiment of chaos, wit, and unpredictability. But who truly holds the power? The joker may seem like a fool, yet he possesses the key, hinting at a hidden advantage in this strategic dance. This work reflects the 'cat and mouse' dynamic, where dominance is fluid, and the true winner is never obvious until the final move is made.

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Mr. Fox Focus

by Egor Shokoladov, Hillsboro, OH

Etching, hand-colored

Picture size: 6¹⁹/₆₄ x 6¹⁹/₆₄ inches

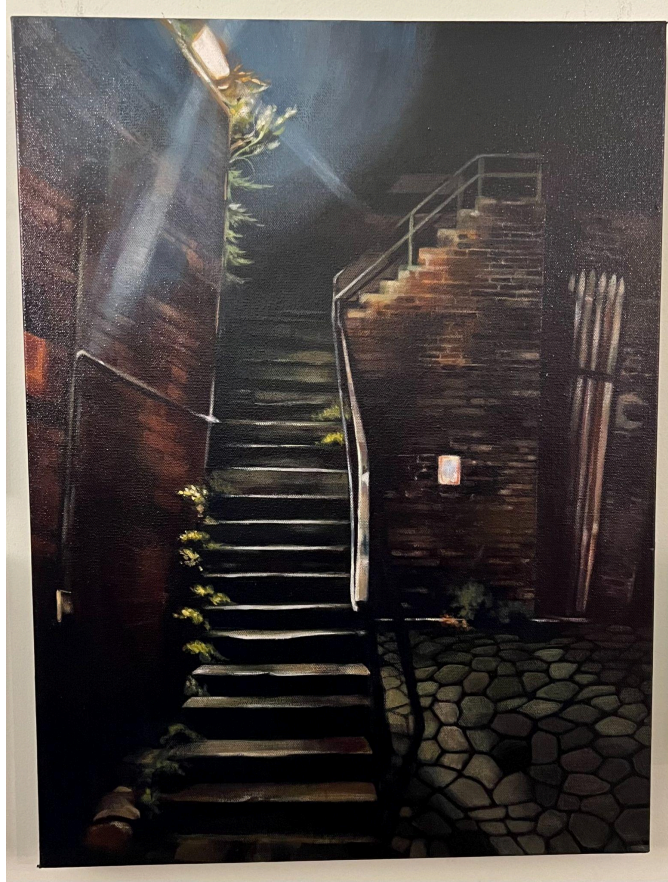
Frame size: 16 x 13 inches

2021

Artist Statement

"Mr. Fox Focus" (2021) is an etching with hand-coloring that plays with the classic dynamic of predator and prey. The fox, a master of deception, takes center stage in a surreal performance, where he is both the cunning trickster and the watchful hunter. But is he only a predator, or does the scene suggest a more complex game—one where roles blur, and the hunter and the hunted may not be so different? The interplay of power, illusion, and strategy mirrors the timeless 'cat and mouse' chase, where every move is part of a greater performance.

For Purchase Information contact 404-371-9583 or FineArts@decaturartsalliance.org



Stairs at Night

by Brandi Smart, Atlanta, GA
Juror Invitational Artwork

Acrylic on canvas
18 x 24 inches
2021

Artist Statement

My night-scapes traverse the intricate landscapes of roadside America, capturing the essence of American noir. They embody the experience of being a spectator in social landscapes, where isolation and connection collide.

Each piece depicts stark contrasts between shadow and light, invoking a sense of mystery and introspection. The imagery of lit alleyways, standalone lit buildings in dark fields, and lit windows alongside quiet streets serves as a metaphor for the fleeting moments of human existence. Through this lens, I invite viewers to explore the complexities of identity and community, urging them to reflect on the stories hidden within the urban night.

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Charlotte Swims While the Boys Fish

by Vanessa Snyder, Peachtree City, GA

Mixed media
38 x 28 inches
2024

Artist Statement

I find painting and drawing fish intriguing for several reasons. They are camouflaged in plain sight underwater, they are shown no mercy by their hunters, and the 'who eats whom' quandary is frightening. The act of fishing seems odd when human swimming can occur simultaneously, and the cat and mouse theme reminded me of an early foray into swimming and flirting, a different kind of cat and mouse activity. Charlotte Swimming is my grandmother from a vintage photo and I like to think she may have been the catch of the day.

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Underwater 2

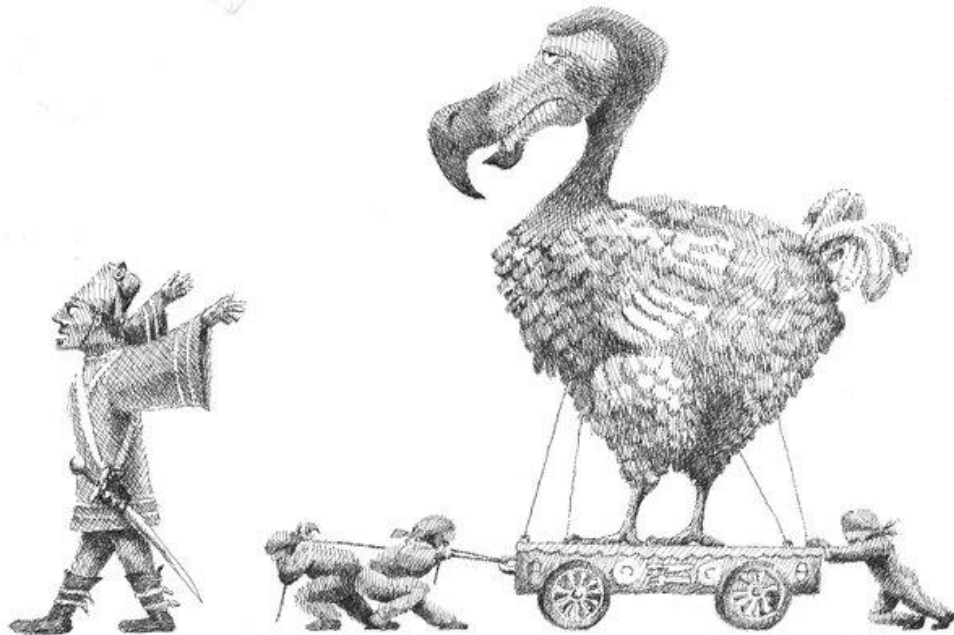
by Vanessa Snyder, Peachtree City, GA

Mixed media on paper
30 x 30 inches
2023

Artist statement

I'm fascinated by the size differences in what lives beneath the surface, particularly as it relates to who eats whom.

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Parade Series - Lamentation of the Dodo

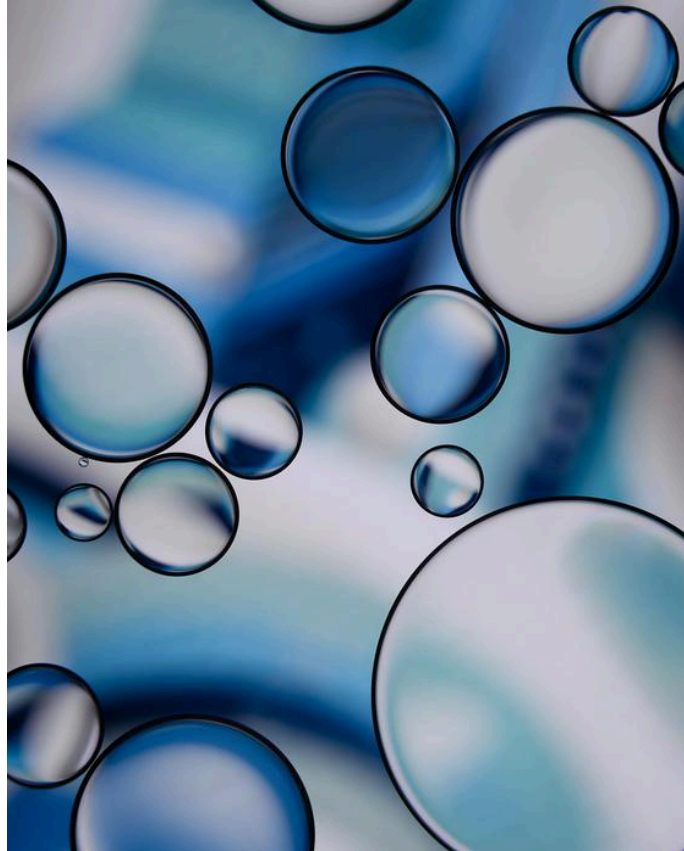
by Randy Taylor, Atlanta, GA

Ink on paper
12 x 18 x 1.5 inches
2022

Artist statement

We as a civilization continue to play a "cat and mouse" game with the animal people of this planet. We are thriving while others are considered endangered or extinct. The Dodo was doomed to extinction because they did not know how to play the game of "Cat and Mouse." Theirs was more a game of "Hello, Oh No!." This mouse, obviously did not know the cat. Was it alright for sailor to kill these birds for their food? How should one feel viewing the taxidermy Dodo in the museum? A parade is a vehicle for honoring and at times of confirming a belief system. This image is part of parade series of endangered and extinct animal peoples. Is the Dodo being honored or praised for providing food for sailors? Is this a model of a Dodo or a taxidermy of the bird? How does the Dodo feel about this honor? What is the man in the lead of this float proclaiming? How does this portion of the parade make you feel?

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Hot Pursuit

by Lisa Thomas, Brookhaven, GA

Digital photography, acrylic paint
20 x 16 x 1 inches
2024

Artist Statement

"Hot Pursuit" is a macro photograph of oil and water set against a colorful backdrop, creating a whimsical, abstract image. It captures the timeless chase between good and evil, hunter and hunted, justice and escape.

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So Give Your Consent, and Lie With Us

by Shannon Thomas, Woodstock, GA

White colored pencil on black paper

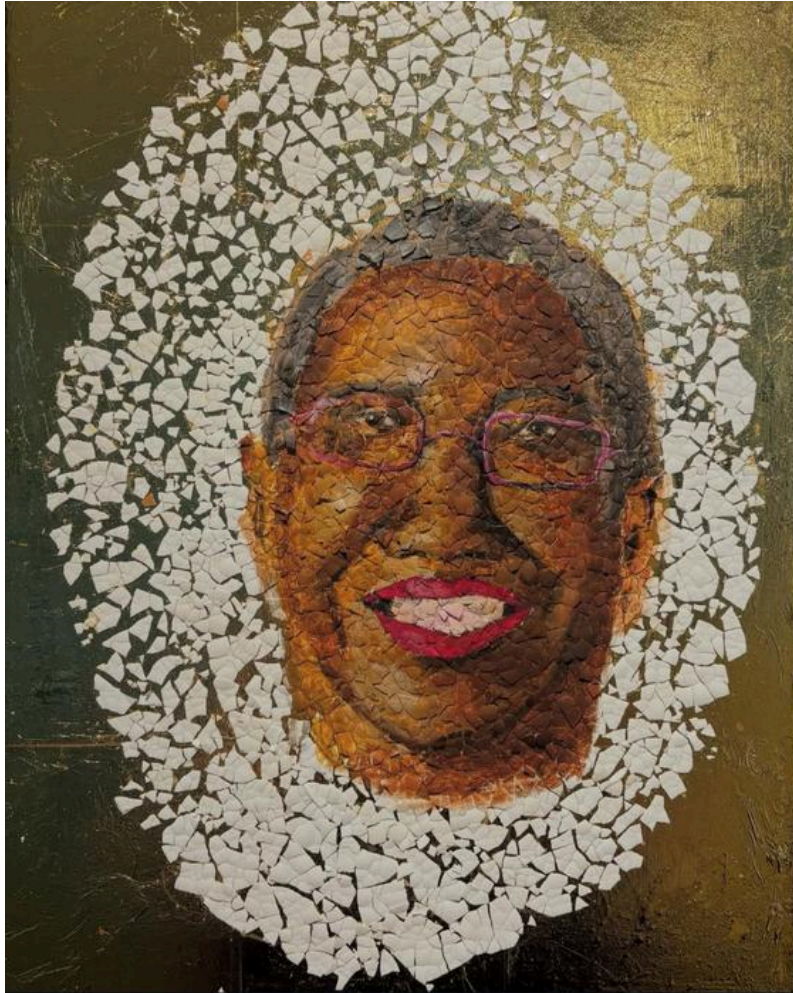
32 x 38 inches

2025

Artist Statement

Inspired by Artemisia Gentileschi's 'Susanna and the Elders' this piece examines the roles of men and women by drawing a parallel to a predator/prey dynamic. The stag stands in for the female figure as a symbol of the ways in which women are hunted while the wolves symbolize the violence of masculinity. The original painting tells the story of Susanna, a virtuous woman who was spied upon by lecherous elders while she was bathing. The men approached her and threatened her with ruination if she did not give in and lie with them. This piece works with and amplifies elements of the original painting, such as the figure's state of undress as a symbol of vulnerability. By utilizing the imagery of deer and wolves the state of fear and the inherent power struggle between Susanna and the Elders is amplified. In this work Susanna is literally fighting off the wolves who wish to devour her. This is a portrayal of the fear that every woman experiences while walking home alone in the dark.

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Byllye Avery, An Egg Does Not A Woman Make

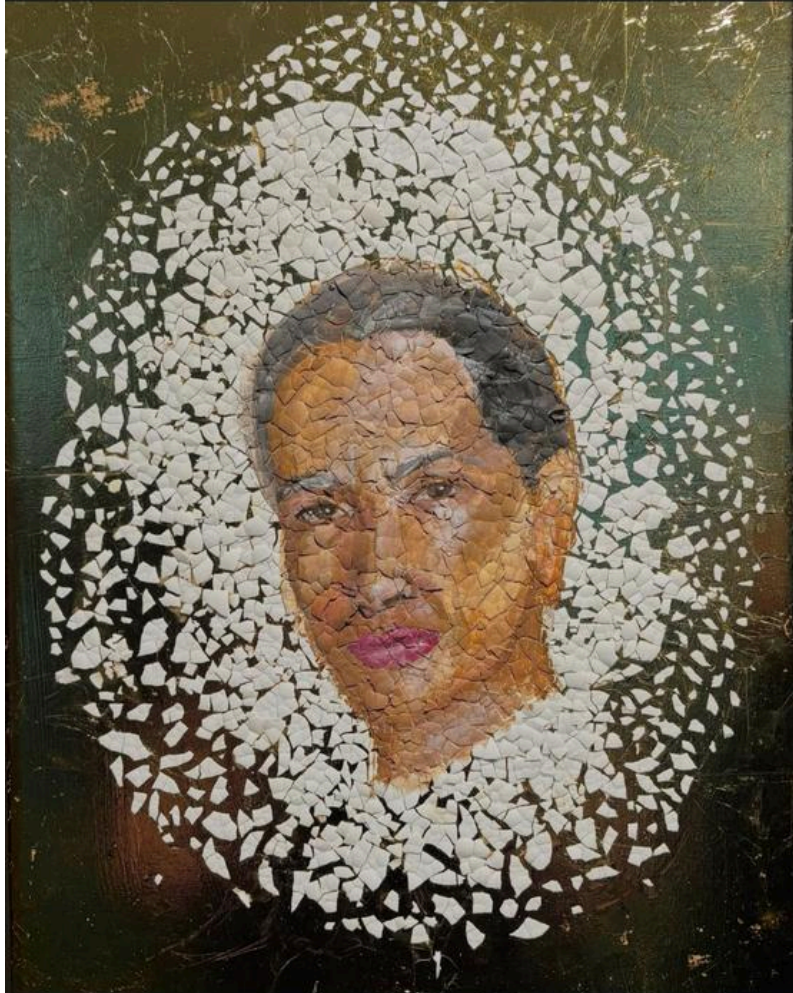
by Flizzie Thompson, Atlanta, GA

Tempera paint, eggshells, gilded MDF
23.5 x 17.5 inches
2024

Artist Statement

As a woman artist from Alabama's Bible Belt, I'm deeply familiar with debates on abortion. Alabama's new law classifying frozen embryos as living beings is disappointing but unsurprising, reflecting ongoing threats to women's bodily autonomy. In response, I'm creating tempera portraits of four women fighting for reproductive freedom, using egg yolk paint on MDF panels I made myself. Inspired by early Renaissance religious portraits, these paintings symbolize how women must forge their own paths. By painting on eggs, I challenge the notion that women are defined by reproduction and assert that religion should not dictate reproductive rights.

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Denise Oliver-Velez, An Egg Does Not A Woman Make

by Flizzie Thompson, Atlanta, GA

Tempera paint, eggshells, gilded MDF
23.5 x 17.5 inches
2024

Artist Statement

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Self Creek Road

by Jasmin Warnock, Atlanta, GA

Woodcut relief on BFK Rives

30 x 24 inches

2024

Artist Statement

Growing up in the deep south, the environments in which I have lived have heavily impacted me. In order to grapple with how these environments have influenced my identity as I understand it today, I like to revisit these places in my prints.

“Self Creek Road” portrays the small rural country house that my sister and I often found ourselves alone in. Not realizing how hard it was for our single mother to provide and create a nurturing environment for us, my sister and I often explored the woods and surrounding nature of the house, remaining oblivious in our childhood fantasies and adventures. This print grapples with the struggle of reality versus the naivety and optimism of childhood.

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Mouse Tails

by Susan Waters, Rockmart, GA

Oil on canvas
20 x 17 inches
2025

Artist Statement

A kitten playing with a toy mouse, caught mid-air, painted with exuberance to mimic the motion and excitement of the young cat.

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