Show Description

*MIXED* is a show investigating an intersection of painting and sculpture. Painting is often categorized as a 2D form of art but the painting is almost always a 3D object. The canvas has a body and so does the paint lying on its surface. Once acknowledging this idea the “pictorial window” or illusionary space created in the imagery of a painting manifested itself in a more literal way. Forms protrude and recede in the space we occupy not an illusionary one. With the use of various materials, new contexts can be implied such as the use of window screen mesh instead of canvas. This gives a literal reference to windows in a material and physical level. *MIXED* is a body of work that highlights the physicality of painting while redefining the medium as to how we interact with an artwork rather than by the materials used to create the work of art.

Artist Statement

This exhibition titled *MIXED* is communicating the intersection of broader ideas. As an artist with a mixed cultural background I never had just one perspective of the world. This way that I approach things in life transitioned into my creative process. I am creating my art work with a variety of materials and skills. Some of those materials used have been thread, paper, wood, concrete, foam, and plastic. These raw materials or found objects have visual beauty in the same way that a brushstroke adds to a composition. I am also interested in how the viewer has a familiar relationship to some of these materials and how that changes their view of the object or piece all together.

The viewer’s interaction with my art is important to me. My materials are physical and honest about the space they take up in relation to the viewer’s occupied space. This association of scale imbeds a corporeal quality to the work. This tangible experience allows a person to sense the unspoken physical exchange of emotions. No matter their background, this grants the observer the opportunity to interact with my work on a material level instead of through a recognizable visual narrative.
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Window 1 - wood, window screen mesh, and oil paint (~40x36") 2020
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Window 1 Detail

Window 1 Detail
Wood, Plastic, Paint - graphite and colored pencil on paper (11x8.5”) 2020
Window 2 - wood, window screen mesh, and oil paint (38x32") 2020
Window 2 Detail
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Blinds - paper, yarn, and wood (42x30") 2020
Wood, Yarn, Paper - graphite and colored pencil on paper (11x8.5") 2020
Forecast - cotton embroidered blanket, paper mache, and acrylic ink (42x30") 2020
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Forecast Detail
Cotton, Wood, Paper Mache, Ink - graphite and colored pencil on paper (11x8.5") 2020
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Decay/Growth - cotton embroidered blanket, yarn, nylon mesh, packaging air bags (~48x30"
2020
Decay/Growth Detail

Decay/Growth Detail
Cotton, Yarn, Plastic, Wood, Nylon - graphite and colored pencil on paper (11x8.5") 2020
Unstretched - wood, gesso, zip-ties, yarn, nylon rope, canvas, and rubber string (~48”x24”) 2020
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Unstretched Detail
Wood, Plastic, Gesso, Rubber, Cotton, Nylon, Canvas, Yarn - graphite and colored pencil on paper (11x8.5") 2020
Untitled - wax on window screen (~36x24") 2020
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*Masculine/Femenine* - foam, acrylic paint, spray paint, and zip-ties (~50x24") 2020
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Masculine/Femenine Detail
Foam, Paint, Plastic - graphite and colored pencil on paper (11x8.5") 2020
Push/Pull - wood, foam, canvas, plastic bags, jute rope, bungee cord, acrylic paint, OSB, nylon mesh, felt, and cotton thread (~52x64") 2020
Wood, Plastic, Foam, Jute, Rubber chord, Canvas, OSB, Paint, Nylon, Felt - graphite and colored pencil on paper (11x8.5”) 2020
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Flux - wood, and yarn (~48x38") 2020
Flux Detail
Closing Statement
Thank you for attending my exhibition MIXED. I am sincerely grateful for the educators and peers I have had at Millersville University. I am grateful to the entire art department, all your efforts have made this program special. I specifically want to thank Dorotheay Frey, Robert Andriulli, and Brant Schuller for their passion for education and the arts which have given me such inspiration and provided an excellent foundation for me.

This show was adapted to a digital format due to safety concerns from COVID-19. Stay home, wash your hands, take care of yourself and immediate household, and remain positive through these times.

If you have any responses to the show or specific questions please contact me at:

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Stay healthy and happy,
-Michael 笑虎 Shum