

Artists' Statements

Heather Miller

Selfie—Distorted: The title *Selfie* is more of a definition of distortion or distorted self. A selfie is not a true reflection of a person. The picture has gone through a process of many retakes, cropping, and filtering before being posted to social media. Some profile pictures are unrecognizable and unrealistic.

Pondering: Pondering was composed with multiple layers and angles. Each sitting of the model created another dynamic and layer of the drawing. I made this piece in 2016 at Cameron University, Oklahoma.

Sierra Romero

Reveal: This painting in acrylics on bristol board was meant to challenge my understanding of color values. Thus, I was limited to using acrylic paint in just a few colors although otherwise there were no limits on the design. The main objective of the piece was to match the values of the colored portions of the piece to the black-and-white portions. My design had a chrysanthemum in the top left corner and, in the lower right corner, a wave of water. There was no real significance in my choice of these subjects. I just wanted a piece that had numerous curved lines throughout and created a wide range of values so the piece would set me quite a challenge in matching the values by eye.

Monochromatic Life: My main objective with this collage of magazine images on bristol board was to create a monochromatic photo montage that would essentially merge the different shapes and values from the selected images. Each image was thoughtfully selected, drawing from a multitude of magazines. The ultimate arrangement created implied lines and also kept a variety of values in the piece. I wanted viewers to examine and ponder where all the image fragments might have come from and what they were originally part of.

Tony Taylor, Jr.

Mother Nature: In this 9"x12" linoleum print, the image depicts Mother Nature as an elderly woman, blowing wind through some mountains. The focus of the piece is the use of lines. The fine lines in the woman's face and in the mountains create an intense texture. This contrasts with the more open and relaxed lines of the clouds and distant skylines. The rhythm in the piece helps convey the beauty and delicacy of nature.

Caged Bird: This piece, an 11"x17" photo manipulation, refers to the metaphor of the "caged bird," expressed in poet Paul Laurence Dunbar's line "I know why the caged bird sings," which the late Maya Angelou borrowed for the title of her autobiography. Although the caged bird is trapped, it still sings a song of freedom. I took a line from Angelou's work and tried to illustrate its meaning. The words in the design resemble scars that have been cut into the person's flesh. Although these scars are painful, the individual is not hiding them. The scars make us who we are, and we should not be ashamed of them.