

## **Thompson Rivers University 4th year Visual Art Student Interviews**

Please find below answers from each of the current TRU BFA 4th year students, when asked:

**1. What direction do you think you are heading in for your year-end show in terms of subject and materials?**

**2. How has thinking about creative research and what in-process work means changed/ influenced your practice?**

**3. How do you feel about having work that is either unfinished or “not mean to be seen” up in full view at the KAC (AKA a public gallery space)?**

**4. How do you feel about seeing yourself (through your art) represented in a public space in general?**

**5. How do you envision your artistic practice in the future?**

### **Larissa Beatty**

1. I was definitely headed in a slightly different direction at the start of the year, I had work and I knew what I wanted to do I was just unsure how to define it. Heading towards the show now I am working with form, function, aesthetics, and the dynamic between the three. For shooting, I am using a combination of 35 mm film and digital photography, and I will be printing on a large-scale Epson.

2. Thinking of all of my prep work and all the images that I work on but never end up using as creative research has made me okay with the amount of effort I am putting into this work. I have spent a larger amount of time in this research phase this year than I have ever spent. The value of all the tests that I eventually grow to hate has definitely become more clear.

3. It was quite hard to decide how I would actually display art that was unfinished because I did not want people to see it and not like it enough to want to see a final version. The collaged images were ones that I had mostly tossed aside as not good enough and for the ones, I will be using I tried to cover up as much as possible so they could barely be seen. With the images of the two walls, I wanted to show more of the process so I was more okay with showing that. There is one I would probably replace if I choose again though.

4. I find this show is far more personal than showing my final work. Even though I did edit what I put into the show, and not everything I worked on ended up in this show, I selected a lot that I actually did not like. Most of what I selected actually won't make it past the first version. I also

choose to show more about the space I work in by photographing the actual wall with my notes, and that again felt more personal than if I just showed them sitting side by side with no background.

5. In the future I believe that I will continue to work in a similar way in terms of process, I have definitely found a good groove. Content-wise I am not sure what I will be working with but it may be a continuation or at least connected in some way as I am sure I will not end up picking every image I like for the year-end show.

## **Kendell Gunderson**

1. I will still be heading with my theme of Memento Mori, which has not changed. I will try to stick with the same art style. Although I find that a little difficult, I might expand into a few more mediums, such as etching and drawing.

2. I mean, I have always done creative research before starting any work of art. I always need a reference to work off of, or an idea I find influential. It is second nature for me to start a new project like this and I do not believe my view on it has changed. An 'in-process' piece is exactly what it means to me, and it has not taken on a deeper meaning.

3. A piece of art is only considered complete once the artist has passed on. I do not care if my work is 'unfinished', I care about my skill being good enough to be considered gallery worthy. My art is hanging in an art gallery, I cannot complain about that.

4. I think my art reflects who I am as a person. I don't necessarily feel different about it.

5. I would love to make this my full-time job and be able to either practice art or talk about art all day. Art is one of my strong passions in life, and even if my dream does not come true, I will always have my skill.

## **Xinting Yu**

1. The subject is animal protection, and the materials are Acrylic and Digital Painting.

2. I will adjust some details in my painting. For example, on my elk antlers, I wanted to add something that would make the painting more accessible for the viewer to understand and accept.
3. I'll be embarrassed, but it will make me work harder.
4. This is an opportunity for me to showcase my artwork.
5. I want to study fashion design, and I will probably work in related fields in the future.

### **Panming Li**

1. The subject of my work is talk about the landscape of my hometown. The materials are Watercolor and Acrylic.
2. My first painting from the process to the presented to everyone. I changed a lot in my work. For example, the ground has some leaves, and the inside house has some windows.
3. I will feel comfortable and a bit ill at ease. After that, I will change it looks better.
4. This is a challenge and opportunity for me to show my artwork to everyone.
5. I am already preparing to apply for graduate school. After graduate school, I like to design pet products, so I will continue this work.

### **Paula Ducharme**

1. I plan on working with a lot of sculptural elements . I'm doing a lot of work surrounding my band, telling my culture's stories and how I can best represent them in an immersive space. There's a lot going on! I'm using sculpture, video, and sound to create a really interesting installation space.
2. I've had to change a lot of factors recently due to time and costs. Fortunately this change has allowed more interesting ideas to use instead. I get to use more video and light work instead. Doing research has allowed me to put more depth into my current work as well. It allows me to

compare my work with others, it helps me learn how to implement certain ideas. Creative research has been really helpful with figuring out where i wanted to go with this work.

3. It's different. But I actually like it! I'm glad people get to see the work and progress put into these kinds of things. There's a lot of work going into this, and a lot of revising and reworking ideas. I like being able to share my in-progress work and the "skeletons" of my ideas. A lot of things have changed since then, but I also like to have a record of my work.

4. I am worried about being pigeon-holed in one space. I think it represents a large part of myself, and I'm excited for everyone to see it. It's a part that I'm really eager to share with everyone. But I am excited that people get to see my work, and maybe that will make them want to seek out more of my work in the future.

5. I have a lot of ideas. I've been really enjoying all kinds of sculpture. I want to make more large scale projects like this one for sure. I think for starters however, I'd like to start out smaller, just so I can really focus on what I want to make. I still have a lot of mediums I want to try out for longer periods of time, and really just, put time into creating!

## **Meradith Jackson**

1. For my year-end show, I hope to shine a light on how the news and media portray the missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, and more (MMIWG+) through an active voice in my work using screen print and wheat paste. Another of my hopes is to use sculptural acrylic paint to comment on sexual abuse and pedophilia in domestic settings through a slightly uncanny surrealistic lens.

2. Thinking about creative research and in-process work has taught me that you don't always go with the first idea that pops into your head when creating art that means a lot to you. Through creative research, I gained a clearer view of what felt suitable for my art, influencing my choices to change how I portrayed my subject.

3. The ideas that artists form tend to morph, grow, and transform like plants. Displaying the unfinished or "not meant to be seen" feels vulnerable to me, but I feel closer to my audience when they can relate to my work and see me as an artist, not just magically whipping something

up and calling it talent. There's something more appreciative in art supporters when they see how hard artists work to conduct their art.

4. Seeing myself through my art in public spaces is exciting and scary at the same time! I want to create art that makes people feel in a way that connects us.

5. I want to continue painting and printmaking in the future, but I am a fan of exploring new mediums and practices. We'll have to see!

### **Alina Shevchenko**

1. In the 4th year, I consider various aspects of feminism, combining my views and ideas of feminists of the past. I got a lot of inspiration from female artists like Berthe Marie Pauline Morisot, Mary Stevenson Cassatt, Eliza Cecilia Beaux, and many others. I paint oil paintings because oil paints give the picture the greatest significance and aesthetics.

2. Creative research positively influenced my practice as I found that non-perfect works or works in progress can be interesting in public. I did not think about this before as it is usual for me to see my works in process, but not for other people, especially non-artist people.

3. I would say that it is challenging to show people works in process. I do not show unfinished work to even close people in my everyday practice because it feels like they will not get my whole idea. However, after this installation, I found out that people like to see the process and research of work. This gave me more confidence to show each step of painting on social media or to people around me who are interested in it.

4. I like that my works go out in public places, as I have a voice for a wider public. I mean my favourite way of transmitting information - is through paintings. I can show my opinion about many social, political, and other issues.

5. I feel like I've just started considering the ideas that interest me, and this is just the beginning of my journey into the real art worlds. Feminism is my first big step to show people what they should look at more so that they have more perspectives, and they will be more open to change.

## **Ze Lieu**

1. My artworks are a unique blend of oil painting and light art, which explore the themes of human longing for space and romance. I am particularly interested in the intersection of art and astronomy, and I try to express the beauty of the universe through my pieces. My work is heavily influenced by the artist James Turrell, who is known for his exploration of the tactile and color force of light to create visually stunning experiences.

One of my recent pieces is a light sculpture that represents a solar eclipse. The sculpture captures the moment of a total solar eclipse, where the moon completely covers the sun and the sky is plunged into darkness. The piece is made of several layers of glass and metal, and it is lit by a combination of LED lights and natural light. The sculpture is designed to be interactive, and viewers can move around it to experience the changing light and shadow effects.

Another piece I have been working on is a light sculpture that represents a lunar eclipse. The sculpture captures the moment of a total lunar eclipse, when the Earth passes between the sun and the moon, casting a reddish shadow on the lunar surface. creating a mesmerizing visual experience.

My oil paintings are a prelude to my light art pieces, and they mainly focus on the theme of people looking up at the sky. Through these paintings, I aim to capture the sense of wonder and awe that people feel when they look up at the night sky, as well as the longing for the vastness and mystery of space.

My works can make people see the moment when the astronomical landscape appears, and I hope that my pieces will spark contemplation on the beauty of the universe and human romance. I believe that art can be a powerful tool for exploring and understanding the world around us, and I strive to create works that are not only beautiful but also meaningful. My oil paintings are a prelude to my light art pieces, and they mainly focus on the theme of people looking up at the sky. Through these paintings, I aim to capture the sense of wonder and awe that people feel when they look up at the night sky, as well as the longing for the vastness and mystery of space.

4. I am deeply committed to showcasing my artworks to the public, as I believe that art has the power to bring people together and create a sense of community. The purpose of my art is to provide a brief respite from the pressures of everyday life, and to help people find a sense of inner peace and tranquility.

One of the things that I value most about my art is that it can be enjoyed by people of all backgrounds and beliefs. My artworks are not limited to a specific audience and can be appreciated by people of different races, cultures, and religions. I believe that art should be inclusive and accessible to everyone, and I strive to create works that can be enjoyed by all.

Through my art, I hope to create a space where people can come together, forget their differences, and experience the beauty and tranquility of the moment. I believe that art has the power to bring people together and create a sense of community, and I am honored to be able to share my art with the public. I hope that my art can provide a sense of peace and inspiration to those who view it.

## **Simone Olanski**

1. Learning the basics in analog, I now feel ready to try my hand at digital for the next step in my creative process.
2. Trial and error in the darkroom proved to really strengthen my patience and resolve to get the perfect photo. The creative research that I have done in terms of subject matter has proved to be the easier part of the process.
3. I think it is exciting to have work that is only in its half-finished state for people to see. It gives viewers an idea of what it is like to go through our creative process.
4. I think that it is kind of surreal to have my art in a public space. A feeling I hope to get used to as my artistic career progresses.
5. I view my future practice as something that is pliable and able to be influenced by whatever my heart desires.