

Presented by
Creative Waco & 507 Gallery



A TIME FOR WONDER

AN ARTPRENTICESHIP EXHIBITION

507 GALLERY
1500 COLCORD
WACO, TX

ARTPRENTICESHIP 2023
EXHIBITION GUIDE

AUGUST 18 -
SEPTEMBER 7
2023

ABOUT ARTPRENTICESHIP + 507 GALLERY



Creative Waco's ARTPrenticeship program offers young creatives in our city meaningful paid work and practical training while connecting them to members of the creative community, empowering them to grow further and make their mark!

This exhibition, alongside two stunning large scale murals, are the results from this year's program. Our mentors and team are delighted to have the privilege of partnering with 507 Gallery for this showing.

Established this year in Waco TX, 507 Gallery provides space for artists to express, form, and shape culture and community.

Experience this thoughtfully curated space located in THRST Coffee.



EXHIBITION SUMMARY

A TIME FOR WONDER: AN ARTPRENTICESHIP EXHIBITION

We invite you to immerse yourself in a captivating artistic journey that transcends time and perspective. "a time for wonder: An ARTPrenticeship Exhibition" unveils the creative prowess of our 2023 apprentices, guided by their mentors to explore the tapestries of their own lives. Through their carefully chosen imagery, these young artists have woven a narrative that resonates with their past, present, and aspirations for the future.

This exhibition is a celebration of the intersection between mentorship and artistic expression, where mentors have played a pivotal role in encouraging apprentices to pause and reflect upon the wonders of their individual journeys. The result is an enchanting collection of art that embodies the depth and diversity of their experiences.

Each piece on display is a testament to the artist's unique perspective. The artworks speak not only to their technical skills but also to their emotional depth and resilience. As you wander through the gallery, you will encounter a symphony of colors, textures, and artistic mediums that come together to create a vivid portrayal of personal stories and aspirations.

"a time for wonder: An ARTPrenticeship Exhibition" is an invitation to traverse the corridors of human experience. It is a reminder that everyone is a canvas, painted with a myriad of emotions, memories, and dreams. Take a moment. Set aside the rush of daily life and embrace the power of introspection, to marvel at the resilience of these young artists, and to find moments of connection in the shared threads of the human journey.

Join us in celebrating the beauty of self-discovery and the lasting impact of mentorship. Step into a world where art is not just a visual spectacle but a profound narrative that unveils the essence of being. "a time for wonder: An ARTPrenticeship Exhibition" awaits your presence.

ARTIST STATEMENTS



CHILDHOOD ON A CANVAS

Montanah DeLeon

Acrylic on canvas

\$250

Everyone's childhood is different. The years go by, and you're growing up. I don't watch the shows now that I watched when I was 8 years old, and I don't wear the clothes from when I was 5 years old.

As I got older, I distanced myself from my childhood habits. When I wake up on Christmas morning now, I don't jump out of bed and run to the Christmas tree to see what "Santa" brought me. I used to ask for the latest action figures or video games; now I ask for clothes and socks.

The skull in my piece represents "Silence." If you don't know me, I have a stutter. It's hard for me to talk sometimes; I get stuck trying to say something and end up saying "uh, uhm, uh, uh." I really don't have a voice of my own, but I express my emotions and feelings through art.

SPROUT

Nayeli Flores

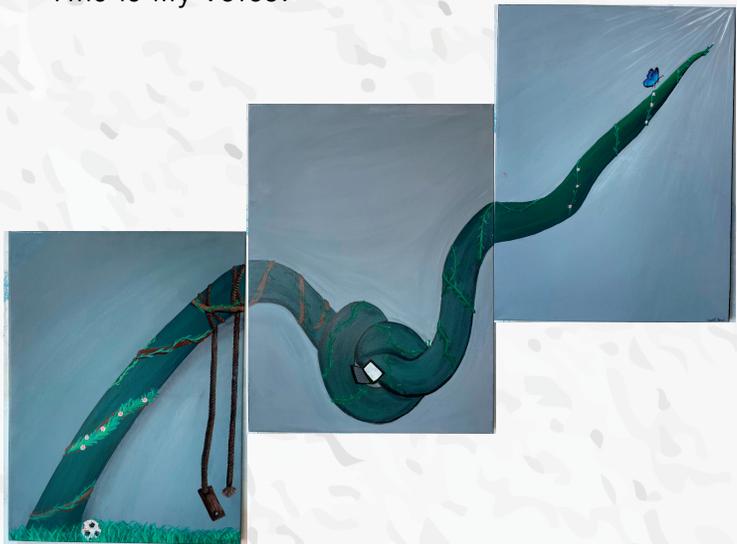
Acrylic on canvas, triptych

Set of 3, \$300

Throughout adolescence, we are taught never to forget our past, as it can prevent future mistakes. We learn from our past, remember it, and move forward.

"Sprout" reveals a part of my past and a part of my current self. Comprising three interconnected vine segments, "Sprout" displays my past, present, and future growth, showcasing my ability to persevere despite obstacles.

This is how I communicate with my audience. This is my voice.



In the initial piece, I incorporate a broken rope swing, a dirty soccer ball, and blossoming flowers to symbolize my vibrant yet worn childhood. The second section illustrates the vine's ongoing growth, but also its entanglement within itself and entrapment in technology. The third and final piece embodies my future, with the vine persistently reaching upward toward a radiant light. It strives to touch the light at the end of a dark tunnel while retaining an awareness of the past.

ARTIST STATEMENTS

FRIED RICE

LIN GUO

3-D WORK, MIXED MEDIA AND RESIN

\$330

"Let him cook" is a slang expression meaning to let someone do their thing, trusting the outcome will be good.

My visual art piece is of a wok, tossing paper stars and a few items that represent my childhood above an overbearing fire. Growing up with demanding parents, their pressure for me to fulfill the model Asian child role was hot, and they consistently influenced me to abandon interests and hobbies outside academics and restaurant work.

The composition, movement, and objects included in this work hints at the person I could have become, if allowed to pursue things I liked... or had the luxury of discovering talents. The fire coming through the hole in the wok burns what is supposed to be cooked. Through what is burned, I salvage what is retrievable to let myself cook again later



TALARIA

Ainsley Guy

Watercolor series mounted on woodblock

\$300

Time stands as an unyielding force; despite our efforts, it relentlessly moves forward. Frequently, we strive to retain moments in our lives, only to see them elude our grasp.

My series, "Talaria," comprises five watercolor artworks portraying the various shoes that adorned my feet during my adolescence. These pieces collaborate to capture my physical and mental evolution from birth to the present.

Our lives swiftly transpire, and suddenly we exit one phase to enter the next. "Talaria" offers a chance to peer into the past and grasp onto these fleeting instances a bit longer.

ARTIST STATEMENTS

A MILLION DIFFERENT MOMENTS

Harlee Hampton

Mounted acrylic miniatures on shells

\$330

Memories are tactile. Texture, both visual and physical, are very important to this piece. Every shell represents a meticulously captured instance in time, yet from a distance, they seamlessly merge.

Memories blur, causing us to lose sight of individual moments. Expressions like "my childhood" simplify the journey of growing up into a single event, though in truth, it comprises countless distinct instances that shape our future selves.



ALL COMES TO AN END

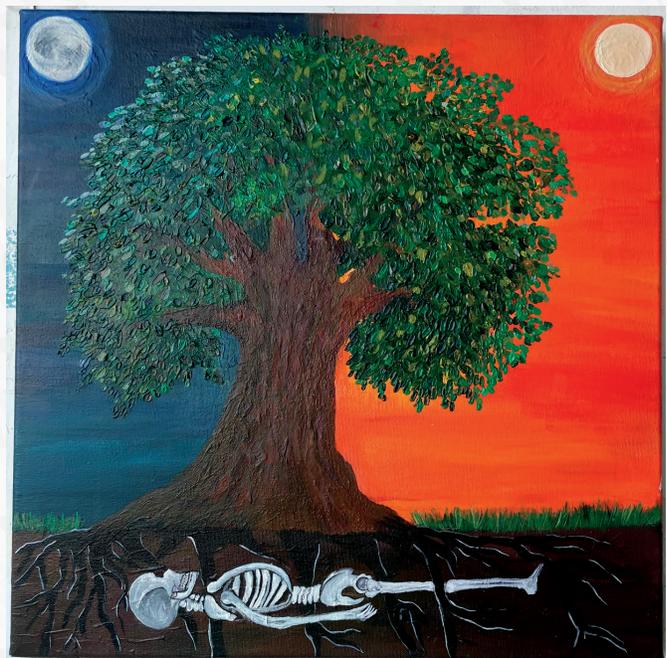
Emma Serrano

Acrylic on canvas

\$250

My artwork explores the intricate interplay of life and death, delving into their cyclical nature. I employed acrylic paints to infuse textures across the canvas. The visual elements mirror the concept that our identity is shaped by the individuals around us, as we are profoundly influenced by our surroundings.

Those who have left the greatest impact on me are my immediate family, their memory firmly held. Creating art provides me a means to articulate my thoughts and perspectives on life. It remains crucial for me to maintain a focus on my aspirations and consistently remind myself of the swift passage of time. This realization propels me to continuously embrace new experiences and avoid placing limitations upon myself.



ARTIST STATEMENTS



WE EMBODY OUR SOUL

Kaelyn Questelle

3-D work, plaster and mixed media

\$330

While suffering remains an inevitable part of life, it always holds the potential for new beginnings and rebirth. Sculpture offers a unique avenue to illustrate the process of rebuilding from the ground up. Through this piece, I aim to convey that creation can emerge from nothingness, and while life might bring hardship, it also carries opportunities for growth and renewal. While death is often viewed as finality, within the cycle of life, it serves as a foundation for rejuvenation and advancement.

Our physical form is intertwined with our history. Viewing death as a catalyst for rebirth delves into the exploration of our future. You might question why a 16-year-old shares such an intimate connection with death and bodily well-being. Since childhood, I've grappled with health challenges, starting with ear drum issues and asthma, progressing to organ hernias and severe mental disorders like schizophrenia.

This sculpture symbolizes my intent to depict and preserve my body for the years ahead. It encapsulates my past, present, and future. Similar to how the ancient Egyptians mummified their bodies to ensure their souls endured after death, I too seek to safeguard my body for the sake of my soul. For, ultimately, we do not possess a soul; we encompass and manifest it through our physical form.

ARTIST STATEMENTS



CLARITY

Lucy Ward

Oil on canvas, diptych

\$400

The first stage of our life starts with others defining who we are. The people around us hold the paintbrush and paint who they want us to be.

The first painting explores the effects of letting others hold the paintbrush to our lives. The unfinished oil paint style shows the turmoil many young people experience as humans wondering how we fit into the world around us. The hands represent the different people who play a part in shaping our personalities. Yet underneath the hands lies the girl who is covered up by others' influence and trapped inside expectations.

The second painting represents clarity. This piece depicts how my future self will have adapted to become a great balance of myself and the people around me, fueled by my recent discovery of myself.

By using oil paint, this piece creates a sense of value and realism so that viewers can imagine me in the place of the girl in the painting, and experience the image of a girl breaking out of her shell and no longer being defined by the people around her. In addition to oil paints, the use of mixed media gives the paintings a sense of depth and contrast.



Overall this personal series has been a great way to help me discover how much I have grown in my journey to find myself and pick up the brush painting my life.

ARTIST STATEMENTS

CATALYST

Avianna Harris

Oil on canvas, diptych

\$250

My artistic exploration delves into the profound impact of a challenging childhood on the journey of personal growth and the evolution of beauty. Drawing from personal experiences and observations, I delve into the transformative nature of these trials and the emergence of beauty amid adversity.

The raw authenticity of a difficult childhood significantly molds individuals, leaving both visible and concealed scars. As an artist, I feel compelled to navigate these emotional landscapes, inviting viewers into a deeply human exploration of resilience, redemption, and the pursuit of beauty.

My creative process resembles a visual diary, weaving together fragments of memory, emotion, and contemplation. Using a range of mediums, from painting to sculpture, I strive to encapsulate the essence of this transformative journey. Through bold brushstrokes, intricate details, and experimental techniques, I aim to visually convey the complexity and depth of each stage in the beauty evolution.

While my focus centers on personal growth, I firmly believe in the universality of these experiences. By delving into the nuances of my own story, I aim to evoke empathy and understanding within each viewer. My intention is to break down barriers between the artist and the audience, fostering a collaborative space for reflection and connection.

In my artistic expression, beauty defies societal norms, emerging from the fractures and crevices of a challenging past. It transcends appearances, celebrating the indomitable spirit of humanity. Through the exploration of texture, color, and form, I aim to communicate the innate strength and beauty that can arise from even the harshest circumstances.

Ultimately, my art stands as a testament to the transformative power of embracing a challenging childhood and using it as a catalyst for self-discovery and growth. By capturing the beauty evolution, I illuminate the often-overlooked moments of triumph born from difficult beginnings. It is my aspiration that viewers will engage with my

work not solely on an aesthetic level, but also as a catalyst for introspection and a wellspring of inspiration. This serves as a reminder of the inherent beauty that resides within all of us.



ARTIST STATEMENTS

SDRW

Daija Young

Acrylic on canvas

\$250

While subsequent actions will shape your future, the past grants you an enduring identity. My past contains numerous moments and actions that have molded me today, but one aspect remains constant: my struggle to communicate due to speech problems. Throughout my upbringing, I spent many days in a small room practicing words. This journey has shaped me into a reserved individual who often tunes out the world with music. Despite the challenges, I've dedicated significant effort to advancing my life, culminating in my early high school graduation at 16. A road leading to college lies ahead, as I work towards an associate's degree in business, with aspirations of personal growth.

Acrylic paint serves as the primary medium in creating this artwork. Drawing from personal experience, I recognize the versatility of acrylic, which proved ideal for depicting various art styles that showcase changes over time and personal development. The color palette leans towards dull and dark hues, reflecting shifts in my emotions over time and how I've often come across as unassuming. The application of white on the stacks of books symbolizes that my educational journey is still ongoing—an evolving process as I acquire more knowledge. Blue and white, applied to the chairs and tables, signify memories from my speech therapy past. The letters "SDRW" represent speech delay, reflecting my challenges with certain letters. At the bottom of the piece, closed lips symbolize my silence and reserved nature.

Change and events are inescapable as life advances; however, our responses to these circumstances dictate the contours of our future.



FILM TEAM

With the increase in popularity of content creation and the explosion of short-form video social platforms like TikTok and Instagram Reels, ARTPrenticeship expanded its programming to include digital media in 2021. The 2020 and 2021 programs documented ARTPrenticeship's mural process pivoting the program throughout pandemic and the stories that emerged. The 2022 apprentices created three short films highlighting historic small businesses in South Waco.

This year we partnered with Dominic Villa and RJ Jones to lead the film team. Dominic, a self-taught portrait photographer and videographer with a focus on short documentaries, and RJ Jones, a lifestyle photographer and content creator, brought nearly two decades of experience to the program.

The apprentices were tasked with documenting the work of their fellow visual art apprentices' progress of the two murals at the Herringbone Hotel. Through the guidance of Dom and RJ the film team grew their expertise by working with various camera models, conceptualizing and executing video storytelling and editing with Adobe Creative Suite.

DYLIN BARNARD



JAI'DEN WHITE



MARIO PERALAS



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2023 MENTORS, TEAM & PARTNERS

ARTPrenticeship would like to thank all of our community partners!

Bradley Settles

Naomi Canale

Rianna Alavarado

Dominic Villa

RJ Jones

Stefanie Wheat-Johnson

Elvia Leyva

Rad Lab Design

Lucky Find Hospitality

Milo Provisions

Baylor University - Solid Gold Neighbor

TFNB: Your Bank for Life

507 Gallery

Thrst Coffee

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SPARK TO IGNITE OUR
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