



woven together

AN ARTPRENTICESHIP EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION GUIDE

Washington Gallery
715 Washington Ave
Waco, TX

AUGUST 16 -
SEPTEMBER 7

2024

**PRESENTED BY
CREATIVE WACO**

ARTPRENTICESHIP X WASHINGTON GALLERY



CREATIVE
WACO

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 mural works completed at Cameron Park Zoo's Penguin Shores Habitat, are the results from this year's program. Our mentors and team are delighted to have the privilege of partnering with Washington Gallery for this showing.



WASHINGTON GALLERY

WACO

Washington Gallery was conceived to be an art gallery that anyone can feel comfortable walking into. From seasoned collector to curious consumer, the gallery has something for everyone.

Building on 30 years in the industry and a natural eye for beauty, the mission of the gallery is to create community through education and appreciation for art in all its many forms.

Learn more at wgwaco.com

EXHIBITION SUMMARY

WOVEN TOGETHER: AN ARTPRENTICESHIP EXHIBITION

"WHEN WE REJECT THE SINGLE STORY, WHEN WE REALIZE THAT THERE IS NEVER A SINGLE STORY ABOUT ANY PLACE, WE REGAIN A KIND OF PARADISE."

- CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

In this collaborative art exhibition, created by the 2024 ARTPrenticeship cohort of apprentices, we invite you to encounter themes of identity, challenged perceptions, and celebration of connection and growth. Woven Together was inspired by the rich traditions of textile art, and the stories of South Africa and the African diaspora at-large.

Our apprentices have learned deeply this summer about the symbolism, culture and stories of South Africa as we've designed and executed mural work for Cameron Park Zoo. As our city welcomes cape penguins from the African continent, we embraced the opportunity to meditate on the impact that one culture can have on another... and on a more intimate scale, we explored how our own stories shape our perspective.

Finally, we'd like to dedicate this show to the remarkably gifted artist mentors who have guided our apprentices this summer:

Christal Peterson, Kristen Thompson, Stephen Uhey,
Will Suarez, Dominic Villa and Kennedy Sam

Our prompt guided each young artist to utilize sewing and embroidery techniques alongside their favored mediums. Each artist was asked to create a fabric wall hanging that incorporated South African wax fabrics in whatever way best helped tell their stories. As you consider each piece, we hope that you'll step into their stories for a moment and be inspired by what they've learned in the past few weeks.

Alongside our mural work, and fine art works that are part of the gallery exhibition, our media and graphic design apprentices have created some wonderful content and products. In this guide, you'll learn a little about their work and be able to follow the QR codes to view their work. All these threads have been woven together this summer and the final images emerging have challenged and delighted us.

ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY

AIYANA CASTILLO

\$150

My work is highly inspired by the Sankofa drawn from the Akan people of west Africa. Sankofa teaches us to look back in order to move forward. The artwork invites viewers to contemplate their own journeys of self discovery and the ants in the hill shows dedication to work for a better future .

It serves as a visual reminder that understanding our past is essential to forging a meaningful future. While also showing that without hard work and dedication nothing can be achieved. With this piece, I aim to celebrate the resilience of spirit and the enduring power of self reflection, urging us all to embrace the transformative journey of Sankofa and the power of ants.



SHELL

CLARISSA CORDOVA

VALUED AT \$200 (NOT FOR SALE)

This piece is entitled Shell because I'm wrapped in a shell of vines, lilies, and violets (they symbolize purity and modesty) away from the world. When making this piece I thought reflected on being an ideal woman. To me, that means being strong, pure and modest, All characteristics that I've been striving to obtain. It's hard in the world we live in, so balance is something that has to become second nature.

ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

REALIZATION

JENNIFER CRUZ

\$300

This piece is about not taking things for granted and seeing the beauty in it.

As kids we see what we have in the moment, and we only want more.

If we have little things we are ungrateful.

We throw tantrums and fits to get more.

If we have a lot, we still see it as little.

But as we grow older we look back on our experiences and wonder why we didn't appreciate what we had, we ask ourselves, "Why did we take it for granted?"

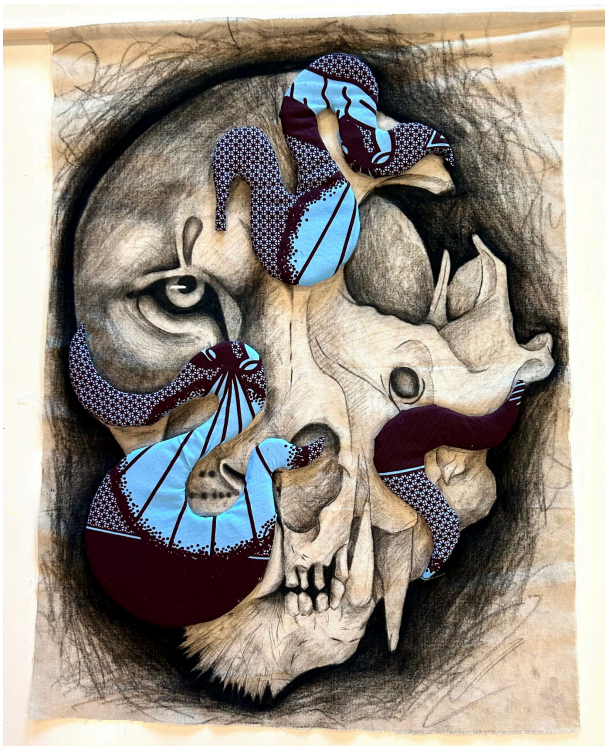
As we are older we see the beauty in things that aren't around anymore.

We realize we miss it.

We realize the amount of things that did matter.

We realize the beauty and the fun and the memories we shared.

We realized that we did not need to ask for more, we just needed to appreciate what we had.



THE PATH OF LIFE MONTANAH DELEON

\$300

Lions are a symbol of pride, loyalty, kingship, courage, and leadership. Lions are sacred to Africa. Lions are what keep Africa in balance. They help maintain healthy ecosystems by keeping herbivores populations in check. The pattern was inspired by an African woman wearing a quilt with a unique pattern that wasn't like the others. Traditionally African patterns contain sharp shapes such as squares and triangles, but the pattern on her quilt flowed along it like a river stream.

Mediums: Charcoal, canvas, black pen, whites paint, and fabric

ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

PEACE OF MIND NATALIE GARCIA \$300

In my piece, I wanted to represent the choice people have in restoring nature: the choice to continue to harm it or help it heal and flourish. The quilted hands represent that not only is it everyone's fault, but it's not everyone's responsibility. It also proves again that all people have a choice to try and save nature or not.



The flowers, a stylized version of the South African national flower, the King Protea, shows how our help, or lack thereof, affects nature. The top one is thriving, because people are promoting life and trying to help it heal and grow. The lower one shows the lack of support, simply not doing anything, dooms nature, and the blood-stained petals and fingers show that if nature doesn't thrive, neither do people.



THROUGH THE MIRROR JACIE GONZALEZ \$150

My piece is called "Through the Mirror". I named it that because it's someone reaching out to a mirror seeing something they can no longer have nor feel. The piece is based on someone reaching out for their loved one that they no longer have with them; they're reaching out to a person that no longer exists on this planet. Having a butterfly as the object they're reaching out to is a sign of their loved one guiding them in their journey of life.

ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

4 PEOPLE 1 STORY

LYDIA GILMORE

\$200

Something that represents me and respects my family is quilting. The fabric, the needle, the pins, the thread, and a chair. A single story, something where you think of me and my family, and you think of quilting and arts. I put together a piece as to where you see the generations of quilting all throughout my piece.

From the skulls to the pieces that lie on their heads all the way to the fabric that drapes down from their mouths. I used different mediums such as a paint wash and acrylic paint and lastly African wax fabric. The fabric in Africa and textiles it can convey one's cultural information or can be used as an historical document showing how far the activity goes back. I hope people can enjoy the piece as a piece of art and history.



IN THE BALANCE

AUBREY GUY

\$300

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ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

THREAD

SAVANNA HERNANDEZ

\$150

Thread is for holding things together and creating a bond. Bonding is essential to me personally and I believe it is important to many others as well. I created this artwork by beginning with a long, plain cloth. I cut shapes from another fabric, using the existing patterns as inspiration, and layered them on a thicker cloth. The black fabric behind the colorful shapes created shadows and depth. I stitched with orange thread and incorporated textured squares for added dimension.

One challenge I encountered was the difficulty of threading through different fabric types. My favorite aspect of the piece is how the shapes organically emerge from the fabric, with their flowing edges. I intentionally aimed for an imperfect, handmade look, emphasizing visible stitching and frayed ends.



RICH STORIES

ALEXIS JONES

\$200

I wanted to show aspects of South African culture that is usually not shown in the West. Starting at the bottom with the plain tan colors, using fabrics before moving up to the greenery of South Africa. Using crepe paper to create native flowers and using fake leaves to create a full plant look to show how bright and colorful Africa is as well as using black fabric and taking inspiration from traditional African style art to create some of the animals that live in these beautiful lands. Figures reaching to the horizon represents the cultural riches of Africa. Mawu, the moon goddess, and Lisa, the god of the sun, are believed to have created and taught humans how to build a society. I wanted to show the importance of these figures in the culture since it can dictate how people live their lives.



ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

GROWTH VS. SECURITY

IVY MOORE

VALUED AT \$300 (NOT FOR SALE)

My piece represents growth and security with the branches and roots. The branches are meant to show growth while the roots show security. I try to show the balance between the two in this piece.

The piece is on canvas fabric, and I used acrylic paint, embroidery thread, and patterned fabric for my materials. The prompt was to create a piece inspired by South African patterns, plants and animals. We also had to incorporate fabric in some way. I used some of the bright colors and patterns used in South Africa. I also included flowers and trees.

The top and bottom sections show the tree branches and roots. The middle section shows flowers made out of fabric and circular patterns. I stitched the borders of the branches, roots, and circles, to make a unique texture, and to create emphasis on them. I also made the flower section mainly orange, pink, and yellow, to stand out from the greens and blues.



STRETCH

AMARI RICHARDSON

\$300

The materials used in this piece are a 36 x 24 canvas, acrylic paint, embroidery thread, and all kinds of fabric. In this piece the tree represents personal growth and the giraffe represents how there are many things that make us who we are. The meaning of my piece as a whole is about figuring out who you are as an individual and how you continue to grow.

ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

EVER PRESENT LINKS

MAE PELLICER

\$200 (NOT FOR SALE)

The earth is an ever-present link connecting humankind. It is the one thing we all share, and therefore the one responsibility we all share. It is the job of every human to care for the environment, no matter where they are or who they are.

This tapestry depicts a scene with falling stars around native South African flowers growing out of the ground, one of them supporting a young girl who is in the middle of dropping a seed to the figure of a girl in the ground. The two characters both represent courage, but in two different forms. The first, the girl in the flower, shows courage through the passing on of responsibility and through trust. The act of trusting someone else, especially with something as important as the care of our world is one of the bravest things anyone can do. The second, the girl underground, is rising up to catch it. Her courage is in standing up and accepting the responsibility.



The back section of the ground represents night first, but in South Africa it can also mean darkness, death, loss, and spiritual presence. The stars that fall through the sky are our stories, and as they hit the ground they become the good through the grief. The fabric that makes up the lowest section has a pattern, as they are traditional to South Africa, but this one in particular really reminded me of a common thread we all share and spiritual connection. Beads are also a common expression of art in South Africa and you'll see them throughout the piece. The ones that spiral in the center of the flower is a reference to the mural we made as well as the earth. The golden band at the bottom is a pattern from our mural. But the gold color also represents wealth in South Africa culture and in this piece the wealth of the Earth through its natural resources. The moon represents femininity in South African culture, and feminism is something important to me.

You'll notice that some of the pieces in here are in groups of seven. This is because seven is my lucky number and it is also considered the perfect number in South Africa.

The textile approach to this piece really conveys the natural beauty that we are responsible for. This piece holds us accountable for our actions and sets an example for us to imitate: one of healthy stewardship.

ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

PERSPECTIVE AND SELF DISCOVERY

LUCY WARD

\$300

The main art elements that I have emphasized in my multimedia art piece are contrast and movement. I wanted the viewer to be immediately drawn to the white hair that stands apart from everything around it. I used an intentional color blocking method so that the elements such as the hair and the face could be set apart from each other. The hair's main purpose was to create movement and balance in the piece but is also representative of my feelings of emptiness and confusion towards my culture. The contrasting blue lines on my face represent how I try to imprint pieces of others' personality onto myself. The lines stand apart from my face showing that often I try to take on traits that don't exactly fit me. In the end, this piece is representative of my confusion leading to self discovery.



SHIFT

RIVER WARD

\$300

While working on this piece I was inspired by South African textile art and the personal stories often told through the pieces, as well as the textile designs themselves. I applied these inspirations to demonstrate a personal shift in my life, specifically in my perspective coming into this year. This shift in perspective is most notably portrayed through the focus on the rabbit rather than the snakes that surrounded it alluding to a positive, more optimistic viewpoint.

To convey this point I used a mixture of mediums I really enjoy including collage, embroidery, and painting, which I then combined to create a harmonious piece.

ARTWORKS + ARTIST STATEMENTS

STRENGTH IN BLOOM

MA'KENNAH WILLIS

\$150

This portrait celebrates the spirit of South Africa through a young Black girl holding a vibrant South African flower. Her gaze reflects both inner strength and a connection to the wider world.

The work is a tribute to Black womanhood, South African culture, and the enduring human spirit.



MEDIA TEAM + SPECIAL PROJECTS



We were incredibly fortunate to work with five media apprentices share their storytelling talents through photography, content creation, and more to document our summer project at Cameron Park Zoo.

AIYANA CASTILLO, CLARISSA CORDOVA,
JENNIFER CRUZ, JACIE GONZALEZ
& LYDIA GILMORE

In addition, we'd like to shout out the graphic design apprentices who co-created a mini coloring book, and stickers to celebrate Penguin Shores! A special thank you to *Designs with Jamie* for guiding us.

KAMRYN BOUYE, DARRION SILMON, ALEXIS
JONES, MAE PELLICER, JENNIFER CRUZ
& LUCY WARD

[CREATIVEWACO.ORG/ARTPRENTICESHIP](https://creativewaco.org/artprenticeship)

MEDIA TEAM + SPECIAL PROJECTS

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT OUR MEDIA TEAM PRODUCED THIS YEAR!

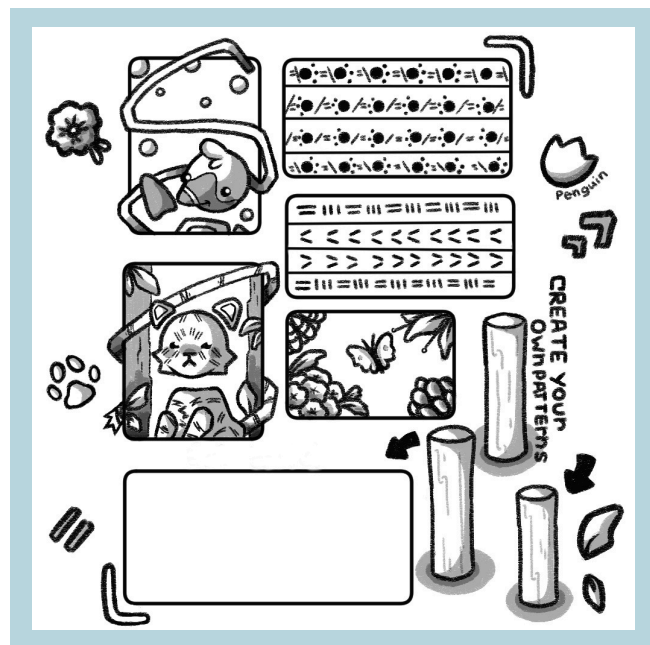


DARRION SILMON

I am a traditional and digital artist, my style is very mixed and I'm capable of many styles though I tend to stick with my cartoon style. My experience at Creative Waco has been wonderful. It has helped me with being more social and I've learned how to work with other people. My experiences with mural work were also great. I got to learn what being a muralist is like while definitely receiving great advice from mentors who connected me to resources and more. Thank you so much for this eventful summer, and great opportunity.

KAMRYN BOUYE

Graduating from Rapoport Academy, I spent my summer interning with Creative Waco's ARTPrenticeship program as a graphic designer and muralist. I've learned many things when it comes to working together in an artistic setting; also with that I've also expanded on my previous artistic knowledge. Working this internship was an amazing experience and it definitely made me want to work in the creative field more than I already did. Outside of this I do work on my own personal projects, I post on social media. Currently, I am focusing on my own comics and art.



Presented by
Creative Waco & Washington Gallery



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AN ARTPRENTICESHIP EXHIBITION

We would like to thank all of our community partners!

Cameron Park Zoological and Botanical Society

City of Waco & Cameron Park Zoo

Rapoport Foundation

National Endowment for the Arts

TFNB: Your Bank for Life

Washington Gallery

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