Kendall Bradley

Visual Arts Guild Scholarship

Artist Statement

My artwork primarily deals with different expressions of the figure. I am inspired by lights and shadows and try to incorporate references to them in my pieces; I have been experimenting with combining mediums that wouldn’t normally be used together to create a united body of work. After taking many studio technique classes in High School, I have come to love colored pencils. Colored pencil is present in a large amount of my work, but I have expanded my mediums and often combine them with gesso, watercolor, collage, printmaking, etc. I specialize in drawing, photography, and printmaking, so I wanted to find a way to combine my style in all of the different studios. I use a photo printer to print my photographs and then use both printmaking and drawing processes to alter the photographs. An element present in most of my pieces is layering; I am working towards a balance of abstracting the figure through physical adjustments (pressing the face against glass, taping the face, wrapping the face with string, etc) as well as abstracting the figure by using traditional drawing materials to physically adjust large-scale printed photographs.

With my artwork, I want to present not-so-beautiful subject matter in a beautiful way. I’m drawn to unflattering poses of the figure, but use my layering techniques to distract from what could be perceived as strange or weird: abstraction distraction. As I expand this idea, I am becoming more interested in the aesthetic relationship between individual artworks. I pay close attention to how my pieces are arranged when I present them, and have been creating more polyptychs as a result. My most effective piece that conveys this idea is *One for the Dog.* I arranged 6 digitally layered black and white photographs in a 3x2 ratio and used white, black, orange, and pink colored pencil to emphasize certain details of each image. Figure is predominantly the subject in each of the panels of the polyptych, but upon first glance the piece might not be perceived as figurative.