

## **‘No Rules Just Art’ BFA senior exhibition opens in Foster Gallery**

The [Foster Gallery](#) in the Haas Fine Arts Center at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is pleased to announce the opening of “No Rules Just Art,” the bachelor of fine arts (BFA) senior exhibition. It features artwork by 12 BFA candidates: Kierstyn Anglemyer, Jamie Breeden, Josh Deutschlander, Marissa Fronk, Sara Hartmann, Madeline Hutson, Jess Kemstra, Olivia Midthun, Susmitha Santhosh Kumar, Benjamin Wentzler, Marisa Valdez and Allison Young.

The exhibition will be on view from April 25-May 11, with a reception from 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 4. All Foster Gallery exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. Visit [uwec.ly/fostergallery](http://uwec.ly/fostergallery) for gallery hours.

**Kierstyn Anglemyer** is a senior BFA candidate from Chippewa Falls and will be exhibiting works that combine her painting techniques and digital illustrations. Anglemyer says, “I would describe my art as fun, and engaging. I was inspired to do something that was both digitally designed and blends my love of painting. I really strived to create something that engages the viewer and is intriguing to all viewers.” After graduation she plans to continue her passion and love for art by entering the graphic design field.



*Kierstyn Anglemyer, “City Bloom,”*  
Adobe Illustrator and acrylic paint



Jamie Breeden, “Torn Otherworld Cover Art (Draft),” watercolor on paper

**Jamie Breeden** is a senior BFA candidate from Mounds View, Minnesota, and will be exhibiting illustrations that combine traditional ink pen and watercolor paint with digital painting, inspired by concept art. Breeden says, “My series is a mix of traditional and digital illustrations, displaying my strengths and working on my weaknesses. My goal was to create a celebration of the creative process. I believe that the process of artmaking is an art in and of itself, and as the art climate is dramatically changing, it is more important now than ever to preserve that part of art.”

**Josh Deutschlander** is a senior BFA candidate from Eau Claire and will be exhibiting a series of five digital surreal animal illustrations that explore the themes of identity, resilience and emotional depth, using their experiences of growing up and living with disabilities. Deutschlander says, “I draw inspiration from both personal experience and the deep historical presence of animals in cultural and artistic symbolism. Rather than offering a single story, my work invites viewers into a dialogue, encouraging them to see their own

journeys in the tenacity and adaptability of the animals I illustrate. It's less about overcoming and more about evolving.”

**Marissa Fronk** is a senior BFA candidate from Medford and will be exhibiting three works that connect to a singular landscape photograph. These include the photograph itself, a vectorized reworking of the photograph and an acrylic painting. Fronk says, “For my artwork in this exhibition, I wanted to make landscape pieces that are created using a variety of methods. I enjoy trying to make my art as similar to the photograph as possible so we can almost feel what it would be like to see it in real life. This scenic landscape that I chose went from being seen firsthand, to a photograph, to a digital rework, to a painting. Nature in itself is already art, but I am taking it from its most natural state and developing it in more ways to show off its beauty.”



Marissa Fronk “Serenity (Painting),” acrylic on canvas

**Sara Hartmann** is a senior BFA candidate from Sheboygan and will be exhibiting design work from an energy drink brand she created. This includes the product packaging, merchandise designs and social media content. Hartmann says, “I got my idea for my project because I wanted to combine design I enjoy doing and something that I enjoy drinking. My friends and I have a tendency to drink a decent amount of energy drinks, so I thought it would be cool to create my own energy drink brand. One of my friends works as a 911 operator and it got me thinking of things that have “energy” in that realm of profession. That’s when a taser came to mind. Tasers give off a burst of electricity; energy drinks kind of do the same. I then found a photo of a taser going off and used the electric sparks as the color palette for the brand. I wanted the logo to feel like it’s glowing, like it’s charged up with that same energy.”



Sara Hartmann, “Tazer,” vector logo (Illustrator)

**Madeline Hutson** is a senior BFA candidate from Elkhorn. Her project explores the world of surface design, where she created nine different patterns that are featured in a dollhouse on walls and/or other surfaces within that space. Each pattern has its own unique qualities and palette but all focused under a botanical theme. Hutson says, “My big inspiration is my mom and nature. My mom has always had a love for patterned paper and fabric and has instilled that same love within me. At the International Quilt Festival in 2023, I met an illustrator who had created her own fabric line and had inspired me to explore surface design. I am fascinated with all of the naturally occurring patterns outdoors. Leaves, flowers, crown shyness, bark, moss and rocks are only the beginning of the inspiration that I hope to draw from.”



Madeline Hutson, “Ginkgo,” digital illustration

**Jess Kemstra** is a senior BFA candidate from New Berlin, who will be exhibiting a sculptural installation titled “Autonoesis.” Kemstra says, “When we are born, we are unaware of ourselves. We have not gained consciousness. It is still up for debate in the scientific community exactly when this awareness is gained, but the idea of being aware of one's own existence was of particular interest as I created this work. Autonoesis is the term that defines such an idea; awareness of our own existence as an entity in time. Awareness of our past selves and every passing moment our future selves will exist in.”

**Olivia Midthun** is a senior BFA candidate from Altoona, who will be exhibiting a series of marine-life drawings, all life sized, varying from one-inch long to over a foot. They are all stippled in black Micron pens on white paper. Midthun says, “Animals have always fascinated me. I grew up watching nature documentaries and have textbooks on strange animals. There are so many animals out there that we are unaware of; the animals that get the most attention are the common ones: tigers, wolves, monkeys, etc. There is a whole world of strange animals that we couldn’t even dream up ourselves, but they exist, so why not get to know them.”



Olivia Midthun, “Barreleye Fish,” Micron pen



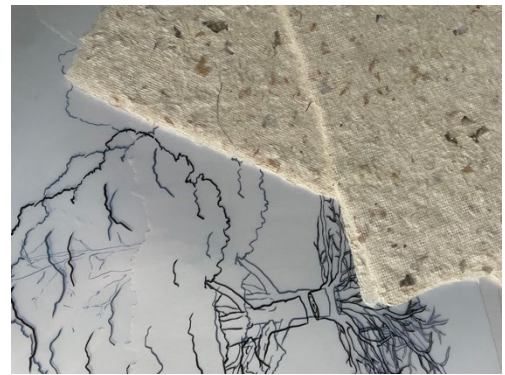


Susmitha Santhosh Kumar,  
"Amchi Mumbai," digital  
print

**Susmitha Santhosh Kumar** is senior BFA candidate from Mumbai, India, and will be exhibiting five collage illustrations made digitally in Adobe Illustration software. Santhosh Kumar says, "My artwork is influenced by my experiences as a nontraditional international student here at UWEC. My work is more personal in that it describes my journey from India to the USA and achieving a degree and sharing about my culture back home."

**Benjamin Wentzler** is a senior BFA candidate from Hastings, Minnesota, and he will be exhibiting a series of screenprints on a handmade paper medium, depicting a grouping of ash trees, suspended in various stages of life.

Wentzler says, "I think that this project represents my approach to art and design very well. I enjoy the challenge of working with raw materials and pairing traditional skills with contemporary design practices. I have my family and community to thank for their support and guidance. This project is about my home. More specifically, the way my home's landscape is changing. The ash tree has become endangered from exposure to invasive species like the emerald ash borer. This is my way of depicting that, and I hope it creates more visibility for disappearing species of flora."



*Benjamin Wentzler, detail image of handmade paper and transparency.*



Marisa Valez, "o > + x," cut paper,  
yes paste, foam core board

**Marisa Valdez** is a senior BFA candidate from Cedarburg, who will be exhibiting a paper weaving made from bits and pieces of personal ephemera, such as annotated manuscripts from past Bible study sessions, as well as sketches, brainstorming sessions and other scribbles. Valdez says, "My work deconstructs and reconstructs. It disassembles and builds. Jumbles and blends. It represents how my experiences have shaped me into the person I am today and will continue to influence my life in new ways. Moreover, the very act of cutting, gluing, placing and weaving symbolizes how I make sense of my memories. I have a deep appreciation for conceptual art — I like art that makes people

mad. What constitutes art as “good”? What makes some art more impressive than other art? How do you feel when you stare at *my* art? These are questions that excite me. My paper weaving could have theoretically been done by anyone, yet no one has created this exact piece. It is unique to me alone.”

**Allison Young** is a BFA candidate from New Hope, Minnesota, and she will be exhibiting a magazine with content about her life experiences from January 2024 through January 2025. It will be a collage style, including moments from her study abroad experiences, personal milestones and other highlights from that time. Young says, “I have taken photos from my personal library, included some collage elements and written journal entries to provide more details to my experiences. My mom was my earliest inspiration, teaching me how to collage and express myself artistically from a young age. She taught me how to find pictures in magazines and create my own vision boards, so my artistic style has evolved and matured from those practices. Another inspiration of mine has been Tatum Van Dam who I found on Instagram (@paddingtum). She has made multiple zines in a style and aesthetic that I really enjoy.”



Allison Young, “Volume 4, Issue 21,” digital design