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Art416: Senior Seminar  
Artist Statement

I paint, draw, and photograph to remember. I scribble on paper, scrape away at canvas, and release the shutter to later remind myself. People, places, and thoughts become fodder for my lines, drips, and negatives. As thoughts take on physical forms, old memories are brought back to life and new ones are created. Reflection mirrors the past, but also forms the future of my work. I work spontaneously and adjust to the direction of my art. The distinguishable turns ambiguous as the obscure becomes obvious. Planned becomes unplanned and vice versa. Old ideas transform into something completely new with the more work I produce. I may wish to carry on a series or rid it of its existence completely with another layer of gesso. I fill sketchbooks and rolls of film to find what has meaning to me and what does not. Imagery that does not have meaning, obvious or not, gets left behind and soon forgotten.

I paint to distort and illustrate to depict. As acrylic paint and ink run down the same plane, memories clash and take on new life forms as abstract portraiture. Human nature finds a place to settle on canvas in between monotony. The people around me inspire my portraits, but I am influenced by all of my surroundings- in patterns, prints, and lines. Solid blocks of color and pours run together. Vibrant colors add energy not only to the final product, but also to my process. I prefer working quickly and not always knowing where the next step may lead. Although if I am invested enough in a certain element, the tedious turns mechanical and I will work until it is "complete." I work in layers; never quite satisfied until I forget where I started. Layers cover up to hide or are scraped or sanded away to reveal. Layers provide security, but

also tell how I got to that point. I simply paint over what I want to hide, but I will always know that it is there.

I take photographs with the same mentality- to remember. I keep my eyes open to never miss a shot as everyday provides something new. A new perspective, person, or place yields a new subject that I may never have the opportunity to shoot again. A camera of some sort, even if it is just a phone, is on me at all times in preparation for my next photo opportunity. My ongoing collection of images can be overwhelming at times, but I know it is just practice for the next best shot. With much of what I photograph, I am already thinking of a way to translate it into a sketch or painting. Whether it is through a minor detail or an entire composition, my photos find their way into later pieces. I would much prefer referencing something that I can call my very own than taking from another photographer's perspective. Nature will always have that upper hand in what you shoot, something you can never directly control as is possible with paint or ink. Despite the many ways you can manipulate photography, it provides the same uncertainty as the direction of my paintings. Art is as certain as memory.