

THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

28 / 10 / 22



RESILIENCE

THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

ABOUT THE ART PRIZE

The GSA Graduate Art Prize incorporates the GSA Craft Prize and is an annual event as part of our Engaged and Healthy Communities mandate. This event champions creativity and reflects the diversity of students' interests outside their area of study.

This year, the GSA Graduate Art Prize will be held at The Arts Centre Melbourne in October, along with a virtual gallery in a prestigious annual event showcasing the talent of the UOM graduate student community.

THEME

This year's theme is 'resilience'! We've all been under unprecedented restrictions and how we relate to resilience over this time is how you can express what resilience means to you!

PRIZES

Here are this year's prizes for the art and craft prize:

First Prize – \$3,000 cash prize

Second Prize – \$1,000 cash prize

Third Prize – \$750 cash prize

People's Choice Award – \$500 cash prize

Personal Experience Award – \$500 cash prize

Global Resilience Thinking Award – \$250 cash prize

Innovation Award – \$250 cash prize

HOW TO VOTE

Vote for your favorite artwork to win the People's Choice Award. Head over to the GSA's webpage and choose your favorite artwork.

PURCHASING ARTWORK

For more information about purchasing any of the artwork displaying "FOR SALE", please contact events@gsa.unimelb.edu.au and you will be connected with the artist.

2022 ENTRANTS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Koukou Zhang | 25. Mau Yan Kwok | 49. Weiting Chen |
| 2. Quick Maleeka | 26. Jia Sun | 50. Chelsea Coon |
| 3. Safna Hassan | 27. Stephanie King | 51. Dimple Malhotra |
| 4. Hajar Sadegh Zadeh | 28. Tianying Pei | 52. Maria Del Mar Scavone |
| 5. SeyedFarid FazelMojtahedi | 29. Shuqi Wang | 53. Jean Paul Vera Soto |
| 6. Xinyu Yang | 30. Di Han | 54. Linda Studena |
| 7. Caroline Egan | 31. Ashley Reynolds | 55. Zhaleh Ataei |
| 8. Chadarak Tungpagasit | 32. Jennifer Thy | 56. Jean Luan Yong |
| 9. Caroline Williams | 33. Frankey Chung-Kok-Lun | 57. Sarah Horton |
| 10. Rashmi Lenin | 34. Hadi Mohaghegh Dolatabadi | 58. Brittany Fong |
| 11. Siau Mun See | 35. Ali Mahaqi | 59. Andi Xu |
| 12. Melanie Williams | 36. Natalie Seiler | 60. Sarah Abou-Eid |
| 13. Wenn Lynn Ooi | 37. Mirudula Mohankumar | 61. Isha Dey |
| 14. Lea Rose | 38. Cindy Ng | 62. Alice Coates |
| 15. Shuqin Huang | 39. Alice Aldora | 63. Natalie Merrick |
| 16. Puvaneswary Ponniah | 40. Mabel Ng | 64. Danielle Wallace |
| 17. Qian Zhu | 41. Kayvan Gharbi | 65. Mary Utter |
| 18. Carolina Mayen Huerta | 42. Tanvi Dhariwal | 66. Amanda Cheang |
| 19. Cody Rodriguez | 43. Alejandro Mardones | 67. Leah Mariani |
| 20. Glenistair Hancock | 44. Qiyun Liu | 68. Joan Pardillo |
| 21. Arnav Goyal | 45. Jane Goh | 69. Jillian Lu |
| 22. Jenny Lin | 46. Masumi Kat | 70. Lisa Singer |
| 23. Sonia Pakniyat Jahromi | 47. Alejandra Abril Pareja | 71. Ester Liana |
| 24. Sarah Cook | 48. Vanco Hristov | 72. Asha Mamgain |

THE JUDGES



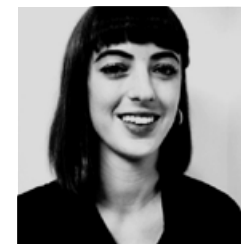
BON MOTT
Artist & Curator

Dr Bon Mott is a queer, nonbinary, neuro-diverse artist and curator who identifies as lightning. Bon creates transdisciplinary process-driven installations activated by performance that are informed by learning from Indigenous Knowledge and nurtured through collaboration, quantum physics and the queer ecologies of lightning, with the goal of finding a path forward for expanded and inclusive social change. Bon's artworks repurpose personal nostalgia and utilize natural materials to minimize waste and reduce energy resources. Bon exhibits in Europe, Canada, USA and across this ancient land renamed Australia by English settlers.



SHELLEY MCSPEDDEN
Curator

Shelley McSpedden is Senior Curator at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA). Prior to joining ACCA, Shelley was Senior Curator and Acting Artistic Director at Shepparton Art Museum, where she managed the Museum strategically. She has also held curatorial roles at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Monash University Museum of Art and National Exhibitions Touring Support. Shelley has also written extensively on contemporary art and edited a number of art publications. She holds a PhD from the Art History and Theory program at Monash University.



ANNIKA AITKEN
Curator

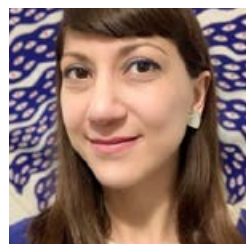
Annika is Curator at the Art Museums of the University of Melbourne. Previously, she was an Assistant Curator at the National Gallery of Victoria, where she co-edited the first two critical imprint publications at the NGV: *She Persists: Perspectives on Women in Art and Design*, and *The Centre: On Art and Urbanism in China*. Annika has managed multiple public art projects and independent curatorial projects across Australia. She is a PhD candidate in Art History at the University of Melbourne.

THE JUDGES



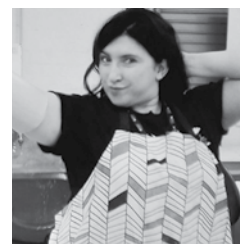
IRENE BLANCK
Quilting Artist

Irene has 30 years' experience with quilting art and is proficient in a range of quilting techniques including machine piecing, English Paper Piecing and Foundation Piecing and Needleturn Applique. Irene has had multiple quilting artworks published in magazines across Australia, UK and Europe. Her book 'Focus on Applique' was published by Quiltmania in 2015, which helped her launch an international career in teaching quilting techniques. Irene has taught extensively in the USA, Europe and Australia.



NILA SHEKARVAND
Artist

Nila Shekarvand is a multi-disciplinary artist working across painting, sculpture, embroidery and textiles, and digital technologies. Nila has received numerous awards, acquisitions, and residencies, including the Creative Council Professional Development Grant, acquisition with the Portrait Gallery of Australia, and residency with the Alberta College of the Arts. She holds a master's degree in Contemporary Arts and is currently teaching at the University of Melbourne.



JESS LYONS
Ceramic Artist

Jess Lyons is a naarm/ Melbourne ceramic-based artist. Her research-led practice explores personal and ecological narratives dictated by material investigations and outcomes. Jess holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Art Honours.



KATE MELVILLE-REA
Previous Craft Prize Winner

Kate is the winner of the 2021 Craft Prize, for which she made a sculpture using pieces of plastic that she collected off the banks of the Yarra River. She is a Master of Environment graduate and now works in climate education and justice. Kate believes that storytelling begins with its medium. She loves to see artists who are intentional about their materials, placement, and setting.

THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE



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Koukou Zhang



2 *INSTRUCTIONS
NOT INCLUDED
Quick Maleeka



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Safna Hassan



4 #MAHSA-AMINI
Hajar Sadegh Zadeh



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FazelMojtahedi



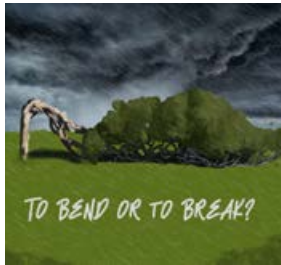
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Xinyu Yang



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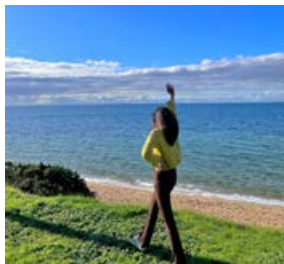
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Di Han



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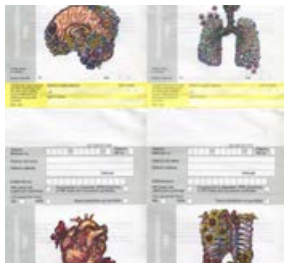
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43 **THE EXPERIENCE
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Alejandro Mardones



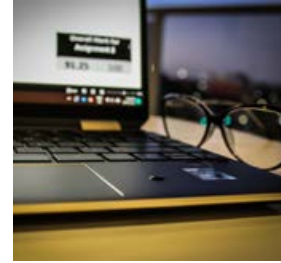
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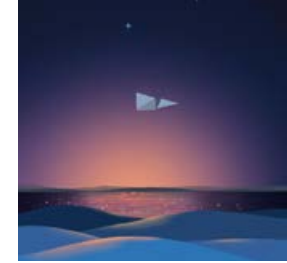
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Brittany Fong



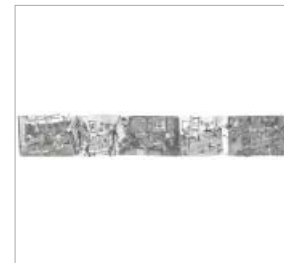
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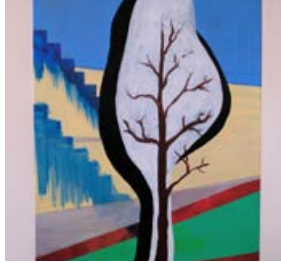
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RESILIENCE

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RESILIENCE

THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

THE BRIGHT SIDE

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Koukou Zhang

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This picture was taken in a Canadian town. After the end of a long, strict COVID lockdown, the economy was hit hard and people felt isolated. However, I was moved to see that residents on the street maintained a habit of decorating their doors and windows with flowers. The residents' resilience inspired me to start making little positive changes even during hard times.



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RESILIENCE

***INSTRUCTIONS NOT INCLUDED**

ARTIST

Quick Maleeka

MEDIUM

Photography (composition of found objects)

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Resilience is often thought of as a positive quality that someone possesses, but all too often one forgets that being resilient is a constant everyday challenge. Everyone faces their own unique set of hardships that a guide on being resilient cannot hope to understand. This artwork represents the all too confusing journey one faces as they strive to be better or achieve their goals. The deliberately erratic arrangement of found objects reflects life's continual challenges while one seeks to make order of the chaos.



THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

SAFNA HASSAN

ARTIST

Safna Hassan

MEDIUM

Painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I take inspiration from nature, and I believe that the loudest message is from the voiceless (animals). To me, Resilience means to go on with a hope of a better world. Because I know that time heals everything. My artwork which is my vision of a better world.



#MAHSA-AMINI

ARTIST

Hajar Sadegh Zadeh

MEDIUM

Oil painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

On 16 September 2022, a 22-year-old Iranian woman named Mahsa Amini died in Tehran, Iran, under suspicious circumstances, allegedly due to police brutality. The morality police of Iran's Law Enforcement Command arrested Amini for not wearing the hijab in accordance with government standards. Eyewitnesses and women who were detained with Amini said she was severely beaten by police.

Photos of her at the hospital show that her ear was bleeding profusely, indicating a severe hit to her head. Amini's death resulted in a series of large-scale protests across the country which garnered international attention, putting a focus on violence against women in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The women of my country, Iran, have been keeping protesting for their freedom, and many of them have been killed by the armed forces of the Islamic Republic. These protests will continue until they acquire freedom.

The building I have pictured is called Azadi Tower (Azadi means Liberty and freedom), which is located in Tehran. This means they have resilience against disturbances.



ARTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET

ARTIST

Seyed Farid Fazel Mojtahedi

MEDIUM

Paintings and Handcraft

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Resilience is often thought of as a positive quality that someone possesses, but all too often one forgets that being resilient is a constant everyday challenge. Everyone faces their own unique set of hardships that a guide on being resilient cannot hope to understand. This artwork represents the all too confusing journey one faces as they strive to be better or achieve their goals. The deliberately erratic arrangement of found objects reflects life's continual challenges while one seeks to make order of the chaos.

*Seyed is a GSA staff member and is not eligible to win a prize



XINYU YANG

FOR SALE

ARTIST

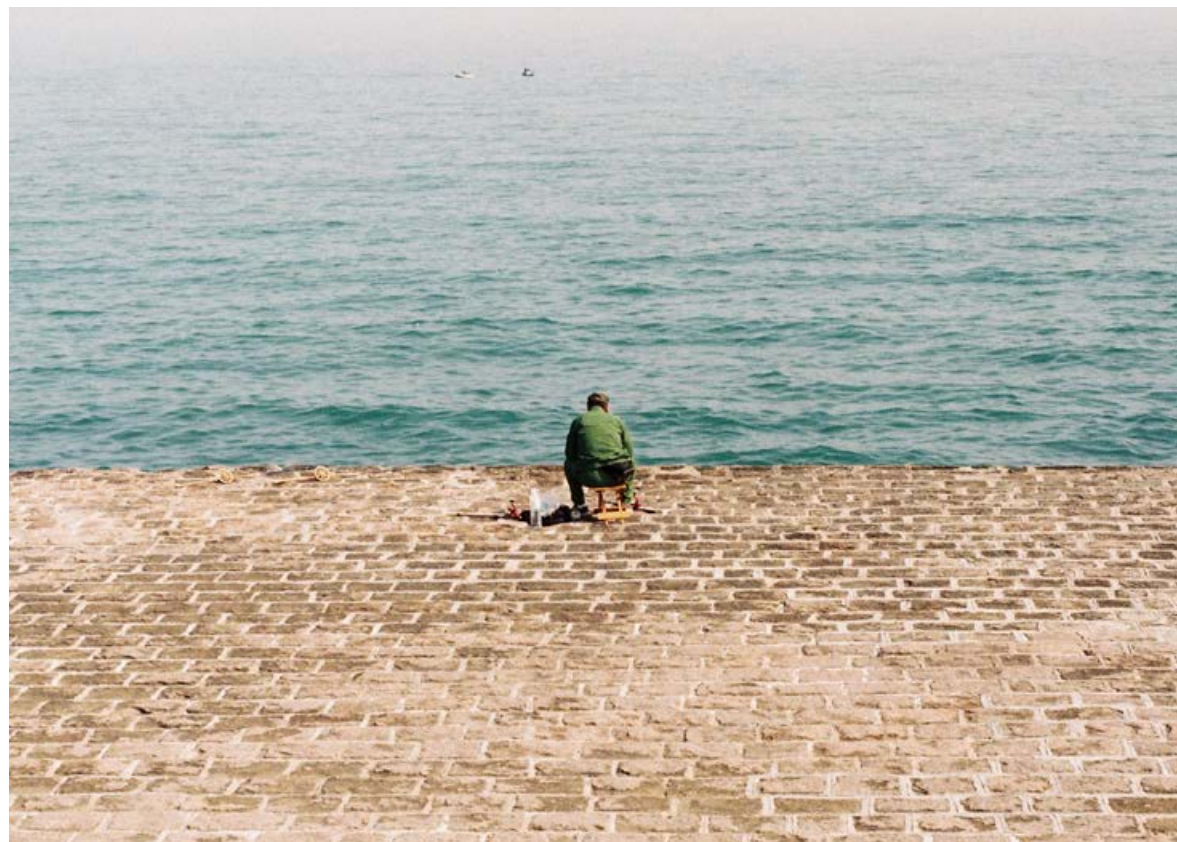
Xinyu Yang

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

"If you can spend a perfectly useless afternoon in a perfectly useless manner, you have learned how to live."



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I WILL FLY

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Caroline Egan

MEDIUM

Acrylics

ARTISTS STATEMENT

'I will fly' is a highly personal painting as I was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer in March this year. I have since done 13 rounds of chemotherapy and have also had mastectomy and reconstructive surgery on both breasts. I have also done 3 weeks intensive radiotherapy and am now doing 3 weekly immunotherapy for the next six months and am now on a twelve month course of tamoxifen therapy. I am grateful to have been given a good ongoing health diagnoses after what has been a personally challenging year for me. My husband and family and friends have been an immense support and studying has been a great mindset to keep focusing towards the future. The title 'I will fly' of the piece comes from a song by American Artist Nightbirdie. I listened to this song on repeat when painting this big canvas in March when I was diagnosed and the process of creating was cathartic for me.



'TILL NEXT TIME

ARTIST

Chadarak Tungpagasit

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Season change. You still be you, but not in the version I'm familiar with. No worry. I will wait until you are you again. We will meet at the same place, on the same date, and at the same time next year.



STRONG GALE FORCE

ARTIST

Caroline Williams

MEDIUM

Digital Artwork

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Like this leaning tree that has learned to survive the strong winds on the open flats, so to can you overcome difficulties. Do you bend or do you break?



A MOON PERSPECTIVE

ARTIST

Rashmi Lenin

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

And like the moon, maneuver energy to inspire people even through phases of emptiness to feel complete again – Resilience to me.

*Rashmi is a GSA staff member and is not eligible to win a prize



RESILIENCE IN SOLITARY

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Siau Mun See

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

The photograph shows someone sitting alone on one side of a bench overlooking a view in front of him that only he can see. This photo depicts the mental struggles of an individual can only be understood by themselves. By inviting another person to sit next to them on the bench, the person might be able to see their struggles. However, they might see the same view but the perception of the struggle will be different for each person. Thus, no one can really understand what we are truly going through. This artwork suggests the theme of dealing with mental illness alone. Resilience is shown when one chooses not to disclose their pain but evaluates it in solitary.



THE SUMMER I TURNED BEAUTIFUL

ARTIST

Melanie Williams

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Australia is famous for its seasonal bushfires, a natural disaster that sweeps and scars the land but gives the opportunity for new growth. Just like the country, my body survived disaster, left not unscathed and permanently changed. The scars with their winding rivers and craters are now the map that tells the story of my resilience, my survival.

We view the summers of our youth with wistful nostalgia, and so I wanted to capture this in my photographic piece while documenting the raw reality of my recovery. What I see most now in this photograph is the strength of the woman behind the lens her determination to fight for her life, setting her lips and jaw firmly in the face of what has happened.



LOVE YOU TILL THE END

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Wenn Lynn Ooi

MEDIUM

Graphite / charcoal drawing

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Inspired by the film "The Fault in Our Stars", this piece explores the resilience of two lovers facing the reality of their mortality.

The foreground depicts a cracking clock blending into a human skull, symbolising the precious and fragile nature of time in the face of impending death. A marionettist's hand looms overhead ominously, representing the cruel hand in life that has been dealt upon the falling silhouette. Nevertheless, the silhouette reaches towards the soaring birds, representing an unwavering will to fight for one's right to live fully and freely.

It is painful enough to feel like a helpless puppet in the cruel hands of life. But what's even more crippling is to watch a loved one suffer the same fate as there are two options that lay ahead: 1) to die first, knowing the pain that it would leave on the other as they slowly succumb to the same fate; or 2) to watch the other pass, and spend the rest of one's own limited lifespan grieving. In face of such despair, it takes a huge amount of resilience to live and love fearlessly. This is shown by the couple's embrace and joined hands in the background, which symbolises the promise to love each other to the end of their lives, and to accept the pain that comes along with it. As Augustus Waters puts it so eloquently: "You don't get to choose if you get hurt in this world...but you do have some say in who hurts you. I like my choices."



REWILDING QUILT-BLANKET

ARTIST

Lea Rose

MEDIUM

Digital Printmaking. Digitally printed on 100% organic cotton fabric and machine sewn 3m x 1.4m

ARTISTS STATEMENT

In the works 'Rewilding Quilt-Blanket' I explore the paradigm between the human condition and world climate crisis. Colonisation, industrialisation and relentless capitalism has left people addicted to the material, and feeling empty. Working from a formative practice based in psychotherapy, I unpack the darkest places of self, relentless suffering of grief and loss, the isolation of mental health, to be lost, to be broken. Included in my theoretical research to create a conceptual framework is Carl Jung's 'shadow theory' and the natural drive towards transformation through resilience and evolution of the psyche. As an environmental activist and humanist, I see the direct connection between the human condition and the environmental crisis, my multi-disciplined art practice bridges both landscapes and looks to 'rewilding' for answers.



THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

SHUQIN HUANG

ARTIST

Shuqin Huang

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Endless sea builds my resilience



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RESILIENCE

STRENGTH YOUR RESILIENCE WITH NATURE

ARTIST

Puvaneswary Ponniah

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Admiring nature and enjoying the sounds of birds in the park, make me feel pleasant and nice. Sometimes I was wondering how and why. However, beautiful moments like these contribute to inner calm and well-being. So, spending time with nature gives me relax and release my stress to become resilient in handling my challenges. By looking at the curvy branches and flexible leaves of this tree, near Melbourne Museum, I felt how resilient the tree become to withstand windy and cold weather and it reminds me the importance of resilience in life to handle challenges, one of my favorites' during my learning in LEAD program organized by GSA. As an international student, away from home, I felt stress when settling my studies and life in Melbourne. However, spending time with nature, especially the beautiful parks in Melbourne, strengthens my resilience. This also helps me to have my self-reflection, assessing my energy level in my body, mind and emotions.



BLOSSOM AMONG CLUSTERS

ARTIST

Qian Zhu

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I was studying in Canada at the start of Covid-19. Since returning to my home country in March 2020, I stayed at home for more than two years until I came to Australia to study again. During the past two years, I had few social connections except my family and I came to find my heart and mind was enclosed somehow. I gradually lost passion and motivation for life. But simultaneously, I struggled to navigate my track. Coming to University of Melbourne for graduate study is one step I took when both the international physical restraints and my psychological restraints started to get loosed.

The photo was taken at the Tesselaar Tulip Festival on September 24th, 2022. The beginning of the story is when one day I took the courage to reach out to an Indonesian classmate who would do the same presentation topic as I on the discussion board of Canvas. She is so kind, considerate, energetic and very much passionate about her life. Staying with her, I feel lightened and inspired. Invited by her, I, for the first time, experienced a long train journey. As the train heading more to the destination, my heart seemed to be more open to the splendid Melbourne sky outside the window.

I was introduced to more international students as we arrived. Emerged myself in the chatting while watching the charming and vivid tulips together with friends, I really felt myself is exactly the yellow baby tulip in the middle of a cluster of red blossoms – although coming from a different cultural background and was quite enclosed at the time, I was being cared, excited, enlightened, and encouraged by all the friends I met here. At that moment, I noticed there is evident cracking at both my heart and mind. Now, when I look at the photo again, the meaning of resilience really comes to me: Take the courage to be open, when you look around, there is always friends supporting you.



HEARTBREAK

ARTIST

Carolina Mayen Huerta

MEDIUM

Watercolour paint

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Emotional resilience is the ability to adapt, move on, and cope with hardships, including breakups. Building emotional resilience is what inspired by artwork.



RESILIENCE IN WANDERLAND

ARTIST

Cody Rodriguez

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

While deeply immersed in Van Life cultural events around Bend, Oregon, I kept pondering how difficult it would be to choose just one nomad I had met over the course of many months to capture the essence of resilience. Yet, a serendipitous conversation over a bowl of home-made potato soup with a new friend, Brittney, was the first and only time I had ever heard a Van Lifer use the word “resilience” in describing their own rebirth from hard times, as well as the spirit of the nomadic community. While standing outside her converted bus, Alice, amidst dozens of other nomadic vans and buses in a land of wonder, I asked her what I have asked many, “Has anyone ever told you that you’re living the dream?” She replied:

“Yes. When people say you’re living the dream, I think they also feel that sense like, I’m just stuck in my life and I just always want to experience something new.

I got really depressed waking up and doing the same thing every single day, then on the weekends drinking my stress off... and like waking up, getting in the car, going to work, going home, making dinner, going to bed, doing that everyday. I wanted to find a way to live a life that I was always excited and didn’t need to have a vacation from.

I think Van Life is also glamorized—don’t get me wrong—it is a beautiful way to live, but it takes a lot of work and it takes a lot of resilience.”



RESURRECTED

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Glenistair Hancock

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

While working and studying mental health nursing in Western Australia I became interested in flowers. This was a way I could maintain and care for my own mental health, connect and remember all that is good in nature. This flower grew in an area completely decimated by bush fires, it had survived drought, ferrel animals and humans. It gave me strength, it made me feel resurrected.



TEMPLE OF DEDICATION

ARTIST

Arnav Goyal

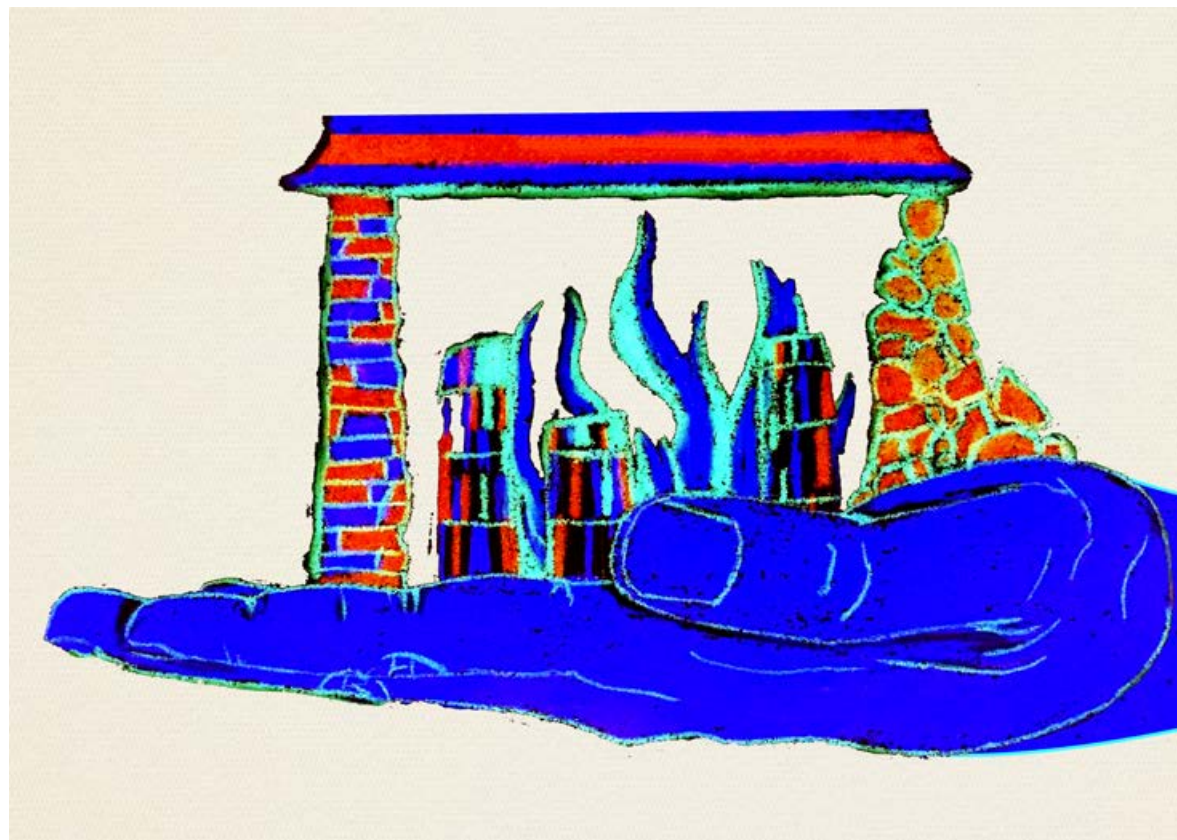
MEDIUM

Oil pastels

ARTISTS STATEMENT

The greek temple of Parthenon springs as one of the first trabeated forms, like a monumental human mountain. How does architecture resemble the same resilience to societal demands?

This thought ignited the creation of the submitted artwork, incorporating changes, and springing back to stability, burning desires.



Arnav is a GSA staff member and is not eligible to win a prize

RIDE THE UNCERTAINTY

ARTIST

Jenny Lin

MEDIUM

3D textured painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Resilience is about developing courage and calmness when facing uncertain circumstances. When times are challenging, we can become caught up or even smashed by the turbulent waters. However, with resilience, we will grab hold of these fleeting opportunities and keep paddling upon life's currents, knowing that we will eventually return back on-shore, back on our feet. With practice, we will master the skill of riding the waves of uncertainty where we can truly find a sense of confidence and peace from within.

The choice of textured painting is chosen as the medium to represent roughness and helps bring activity in the waves and sand to life.



MOTHER NATURE KNOWS BEST

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Sonia Pakniyat Jahromi

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Covid time reflections motivated me to go out for long walks in nature and appreciate the beauty that we are surrounded with and take for granted! Since then I started taking photos of nature during my walks to be able to share them with friends as a sign of hope during difficult times.



GO GO GO

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Sarah Cook

MEDIUM

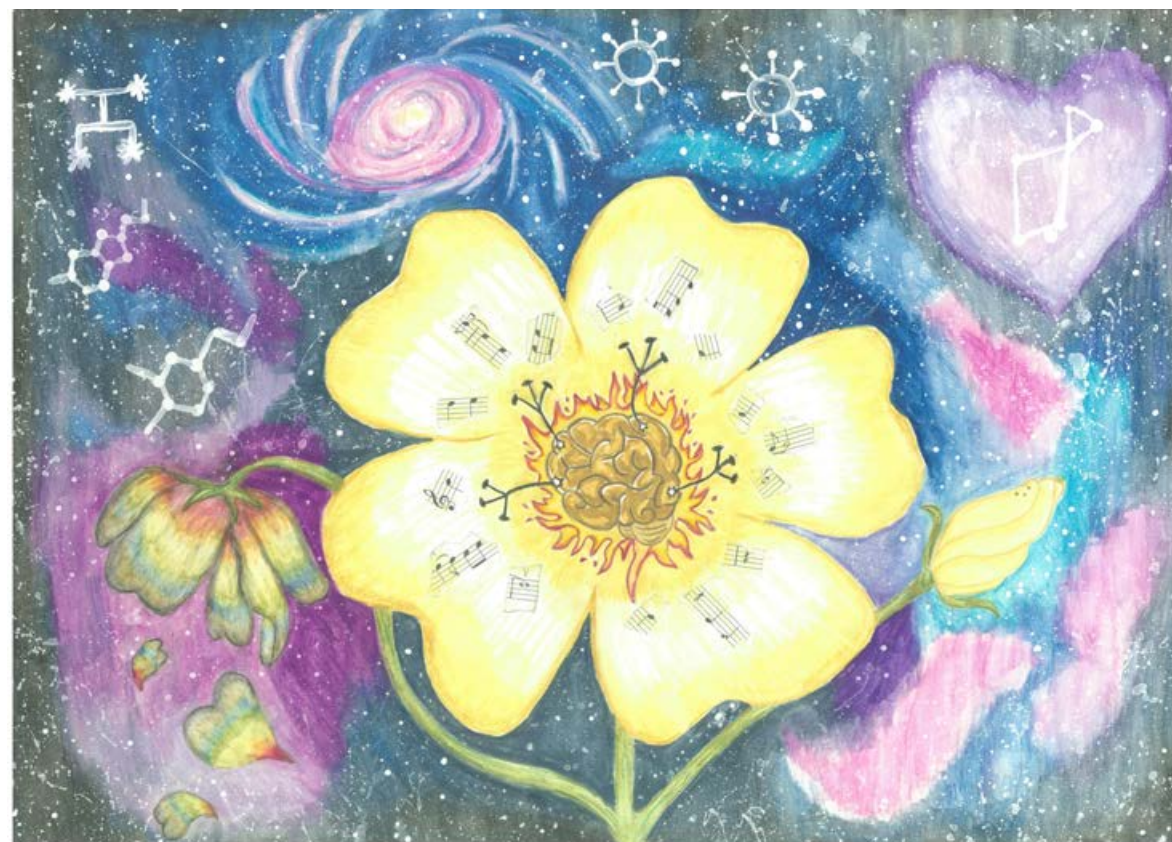
Water colour pencil drawing

ARTISTS STATEMENT

The theme of resilience reminds me of this quote from 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and then thrown into prison, even though he did nothing wrong. Many Victorians can relate these lyrics to their experiences of COVID-19 lockdowns. We felt trapped in time and in our minds, reminiscing the past and wishing for the future. Here, the past is illustrated with the rainbow colours of Joseph's coat, and the future is represented by the gold jewellery that he receives when he becomes free. The music notes represent our society during lockdowns, torn apart and unrecognisable from the beautiful construct that it should be. The constellations depict our pandemic journey as we head towards a new way of doing things, not necessarily returning to pre-pandemic life.

Resilience is about go go going!



UNCEASINGLY

ARTIST

Mau Yan Kwok

MEDIUM

Acrylic on canvas

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I see the word 'Resilience' as an unceasing work of trial and error. If you look closely at the drawing, there are different layers that illustrate the periods of my feelings facing challenges in academic work and things that happened in my life. I want to emphasise that being resilient is all about the process. It is not about each individual event or mistake we encounter in life, but the big picture of all our experiences is what makes us who we are today.



JIA SUN

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Jia Sun

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

The photograph was taken using a NIKON DSLR camera at Cranbourne Botanic Gardens. I believe Resilience is about finding self, sometimes in solitude, and then looking forward to the journey ahead.



HEADPHONES

ARTIST

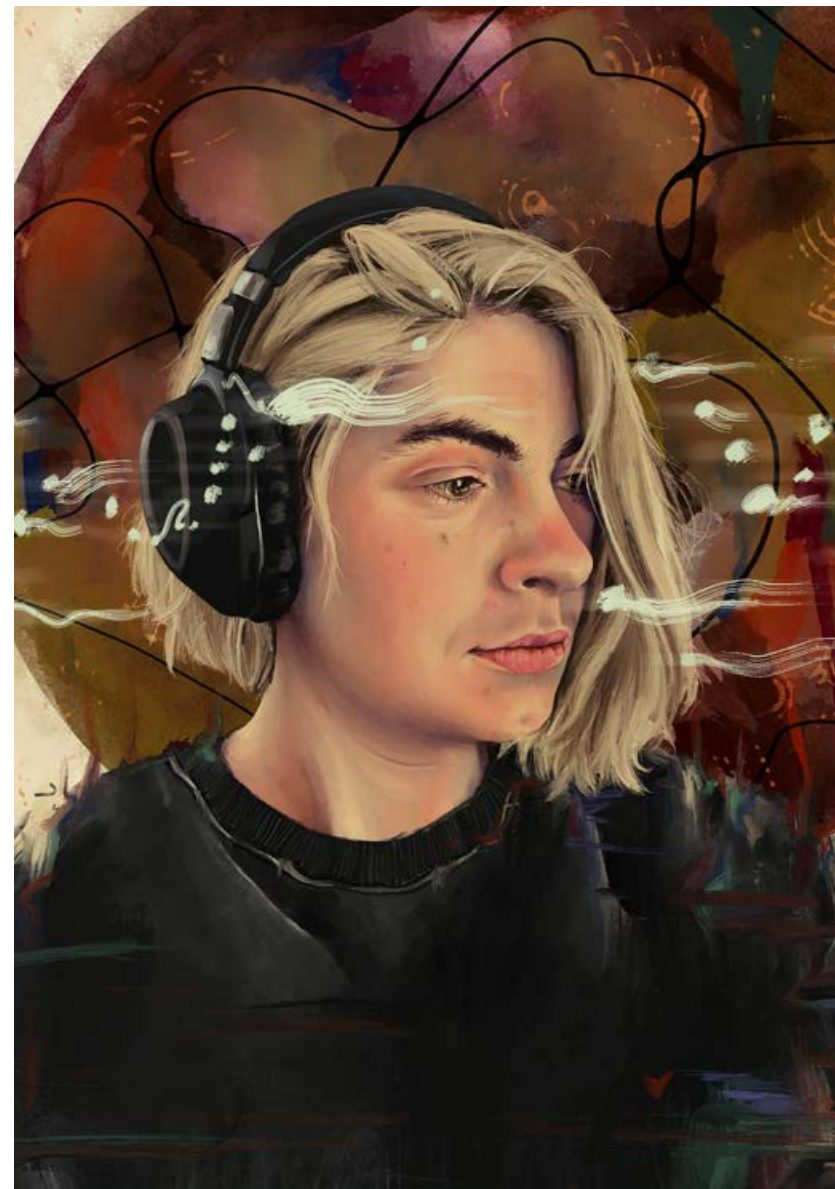
Stephanie King

MEDIUM

Digital Painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

When I think about resilience I immediately think about my headphones. They allow me to move about in the world without feeling overwhelmed by the amount of noise that comes at me. In this painting, to represent the soundscape, I drew on my synaesthesia as inspiration. I perceive sounds, including music, as having a colour and shape. The muddy reds and browns in the background is how I perceive the muddle of everyday noise -- in particular, the inside of a busy cafe. The silvery dots and lines represent the music coming through my headphones.



TIANYING PEI

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Tianying Pei

MEDIUM

Oil painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

As a Melbourne-based Chinese artist, my work is reflexive, looking at the inner influence of people, objects and events. Through feeling and experiencing these relationships and contradictions, I mainly focus on reflecting the abstract expression of my own feelings. As a bystander and participant in COVID-19 and long time lock-down, my works integrate western painting and traditional Chinese painting to speak for my own aesthetic conceptions.

My concept is to find the balance between people and the environment and between people and animals. Instead of focusing on social relationships or the objects only, I focus more on the relationship between nature, animals and people, finding the perfect balance via invented environmental scenes, the balance idea is also at the centre of Chinese Zen philosophy. Environment and animals are also the reflection of people's inner world, so exploring the relationship between environment and people /animals is discussing people themselves, and everything in the universe reflects consciousness. The surreal "Utopia" in my mind is given through the poetic non concrete description method, to make the neglected emotions or events appear and activate the value of people's strong emotions, to make them resonate and reconcile.



WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

ARTIST

Shuqi Wang

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This work is a self-portrait of the artist herself, inspired by a visit to the Picasso Century Timed Exhibition Entry in NGV where the portraits of these masters expressed their self-awareness. There is more room for appreciation and interpretation in this work. The author's own way of looking at herself and expressing herself will continue to change with her age and experience. It tends to be a gesture that does not reveal the full range of emotions and life, and a smile is not necessarily the antidote to life in a post-epidemic era.



THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

DI HAN

ARTIST

Di Han

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

After three years of the pandemic, in the post-pandemic era, sitting on the grass, buying a cup of coffee, facing the sparkling sea, we are still resilient to a positive new life.



NEW GROWTH

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Ashley Reynolds

MEDIUM

Water colour and ink on ho-sho paper

ARTISTS STATEMENT

For me, resilience means the ability to continue on in the face of resistance. When traveling in Tasmania I was struck by the harshness of the environment and the resilience of the flora there. I take inspiration from the way that nature can bend, and break, and yet continue, and I wanted to capture this in a way that would speak to us in a human way. This painting is of fresh growth some years after a bush fire in central Tasmania. As a student new to post-graduate research as well as a doctor working through the pandemic, I feel that depictions of nature's resilience inspire me and give me a larger perspective that allows me to face personal challenges. This feeling of inspiration is what brought me to create this painting.



JENNIFER THY

FOR SALE

ARTIST

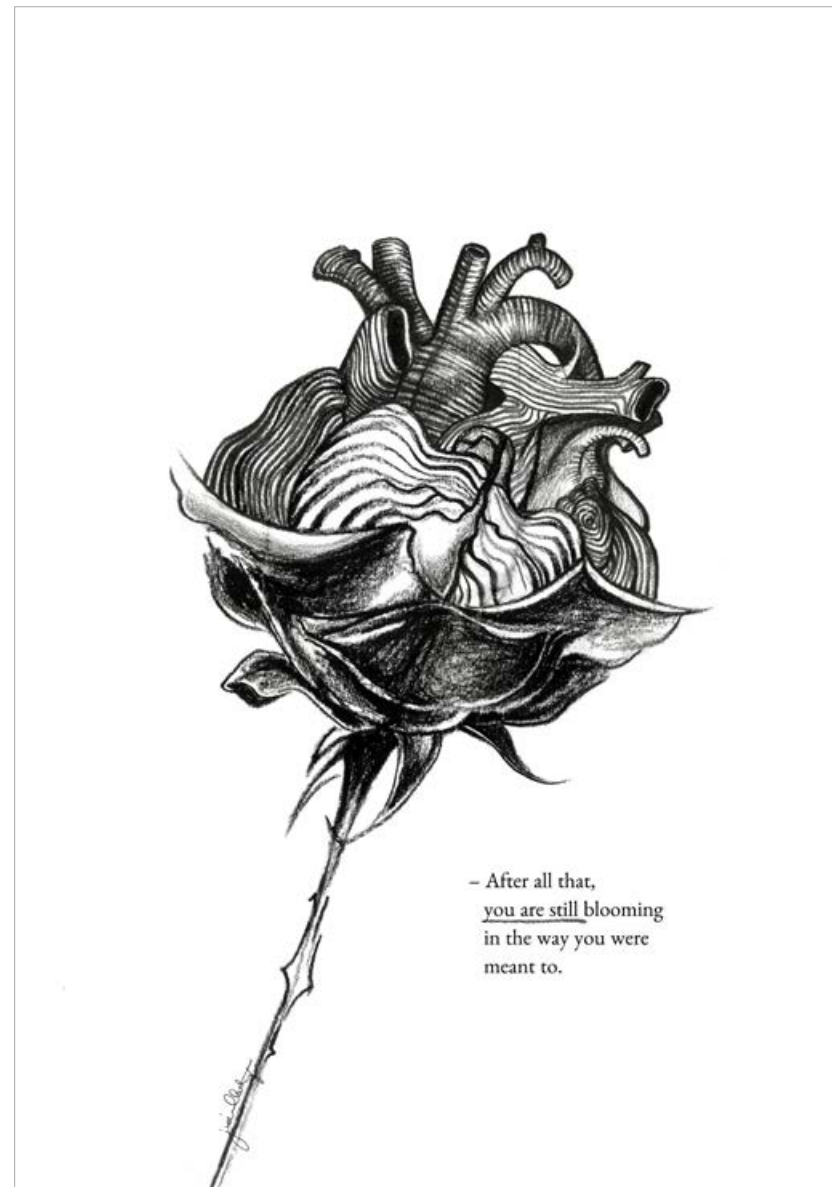
Jennifer Thy

MEDIUM

Charcoal on paper.

ARTISTS STATEMENT

After all that, you are still blooming the way you were meant to; take a moment-breathe. This charcoal-illustrated rose blooming into a deep and heavy heart symbolises resilience in its simplest and raw form. I think of resilience as the beauty, bravery and stillness that rises from traumatic events of the past whilst enduring the loss of my first Love. It is okay to live within the questions; the uncertainty keeps me going.



NESTS

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Frankey Chung-Kok-Lun

MEDIUM

Mixed media (sculpture, photography, audio narrative)

ARTISTS STATEMENT

As the remnants of COVID masks washed up along Port Phillip Bay, I was struck by our influence on the habitats of the non-human beings with whom we share this planet. In particular, I mourned for the birds, who forage for remnants to construct their homes, unable to distinguish natural materials from the rubbish we leave behind. To resist this impending future, I embodied the life of a magpie from the year 2030 to construct a nest on their behalf. I gathered debris across the lands of the Boonwurrung, including plastic rubbish, twigs, and surgical masks. With human hands, I replicated (albeit without the magic of a bird's beak) a magpie's nest as an alarm bell of a persisting future.

In the audio narrative, accessible at nests.frankey.com.au, I shed light on this perilous future, asking the listener to think deeper about the ways that we might rethink our habits in aid of the nonhuman beings we have neglected. The photograph presents a bleak promise of things to come, a barren landscape on which a magpie stares off into the distance, in search of a home it once enjoyed. It is taken from the balcony of my St Kilda apartment. All materials used for this piece are either found (debris for the nest) or recycled (timber frame), made with sustainable methods (e.g. carbon offset printing). No artificial glue or other agents were used. As we navigate this world and our erosion of it, it is through resilience that we push back against entrenched norms of environmental destruction, and rethink our ways of living to deliver a future that can be welcomed by all, human or otherwise.



RESILIENT MOTHERS, CREATORS OF BRIGHT FUTURE

ARTIST

Hadi Mohaghegh Dolatabadi

MEDIUM

Digital Art

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I work in the area of “generative modeling” in AI. This work is a culmination of over 1000 images I carefully created using AI and the recent text-to-image technology. Then, I manually edited those generated images using computer graphics tools.

For the theme, I chose the impressionistic style of Claude Monet. I was honored to see his artwork in person during last year’s NGV exhibition. Impressionists used art to challenge society’s acceptable art form during the late 19th century. In my humble point of view, today, we are also observing a rapid transformation into new art mediums, which needs to be pondered around, and AI will play a fundamental role. In this piece, I am trying to depict a mother because, to me, they are the true meaning of resilience. It takes courage, strength, and sacrifice to be a mother in our world, trying to create a better, brighter future than what they had in their own life. This is even more pronounced in the era we live in, where we have an environmental crisis.



RESILIENCE

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Ali Mahaqi

MEDIUM

Digital painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I tried to portrait human hope and resilience under the lots of pressure in the society, work, and home. Hope will flourish and makes our life bright.



ON CALL

FOR SALE

ARTIST

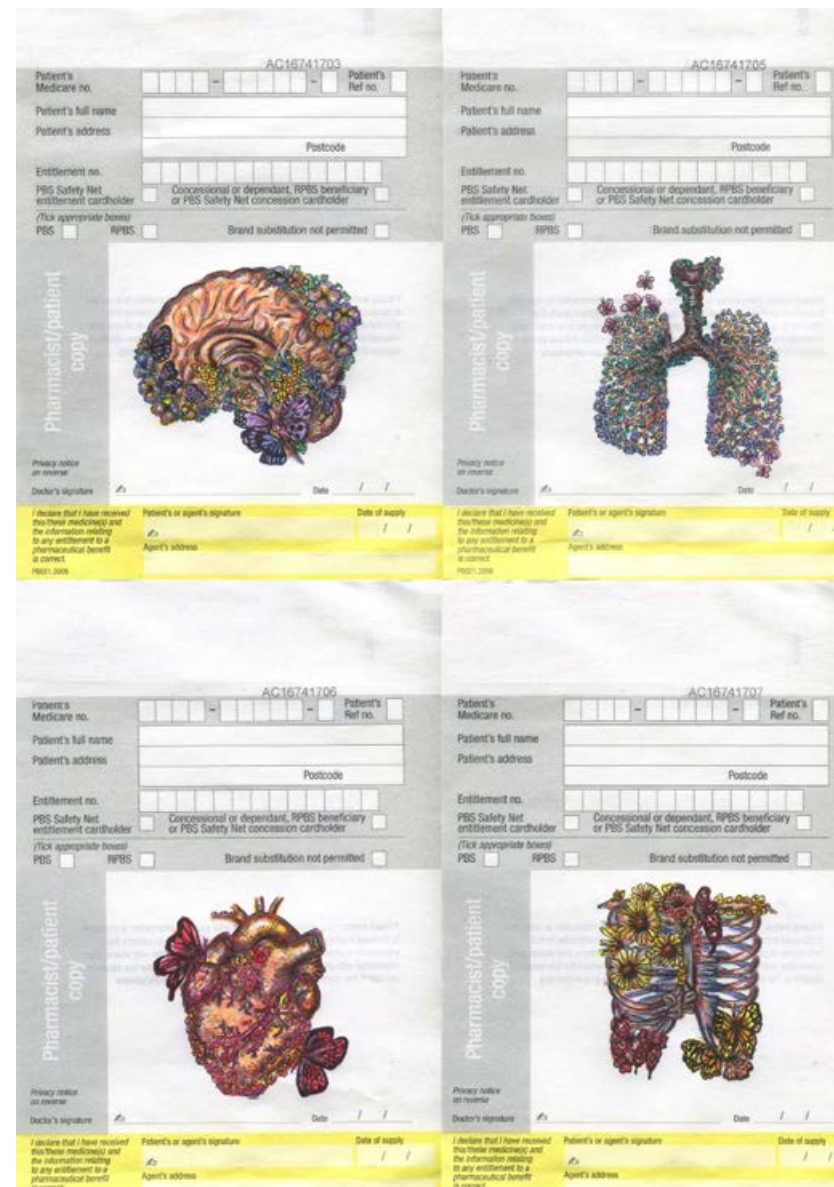
Natalie Seiler

MEDIUM

Ink

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I have had the privilege of witnessing resilience – among patients, families, and healthcare workers – as a doctor during on call shifts. Throughout shifts I've seen families advocate for their loved ones, nurses work through fourteen hour shifts, and patients survive exceptional circumstances throughout the COVID pandemic. During spare moments, I sometimes draw on my prescription pad before the night ends. As a psychiatric registrar, learning from the resilience of people who experience mental health issues and supporting them through this has been an extraordinary experience which I am grateful for.



EROTIC INTELLIGENCE

ARTIST

Mirudula Mohankumar

MEDIUM

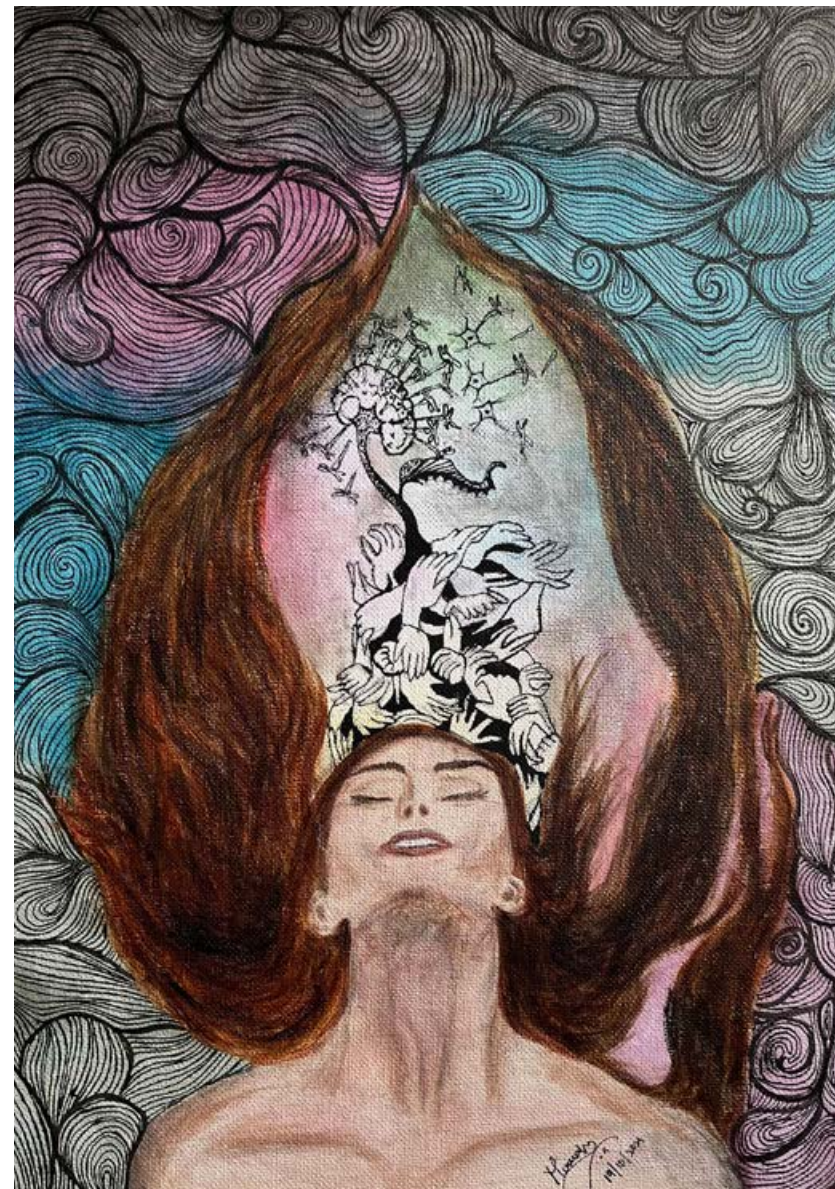
Acrylic painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Desire and excitement is the core idea behind one's success and failure. Our passion follows these footsteps very diligently then why shy away from eroticism which revolves around desire and excitement? In this artwork I attempt to express my sensation of orgasm as I feel it.

While hands brush trough my body filled with hormones, it seizes at the stem of my brain to blow away every resilient, desire filled neural cell free. Free, to make my choice about my body, to love myself, to free my soul, from every stigma that society implodes on me.

Being comfortable with myself makes me resilience to fight the challenges in this ambitious and aggressive world.



ALONG THE STREAMS AND SEAMS

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Cindy Ng

MEDIUM

Acrylic paint on canvas

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Along the streams and seams' reimagines a fish flag that symbolises childhood in Asian culture. It is a painting that counters the nostalgia that is typically associated with youth, and alternatively offers a perspective of a weathered and troubled childhood. Five different fishes are depicted besides the traditional uniformity of salmon/carp on a single flag, with subtle dark humour. This is to imply the bittersweet subjectivity and complexity in an individual's coming-of-age; the experience of ripples of traumatic childhood memories as we navigate and persevere the hardships of adulthood.



ONE HEALTH RESILIENCE

ARTIST

Alice Aldora

MEDIUM

Digital Painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that despite significant efforts by many, the world has failed to prepare and respond to the current pandemic, moreover to prevent future public health emergencies. In fact, similar to COVID-19, an estimated 60% of human infections have animal origins, and their spillover to human is provoked by environmental disturbances. In addition, we are also experiencing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) issues, when microorganisms cannot be killed by drugs that previously can eliminate them. As resistant microorganisms can spread through the human-animal-environment interface, this challenge has been declared as one of the top ten “global public health threats facing humanity” by the World Health Organization.

Hence, a One Health approach that integrates efforts across human, animal, and environmental sectors is needed to tackle these threats adequately. Resilient systems respecting this approach can ensure that the health of these intertwined sectors thrives simultaneously and sustainably for the benefit of present and future generations.



THE GIFT OF RESILIENCE

ARTIST

Mabel Ng

MEDIUM

Digital art

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Grandmother N.G has lived for 94 years and is still going strong. She suffered a stroke in her late 30s and had to stop work. Having to take care of 8 children with grandfather then. She knew she had to get better for them. She was persistent. She was tenacious. She disciplined herself with strict diet and regular exercise regimes and recovered fully after 8 months of hardwork. To date, all her grandchildren would have heard of this story. A gift of resilience so valuable. A woman of steel we look upon.

Ending off with a quote from Charles Hunt:

Change is a constant in life. Nothing gives us immunity from it. Resilience is the capacity to adapt to negative change and recover from it as quickly as possible, just as Grandma N.G portrayed.



FINDING NEBO

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Kayvan Gharbi

MEDIUM

Digital Text Based Poem

ARTISTS STATEMENT

'Finding Nebo' is a work inspired by the incredible scenes and stories I have witnessed as a medical student at the Royal Women's Hospital. During my rotation I have been deeply inspired and affected by the great sacrifice and resilience demanded of these women not only during birth, but during the subsequent trials of motherhood, menopause and maternal medical complication. Particular inspirations include a poor woman crying in clinic about recurrent vaginal prolapses (following multiple deliveries) eroding her sex life and marriage, or another who shared with me how she sacrificed her life goals and even aspects of her identity for the love of her children. Whilst these are perhaps extreme examples, such experiences made me reflect upon the resilience required by all mothers, especially my own.

A fleshy chain
pulsates,
Stolen flames stifled.
The vulture gyrates
within,
leisurely ... lazily?
descends
to
Earth.

A shapeless screech
shatters
suite stillness
triumphant?
The first of many labours
stains the fallow linen.

Chubby claws cling,
Tethered to ripened bosom,
It greedily gulps your elixir,
your soul?
It fattens.

A sleepless nest,
A wail.
Callow banshee ... it ...
heralds?

A breathing whining **SHITTING**,
millstone,
Sissy-phus
Your boulder doesn't need nappies.

An epoch wandering the
Desert of drop-offs,
Isreal?

Adolescent artillery,
bleeding, bunkers sag, **blitzkrieg**
of fiery flashes,
Dry, desiccated
petals,
to ashes.

It soars,
Screech transmuted to song,
Perhaps it was a phoenix?

INQALAB ZINDABAD

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Tanvi Dhariwal

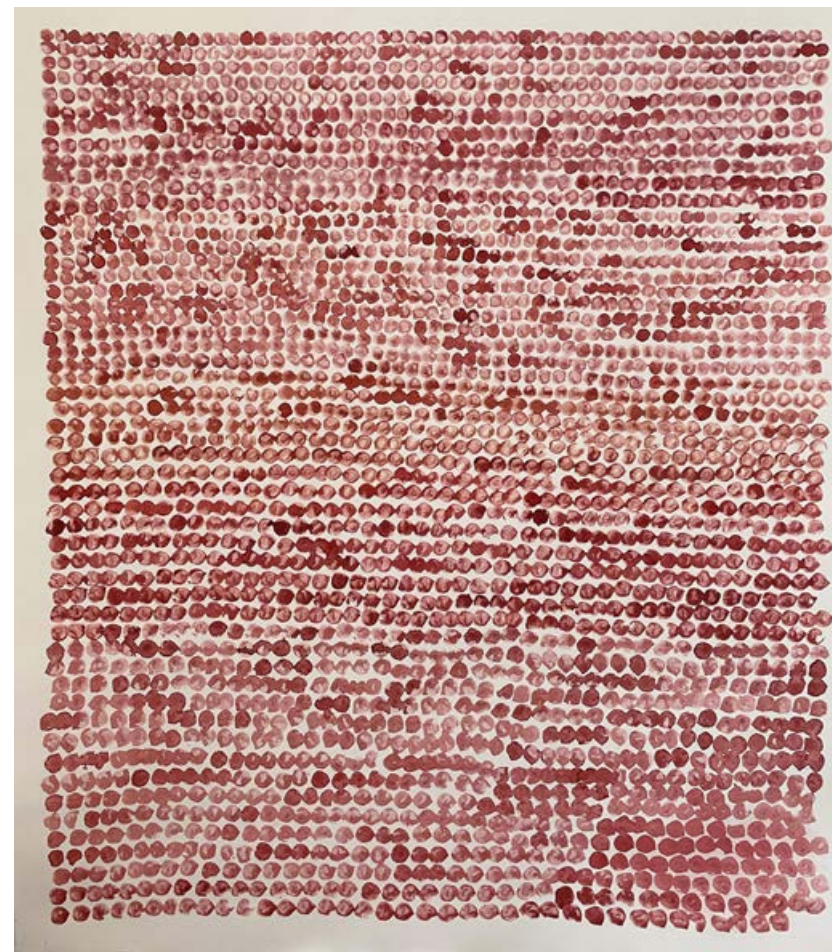
MEDIUM

Watercolour on paper

ARTISTS STATEMENT

On 13 April 1919, a crowd gathered in Jalianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab. They were peacefully protesting the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919 which allowed for imprisonment without trial or judicial review. The Bagh, which had only one exit, was surrounded and the entrance blocked by R.E.H. Dyer's troops. The troops fired at the protesters, killing an estimated two thousand five hundred people (although the numbers are heavily disputed). In the almost two hundred years of British occupation, millions of South Asian lives were lost: through cold blooded murder, through war, through politically induced famine. But those two hundred years ended. The people protested. They persevered. They were resilient. They brought the revolution.

My artwork, titled 'Inqalab Zindabad' (long live the revolution) represents the deaths of the two thousand five hundred people. The massacre at Jalianwala Bagh is particularly close to my heart: of the multiple occupation and partition incidents that have directly affected my family and my ancestors, this is most potent. Each red mark on the paper is stamped in the diameter of the bullets used, those of the .303 Lee Enfield rifles. I mixed watercolors to create a particular brick red shade and hand crafted the stamp which I then dipped into the color and created two thousand five hundred impressions. The stamped circles are organized yet disorderly, contained yet spilling out. They honors those who stood for what they believed, who did not witness their resilience's success but whose actions fueled the change.



THE EXPERIENCE TRANSFORMED INTO RESILIENCE

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Alejandro Mardones

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

In our daily lives, we need to face different challenges. Those challenges test us to know if we are mentally and physically prepared to succeed. Every time we become stronger based on our past experiences. Each of those experiences, good or bad, will improve our resilience during our entire life. In our daily lives, those older than us keep going, even if they have faced many challenges or lost their loved ones. They are still here, patient and waiting to be tested for another challenge in their life. Still, their wisdom and experiences will help them to confront any of those challenges being resilient until even the day of their end.



BRIGHT UP, CRYSTAL!

ARTIST

Qiyun Liu

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

The photo is a black and white portrait of Crystal Yu, a 19-year-old freshman international student from China studying for a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Melbourne. This photograph was taken in a lightless room with the use of flash. The portrait conveys direct information, like the subject's identity, name, school, and university. I wish the picture could also display Crystal's personal resilience. The photo was taken after she stood for almost three hours in a practice class of coordination chemistry on October 11. After communicating with her, I asked her if she could show me how she felt when the experiment succeeded, and then I captured the look. Crystal could attend the course on campus because she overcame the various restrictions of COVID-19 and flew to Australia on the last Singapore Airlines flight from Chongqing to Melbourne, connecting with Singapore, on February 15. Due to the pandemic, this air route was canceled and has not been resumed until now.

After staying in Melbourne for 8 months, Crystal, as an international freshman, overcame the difficulty of living independently and succeeded in adapting to the new environment.



UNFAMILIARLY FAMILIAR

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Jane Goh

MEDIUM

Oil on canvas

ARTISTS STATEMENT

“Unfamiliarily Familiar” (2022) observes the way that we are shaped by our social environment and hardships, specifically the relationship between us, the objects from our childhood and the effects that they have on us as adults. I would say that I attribute parts of the woman I am today to the objects in this painting: my love for creating art and in creating life through crayons and a Tamagotchi respectively, along with fears that came to be from negative experiences in my childhood in the form of balloons and bathtubs. Using the symbolic imagery of the caterpillar for the process of metamorphosis, my younger self is depicted as the insect surrounded by unfamiliar objects that would soon become almost too familiar to her, having heavily informed my own transition from girlhood to womanhood.

Through this painted collage in reference to the stylistic composition of Surrealist art, “Unfamiliarily Familiar” is my take on resilience, on moving on from experiences – whether they be from your childhood or as recent as yesterday – and accepting both the wins and the losses as a part of who you are today.



THE CRAFT OF TIME

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Masumi Kat

MEDIUM

Newspaper

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Surely Time keeps record of the our lives in a place distant and unbeknownst to us. Unlike how humans write in journals using a pen, perhaps Time creates art projects in response to observing our lives. I wonder what art pieces it constructs.

What about me? I wonder what Time crafts as it sees me climbing and falling through life, wrestling between anger and forgiveness, overwhelm and peace, sorrow and kindness, hopelessness and determination. What does Time think as it witnesses me always ending up looking towards the sky, no matter what, admiring the clouds up above. Oh, how I have always wished to fly in the sky. What could Time be making of me, this small human on planet earth, getting caught in traps, falling into ditches, accumulating bruises, but still running, holding on still, to a dream to live free.

Newspaper was chosen as the media of choice because it records varying life events - the horrendous, the joyful, the mundane. I selected to craft paper cranes out of Japanese and Australian newspaper due to my never ending dream to be free as a Japanese individual raised in western culture. The structure of the hand is an emblem of reaching towards freedom despite the hardships which Time witnesses.



REWARD

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Alejandra Abril Pareja

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This photograph represents personal resilience. It shows the tear of happiness I dropped on my laptop after receiving the mark from the most challenging assignment I ever had. After spending many long nights working on it, I felt that it was too hard for me, I was stressed and tired and wanted to give up, but something inside me gave me the force to continue and prove to myself that I'm strong and capable, so I finished it. I cannot explain the feeling of looking at my mark when I realised I got a score of 91.25 out of 100. This moment will be saved forever in my mind to remind me that all effort has always its reward.



ASCENT

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Vanco Hristov

MEDIUM

Gouache/watercolour on paper

ARTISTS STATEMENT

A newly lit candle burns brightly in the dark.

To realise this theme, I attempted to capture a tension that underlies resilience. Resilience is tried by fire; however, it may also be seen as fire.

Watercolour and gouache seemed like fitting media as, unlike many other media, they can be unforgiving towards errors and, therefore, demand a degree of resolve.



FLYING THROUGH THE DARKEST NIGHT

ARTIST

Weiting Chen

MEDIUM

Digital painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

To me, resilience means overcoming difficulties. As an architecture student, there are many sleepless nights behind one design project. Watching the sunset through my window became therapy for me when I struggle.

“Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise.”
Dreaming of myself or my draft sheet as a paper airplane flying across mountains, rivers and the darkest night. Just as I overcame difficulties step by step on my way, there will be stars and eventually sunrise, another day of sun.



CHELSEA COON

ARTIST

Chelsea Coon

MEDIUM

Photographic still of a performance to video.

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I entered a (video) frame situated in a gallery space containing a steel bed frame wearing a black mini dress with combat boots. Over the duration of 37 minutes and 17 seconds, I picked up the steel frame and positioned it in as many different orientations as possible. "big break" was scored by my actions which made the steel frame hit, smash, screech or scratch the concrete floor at different volumes all contingent on the force I applied. Over time, the bolts that held the frame together became loose. I continued to work with the bed frame while it bent and warped in my hands until both the frame and my body had endured to our limits.

This performance was about resilience of my body as it related to time, space, and props. The format of the performance to video was result of resilience because I pivoted my practice from a primarily live presentation mode and spent nearly 2 years of learning how to perform to camera during the COVID-19 pandemic. "big break" is a video that culminates the lessons learned compositionally and conceptually on the difference of performing to video. Resilience in this work is about the body enduring physically and psychically, and was an important element of "big break" as it conceptually an aesthetically presented what it looks like when a body embodies the accumulated experience of enduring factors beyond its control.

The sound element of "big break" played loudly off the monitor and filled the gallery space with the sonic residues of the performance. The performance video played on loop to suggest an endlessness to the unfolding duress of my body against a prefabricated framework that despite being acted on, bent, but indicated no signs of falling apart. I was interested in the bed frame symbolically as a structure that provides another framework for the body. The particular bed frame utilised in this work was prefabricated, which was a deliberate choice to draw attention to the fact that the body is resilient and always enduring within pre-existing frameworks (and inscriptions) which are often beyond its control. In my performance, the bed frame was flipped, smashed, and moved continuously throughout the 37 minute and 17 second duration. In certain positions when I was reorienting and repositioning the frame, it began to look less like a bed frame and more like a viewfinder, a window, an obstacle course, etc. Frameworks are resilient.



BEING ONE WITH WORDS

ARTIST

Dimple Malhotra

MEDIUM

Photograph of handmade dress

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This piece represents resilience in various forms, but the central themes are Women and Words. The 'Princess' Dress - I made this dress out of book pages to represent resilient words and femininity. Every form of art—drawing, music, literature—will always survive because, in the darkest times, the stories keep our hope alive. Loose hair - For centuries, cultures around the world have tried to dictate women's expression by controlling how they wear their hair. Unveiling hair is a symbol of liberation, and the act is a sign of resilience for many, from Black women learning to own their natural hair to Muslim women fighting to have a choice.

Red of my lipstick and nail polish - Red is the colour of love, red is the colour of blood. Red is the colour of gain, red is the colour of pain. Red is the colour of power, red is the colour of abuse. Red is bold, red is obtuse. For me, the R in Red stands for Resilience. Red is strength, the beauty of nature, and death. From the monthly bleeding that brings life to the red, women bleed when the oppressors take their life.

Greenery - Resilience of nature. Resilience for Me. Numerous atrocities are currently happening against women—from the removal of their fundamental human rights in Afghanistan to the current murderous rampage in Iran to the rising cultural and constitutional assaults across the world. Women have been beaten to the ground for ages, and they have managed to rise up every time. Resilience, for me, is also men who give their lives to protect women. It's my father for teaching me I could do anything as a girl. It's my little brother for me, doing everything he could to protect me. It's my partner for me, making sure I have equal standing when the world makes me feel weak. Yes, it's my mother and all the other women for me, but it's the men too. It's us!



INSTRUMENTS OF RESILIENCE

ARTIST

Maria Del Mar Scavone

MEDIUM

Photograph collage

ARTISTS STATEMENT

We, as humans, are the tools for resilience. Our interactions with nature, the environment and different life experiences are the perfect descriptions.

I found these photographs to illustrate resilience graphically: the process where we find comfortability and adapt to new environments and situations—trying on my own to pose, then with the help of a friend and achieving the final pose. Furthermore, it represents resilience in nature, how despite the contamination we produce, it shows us its beautiful side; in the interaction with technology and human creations (the path); and in me, how despite not dancing as frequent as before, my body still portrays the beauty of dancing and emotions.



THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

INTEGRATION

FOR SALE

ARTIST

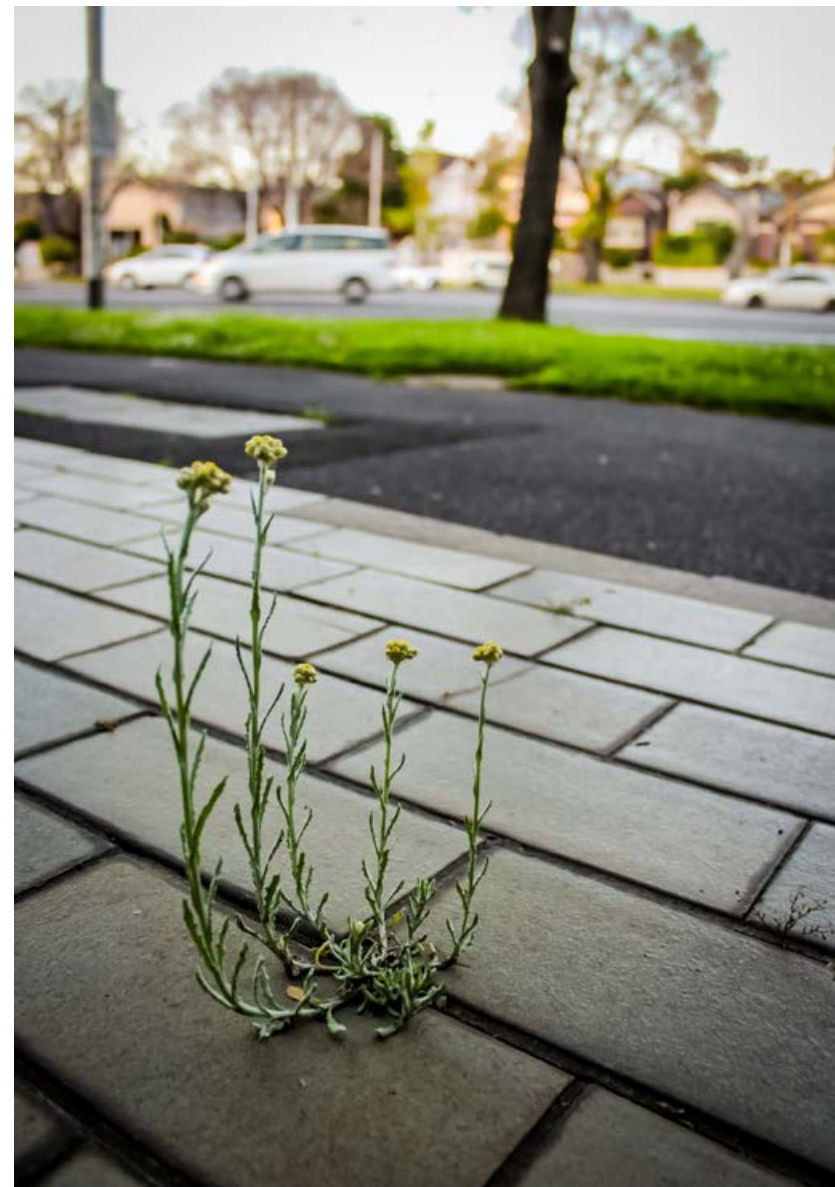
Jean Paul Vera Soto

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This photograph was taken in North Melbourne using a Canon EOS Rebel t5 camera. These flowers show how nature shows resilience while we continue building cities upon them more and more. Life will always make its way, but how important is it for us to learn how to integrate into nature and not the other way around?



HOLDING TIGHT – HANDHELD

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Linda Studena

MEDIUM

Earthenware/Stoneware, glaze, plywood, platinum spray paint

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Holding tight - handheld, is a material expression of complex feelings related to anxiety and pressure. My intention is to articulate feelings I regularly experience through the process of squeezing clay. The intimate moment of holding and gripping clay is fired and glazed, and displayed on a handmade shelf with a chrome finish. The process of articulating and commemorating difficult feelings, is an act of and relationship to, personal resilience and self-care. This object is part of a series of ceramic forms that respond to collaboration and discussion with graduate students regarding ideas around radical self-care and sustainable artmaking approaches. I am interested in how personal, political and social experience can be considered through contemporary art practice. I work across mediums of drawing, photography, sculpture and digital media and am currently completing a Master of Contemporary Art at the Victorian College of the Arts.



A BICYCLE AS A COACH

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Zhaleh Ataei

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

During October's heavy rains in Melbourne, I found this bicycle near the Yarra River, probably brought by the flood.

Thinking about how a simple object had tolerated that pressure and still had not been taken apart reminded me of nothing but resilience.

Its toughness made the bicycle so adorable, attracting the attention of many people around Yarra River.

Repeating to myself: Be tough and resilient! Great days are coming!



YOU & ANYTHING

ARTIST

Jean Luan Yong

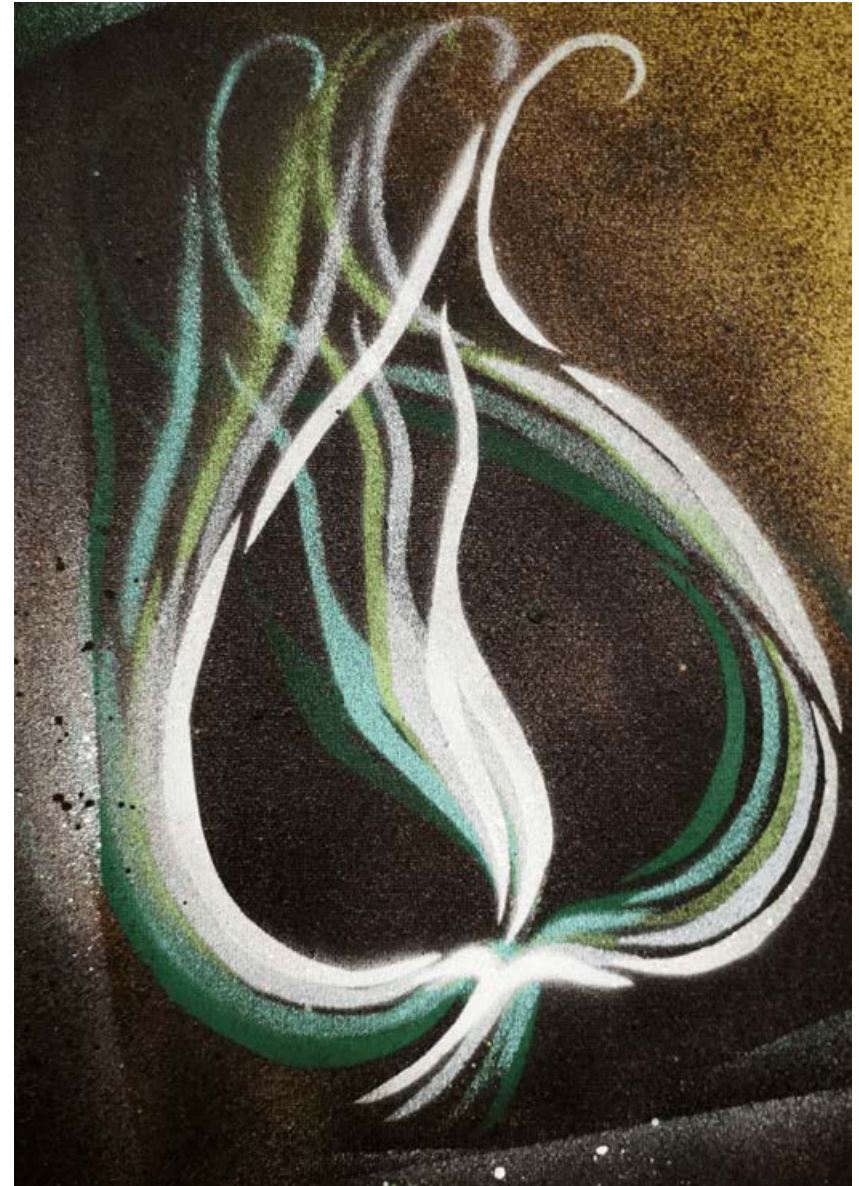
MEDIUM

Photograph (Spray Painting)

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Leaves seem insignificant but they are the background of our landscape. They blend into the streetscape humans take for granted, but they always take our breath away at unexpected moments. They change colour seasonally when their structure remains the same. You can be as colourful but be true to yourself. The noises in the background should not be your distraction and take away your true identity. You are you and you are anything.

*Jean is a GSA staff member and is not eligible to win a prize



THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

SELF CARE

FOR SALE

ARTIST

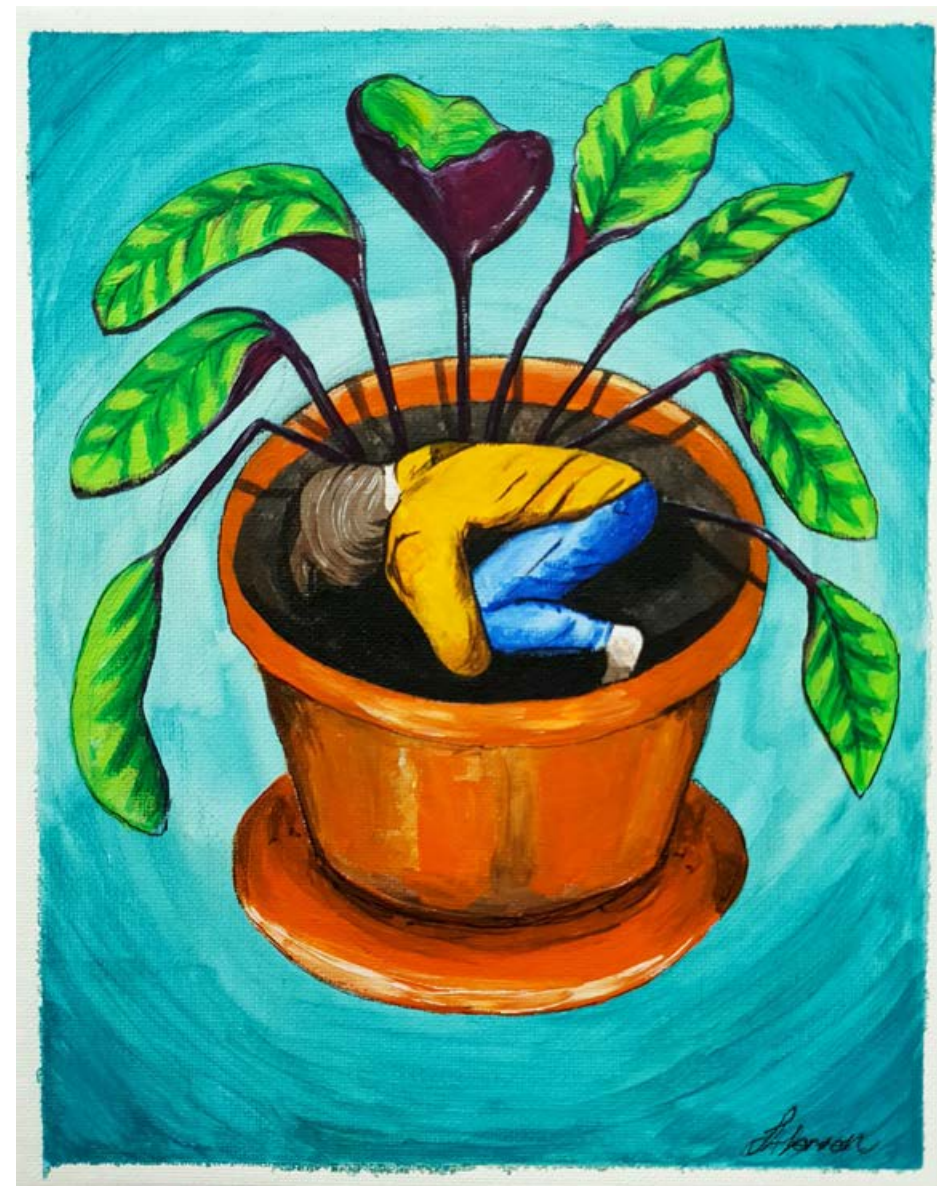
Sarah Horton

MEDIUM

Acrylic on canvas

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Looking after something other than myself such as plants or animals helps to remind me to look after myself. But sometimes I would rather curl up and hibernate. We have all been forced to be resilient these past few years. Resilience isn't always about being strong all of the time. Sometimes being resilient is knowing when to rest and recover. I wanted to capture this idea in my painting "self care".



SHROUDED, CONFINED, GLOWING

ARTIST

Brittany Fong

MEDIUM

Recycled materials

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I've taken on volunteer roles throughout my Master of Speech Pathology course to expand my understanding of the patient experience of different illnesses. The role that has impacted me the most is volunteering in an end-of-life care setting. I see patients confined in their hospital rooms with a life-shortening disease, and yet, I still see rooms brimming with life. Despite the accumulating health issues that pile on as their diseases progress, many patients continue to maintain gratitude and resilience.

My art piece is made of cloth and recycled materials. Shrouded, Confined, Glowing refers to the components of the piece: the shrouding window, the confining box and the glowing butterflies. The window represents the layers of accumulating health issues and barriers that patients have to face. The confining box mirrors the hospital rooms that patients live in. Finally, the glowing butterflies represent all the resilient patients.



THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

STATIC TIME, FLOWING MIND

ARTIST

Andi Xu

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This photo was shot in my bedroom on November 2021. At that time, everything was slowly recovering from the pandemic period. The frame is static while the view keeps changing. This personal resilience space not only offers me an opportunity to enjoy reading and meditation but also links to the surrounding environment.

*Andi is a GSA staff member and is not eligible to win a prize



TOUCHING ACHIEVEMENTS

ARTIST

Sarah Abou-Eid

MEDIUM

Photograph of painted object

ARTISTS STATEMENT

According to a 2021 report by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2.2 million women in Australia have faced sexual violence at some point in their lifetime. I am one of those women. 'Touching Achievements' is an art piece birthed from the emotions I felt as I put on my graduation cap. I had always been congratulated on my resilience by my friends, family and therapists - "You are so strong. You have done so well to end up where you have." Those words would always evoke bitterness, anger, sadness and frustration. In a heartbeat, I would swap my resilience for another existence where I was not assaulted; was it even something to celebrate? 'Touching Achievements' invites the viewer to re-consider their connotations of resilience in the context of sexual assault. The mannequin is representative of a woman's body, and each coloured handprint maps a different woman's experience with sexual violence. The visually striking map of handprints, juxtaposed with the graduation cap, showcases how for survivors of sexual violence, resilience and accomplishment are so intimately tied with pain and violation.



MAN IN DILEMMA

ARTIST

Isha Dey

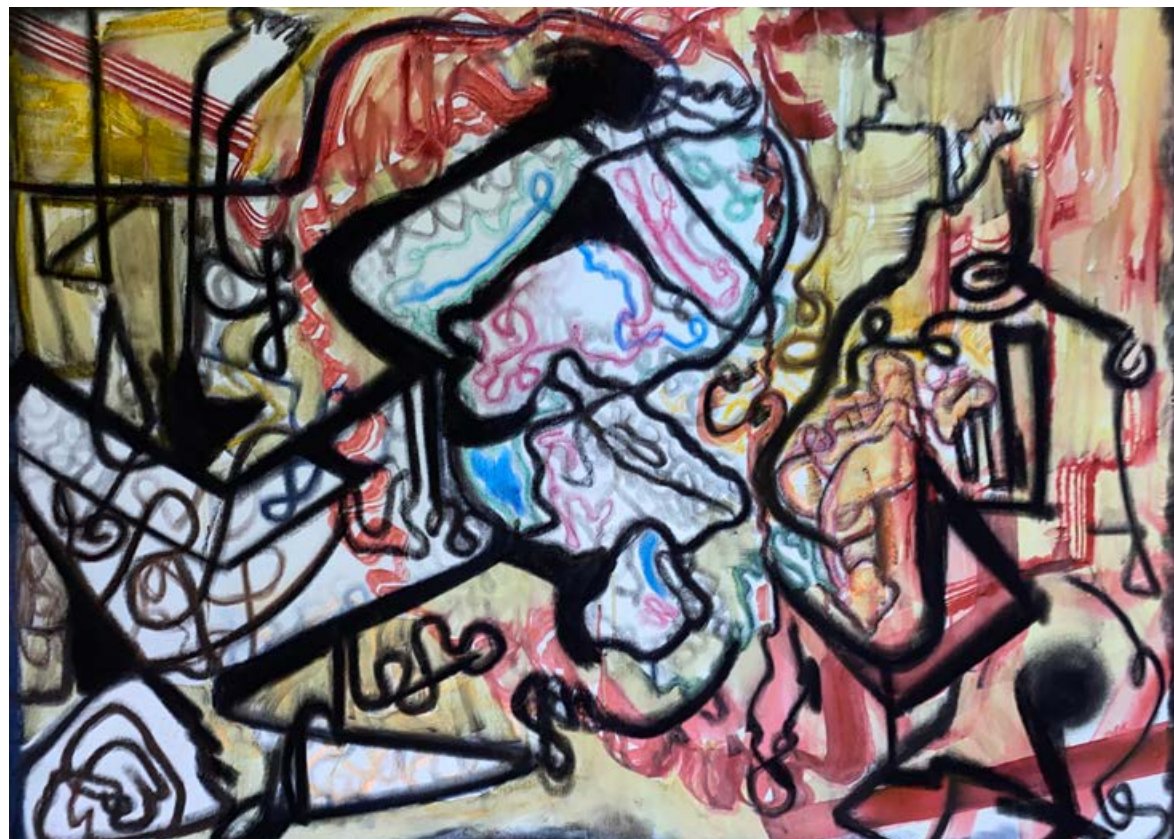
MEDIUM

Painting

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This artwork depicts a man living in a metropolitan area who has been shown in a state of a dilemma. This situation of plight is caused due to the hardships that he encounters day in his life due to his condition of being in absolute destitution.

I mainly prefer to depict the figures of the common man, women and several objects like elements in an abstract form from their surroundings in my artworks from my conscious mind through my imaginations on the spot by reminiscing my thoughts and portraying them instantly on the paper by visualizing from my surroundings in an abstract manner. This helps me to create a new form of artwork every time and further helps me to understand the structures and patterns clearly for carrying out finished work. My artwork also depicts the conditions of poverty and flight that people are facing in metropolitan cities. The conditions of metropolitan cities are deteriorating due to the high density of population and therefore Slums within big towns are becoming a growing problem within the city where people are migrating from villages to these cities in search of their daily wage to earn a penny for their livelihood. I mainly try depicting the struggles of these people from rural areas who face poor economic conditions and lack of employment opportunities in villages as they are becoming a part of main push factors that drive the real population to the urban areas. My work depicts the struggling plight of the daily wage workers in India .



MUNDANE RESILIENCE

ARTIST

Alice Coates

MEDIUM

Collage (Pen, colour pencil, glue and digital)

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Resilience. The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness. the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.

How can you spring back into shape or recover quickly from difficulties when life has entirely lost its shape? Resilience in 2020 - 2022 came in unexpected forms. We made a world inside our homes and found comfort in solitude, togetherness, gardens, laundry, fires - what had previously been mundane. This piece is a compilation of collages made throughout lockdowns 1 - 6, charting the spaces I lived in and the people that made them homes. In retrospect that last two years gave me more than they took, perhaps that's resilience: not springing back into shape but instead finding a new one.



ELSEWHERE

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Natalie Merrick

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Meerkats were my mother's favorite animals, so when I find myself visiting a zoo, I always have to spend a bit of time watching them. They are highly social creatures who typically form underground networks of burrows and tunnels that can stretch over five square kilometers. In zoos, however, they are kept in exhibits that are only a few square meters. This meerkat is peering into the window of the exhibit, which gives them both a view of the world beyond and a reflection in the glass of their limited reality. There is nothing beyond the glass for them. These socially intelligent, curious, explorative creatures are in this picture surviving in a tiny space halfway across the world from their native environment. Their lives are immensely different than they could have been—yet they still continue living.



OUT OF THE ASHES

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Danielle Wallace

MEDIUM

Acrylic paint on canvas

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I remember walking into the forest for the first time after the Black Summer bushfires. A landscape of scorched trees stretched as far as the eye could see. But what surprised me most was not the extent of the burn, but the pops of green sprouting to life from the ashes. Special parts of the tree release growths called epicormic buds after fires, and some plant species even need fire for their seeds to germinate. I remember thinking, the resilience of the bush was astounding. After mediating on the theme for this year's graduate art prize, this was the scene that came to me. I wanted to show the starkness of the burnt landscape through the ashy tones and rough texture of the burnt tree. But I also wanted to contrast this with the lush and vibrant colours of new life, and the soft and delicate feel of new leaves. I wanted the new buds to seem to explode from their ashy background, to show that even after fire and hardship, hope and new life can be found. I kept the background simple, and chose the dreamy colours of morning light to signify new beginnings. In spite of the terrible extent and severity of the Black Summer bushfires, I am inspired by the resilience of the Australian bush.



GHOST TREE

ARTIST

Mary Utter

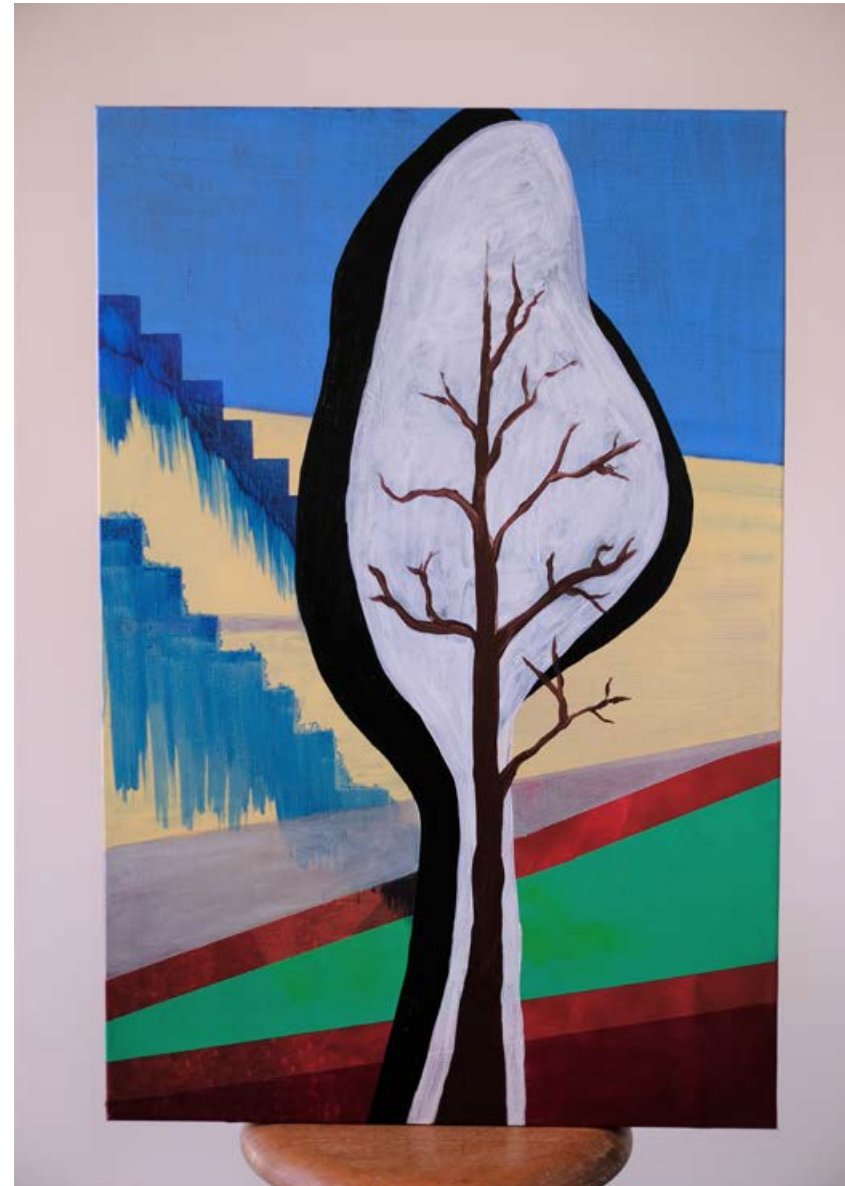
MEDIUM

Acrylic paint

ARTISTS STATEMENT

There is a ghost tree that lives on my street. I walk past frequently gazing at the long dead branches like old withered arms holding out for an embrace. It stands with grace, its final resting shape frozen in time.

Throughout our inner-city lockdowns and episodes of isolation followed by release during the past two years while I have studied a masters in teaching as a career changer, this tree has stood witness to my transformation. So I pay homage to its resilience in providing meaning to my life in paint and thank it for offering a metaphor in my journey of being and becoming.



WHAT'S NEXT AFTER I GET TO THE TOP?

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Amanda Cheang

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Resilience, is more than persevering through a tough climb despite having scraps and wounds. Resilience, is recovering and going back to face the world after midnight silent cries in the bed. Resilience, is ploughing through life and putting in my best in everything I do despite finding life unfair. Resilience, is more than the "Resilience award" I received when I was 12. Resilience, is conquering the demons in my head and pressing on even when I feel empty. Resilience, is how I have been living my life. I took this picture in Jeju, South Korea, when I was studying abroad. I remember thinking "wow, such a beautiful view but there's still much more to climb" when I captured this view. This picture encapsulates the way I view and approach my life. There's so much in life that I want to do, so many beautiful places I want to go, but I often feel defeated, and tired, from the struggles of life; from trying to achieve big dreams despite coming from a low-income family; from trying to press on with life while being challenged by my mental and emotional struggles. But then I look at what the back of my friend's t-shirt says - "shout for joy in live". Life gets really really difficult, but I get so much joy from being with animals. I want to contribute to a greater good, to a beneficial cause, for animals, despite hating life sometimes. I still go on, with resilience, to achieve my dream of becoming a vet. The next question then is - What's next after becoming a vet?



PERSEPHONE

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Leah Mariani

MEDIUM

Acrylic and oil on canvas

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This painting is inspired by the story of Persephone, a goddess from Greek mythology. The story is interesting because although she is a central character, she remains unseen. Her story is told firstly from the point of view of her mother, Demeter, and then as part of her husband's narrative. Persephone was abducted by Hades, the God of the Underworld and forced to be his wife. Her mother negotiated a shared custody arrangement by which Persephone spent part of the year above ground with her, and part below with Hades. At no time does Persephone speak or act independently in the versions of the story that have survived from ancient Greece. In this painting I attempt to understand the situation from Persephone's point of view. As she was not originally given a voice, I wanted to give her one. Her mouth is open and she stands in an active and assertive position.

Although inspired by Persephone, this painting is not only about Persephone. There is nothing in the painting itself directly linking it with Persephone. This woman who is expressing emotions of grief and frustration, may also be viewed a representation of all women who historically have had no voice and of those who are yet to be heard.



JOAN PARDILLO

FOR SALE

ARTIST

Joan Pardillo

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Where do find resilience in darkness and chaos?

I chanced upon this article about resilience that has impacted me quite deeply. It was a research done on the frontliners on how most of them managed to stay resilient during the height of the pandemic. The deaths they see everyday, the depressing atmosphere, the loneliness and the constant worrying for themselves and their loved ones all while dedicating themselves in helping the general public cope. The common theme found was that resilience is created and nurtured by positive relationships. It is what ultimately keeps us going in dark and perilous times. It is what keeps that spark of hope alive in our soul.

I took this photo on a quiet gloomy afternoon stroll along the beach. Amidst the chaos and gloominess of the world, if we have our "rocks" surrounding us, keeping us centered and stable, we will be okay. Those rocks can be in different shape or forms, family or friends, colleagues or acquaintances. Keeping this people in your circle, these positive relationships, will get you through whatever hard circumstances you are facing. And they will lift you up, until you can reach the top and have a good look at the horizon with heartful of hope for a better tomorrow.



THE LONG ROAD

ARTIST

Jillian Lu

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

This photograph was taken at Tongariro National Park in New Zealand. The hike was strenuous, but with the encouragement of my siblings, I was able to persevere and reach our destination. Seeing the beautiful landscape was extremely rewarding. To me, the path represents our long journey through life, with highs and lows, and twists and turns. During difficult moments, we seek support from our loved ones, who help us overcome adversity with strength and resilience to reach our goals.



BEE HAPPY

ARTIST

Lisa Singer

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Taken on my phones camera for the purpose of making my daughter smile and know she is thought of whilst we were separated from one another. The title of my photos for her were all corny bee lines like the title of this piece "Bee Happy". This particular photo though, speaks more deeply of the symbiotic nature of the flower and bee. Notice the flimsiness of the little native bee's wings, yet they contain the resilience to survive against introduced competition. How beautiful is the adaptation of the flower with its vibrant and alluring colour and design to attract the bee it needs for ongoing propagation. Look closely; bee inspired!



RESILIENCE IN UNCERTAINTY

ARTIST

Ester Liana

MEDIUM

Photography

ARTISTS STATEMENT

A little voice ask me

"Mom, how long do we need to put on our mask?"

Oh little sweet pie,

Don't think about the time.

Just enjoy this precious time where we have each other.

Hold on tight, promise me to never let it loose.

Let's enjoy the ride.

Because we never know what the future holds.

Daddy will be happy watching us from above.

- Old City (Kota Tua), Jakarta 2022



BLUE AND GOLD MACAW

ARTIST

Asha Mamgain

MEDIUM

Watercolour on paper

ARTISTS STATEMENT

Declared an endangered specie, these blue and vibrant yellow feathered birds have suffered from habitat destruction, hunting and trapping. With many defensive parents losing their lives protecting their babies from being snatched from the nest only to be sold in the pet trade. Many young ones did not survive.

These birds have been resilient to the torture of mankind and yet persist to thrive in the wild forest of Panama in Central America.



THE GRADUATE ART PRIZE

gsa

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