

Recognizing Excellence: Selected Recipients of the L.D. Pannell Studio Art Prize

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”
—Pablo Picasso

Thinking of the future through a student’s perspective, it is difficult to image what life will be like when we look back at our time at Sweet Briar. Will we remember what our dorms looked like? Will our professors remember us? Will our hobbies and talents that we have now still be present in our lives? What exactly will be our mark on Sweet Briar be once we truly “grow up”?

Several Sweet Briar women are remembered for their dedication to academics or their presence on the sports field. Some, however, are remembered for their artistic talent. In this exhibition, the recipients of the L. D. Pannell Studio Art Prize within the last decade are recognized for their artistic excellence. The 17 works displayed were acquired by the College upon each student’s graduation. This exhibition is intended to highlight and remember the artistic talent that once sat in the dining hall, lived in the dorms, and walked the grounds of campus. Although these women have graduated from Sweet Briar and are truly grown, this exhibition ensures their artistic excellence is never forgotten at our college.

The Studio Art Department and the College as a whole owe special appreciation to the family of the late Laurie Preston deBuys Pannell '64—an artist herself—who established this acquisition fund in her memory in 1996.

Thanks are due to Samantha Cochran '16 and Mariah Miller '16 for their help in preparing these works and hanging the installation.

Abigail Schutte '17
Student Curatorial Assistant and Guest Curator
Art Collection and Galleries



Leslie Andrade, *Her Ears Scratch Don't*

Checklist of the Exhibition

All works were selected by the Studio Art Department faculty of Sweet Briar College from student exhibitions, chiefly the "senior show," the annual showcase for studio art majors.

These were purchased for the College collection through the Laurie Preston deBuys Pannell '64 Studio Art Fund, established in her memory by her husband Clifton Pannell, in 1996.

The artworks on view are part of the campus collection managed by the Art Collection and Galleries.

Works are listed by the artist's name, alphabetically.

Leslie Andrade, Class of 2014

Her Ears Scratch Don't 2013

oil on wood panel

16 x 24"

DC.2014.001

"During my creative process, I discover ways to represent my personal subconscious experiences that get lost in the physical plane that humans live in. My initial piece begins with an object or subject stolen from what my memory is able to retain while dreaming during the day and night. This raw material gives me the edge of starting a piece with no initial understanding of reality. Giving my memory the permission to let go of my natural perception of truth allows my work to have no artistic boundary. The use of bold color and excessive doodling permits my subconscious to experiment with illusion and magical abstraction. The process each piece goes through is the representation of the astral plane itself while the completed body of work is simply the documentation of my subconscious journey."

Katie Bird, Class of 2005

Elegance: Lost and Found 2004

charcoal and pencil on paper

30 x 22"

DC.2005.002

"The natural world makes for honest inspiration...What more could an artist want in a model? I cannot paint pretty things, but turn an open eye to Nature and the true beauty is there that no paintbrush can capture with adequate respect. And I hope that a sympathetic respect for my subject shows in my works."

Carrie Cann, Class of 2005

Maggie's Light 2004

gelatin silver print (toned pinhole photograph)

17 ½ x 13 ¾"

ACG.2005.009

Shandy Hamner, Class of 2004
Untitled 2004
charcoal and pastel on paper
24 5/8 x 31 5/8"
DC.2004.001

Kathleen Herndon, Class of 2003
Structural Series 5 2003
oil pastel and oil stick on paper
22 x 29 3/4"
DC.2003.014

Becky Johnston Lambert [Mary J. Lambert], Class of 2006
Inverted Rememberings 2004
gelatin silver print
13 1/8 x 18 3/4"
DC.2004.002

"One of my favorite books from childhood was *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton. It personified the feelings of a house throughout its lifetime. Since then, I have always seen houses and other buildings in this light. We can look at them and pretty much tell how they are feeling on the inside. The windows are the eyes to the soul in this case, and each one is different. Some are visibly broken, while others merely reflect their surroundings. I have been working on a series that expresses the feelings involved in being left behind. Although the subject matter is usually tired and worn down from abuse and neglect, I always try to find a ray of light; the optimism that better days are possible."

Krista Maldonado, Class of 2012
Sarah Jessica Parker 2012
ink jet transfer print, acrylic, encaustic on wood panel
24 x 24"
DC.2012.027

"It has taken me a while to understand why I make art, and what techniques work best for me. I believe the pop icons that I portray in my artwork have influenced my life in some way, and will continue to affect my art in the future. My overall approach allows for spontaneity, compiling images in a grid-like manner to piece together little bits of a portrait. This allows me to see these icons in their "supposed" beautiful state deteriorating in front of my eyes to give the effect of the flaws which are present in every person regardless of their appearance. Through this artificial weathering, I use techniques to give the portrait an eroded look. The end result allows the viewer to see this icon differently than before."

Joanna Mullen, Class of 2002
Hoping to Make a Genius of Me 2002
mixed media
22 ¾ x 26 ½"
DC.2002.003

“Looking back on my piece, the only people that I can truly thank for my success are my professors at Sweet Briar. I can’t really say I like writing artist’s statements, or that I’m even good at them, but I can say that I enjoyed my time at Sweet Briar more than any other period in my life and I wouldn’t be who I am today without this school.”

Yen Nguyen, Class of 2001
The Unseen 2001
mixed media, handmade book
9 ½ x 7 ½"
DC.2001.031

Maryam Rasoulia, Class of 2014
Killing Jar 2012
ink, acrylic, and encaustic on wood panel
24 ½ x 24 ½"
DC.2014.002

Ellen Reid, Class of 2012
Salt Into Ghosts 2012
generational salt etching on paper
10 x 10"
DC.2012.028

Julia Rowland [Hampton], Class of 2002
Green Prize, ca. 2002
charcoal and pastel on paper
29 ½ x 22"
DC.2002.002

“As I reflect back on my years at Sweet Briar, I feel that I have had the best art education possible and truthfully, I will always be grateful for my professors teaching me that making art is about the process, and if you learn something new through that process, that is what is important.”

Meredith Rucker, Class of 2004
Heatwave 2003
graphite, oil pastel and paint stick on paper
26 1/8 x 30 1/8"
DC.2003.046

“My focus is an exploration of facial expressions with an emphasis on color to convey different emotions...My style is influenced by Pop Art...I want to portray every emotion from every angle

possible. Whether the expression is jovial, sad, angry, or confused, I want my artwork to show that I am a unique individual; to say, 'Hey, this is who I really am.'"

Brook Schulze [Alyssa B. Stark], Class of 2009

Analysis of Variants 2009

mixed media and collage on wood panel

30 ¼ x 50 ¼"

DC.2009.001

Brook's desire is, "...that my art will communicate the beauty and intrigue I experience when looking at the figures, forms, shapes, and objects within this spectacular world...Not only is my enthusiasm and interest in my personal artistic style aesthetically motivated, I also feel that I identify with my style on a personal and emotional level."

Amanda Switzenberg, Class of 2004

Vamp in Virginia 2003

oil on panel

23 ½ x 37 ¾ "

DC.2003.016

"I like to provide just enough detail to suggest the possibility of a narrative reading. I often have a very specific story in mind, but it does not bother me that the viewer may not see what I see. I am aware that at the core, all of my symbolism is just a cryptic telling of my life."

Sally Anne Toms, Class of 2013

The Shrike 2013

linocut on paper

20 x 15 ½"

DC.2013.001

"I use my art as an avenue through which to explore and celebrate my own personal experiences of dual-nationality. My work approached the issue from a perspective that is framed within my childhood memories of England. I explore the bonds of blood and family that tie me so closely to the British Isles and also the experience of the environments themselves, in both countries, which are to me so distinct and full of meaning. Observations of the natural world provide access to the strong primordial connection I feel to both nations and ask questions about how those competing affections can exist side by side. I think that in exploring my roots in this way, I can find clarity of insight into who I am today with which I can be at peace."

Jennifer Will, Class of 2013

Annunciation 2013

charcoal on paper

33 x 25"

DC.2013.002

Jennifer is currently living in Seattle and serving as a teaching assistant at the Seattle Atelier, a new program that teaches young artists a classical approach to painting. Jennifer expressed that

she hopes to be able to paint full-time one day; however now it just serves as a means of relaxation for her.

For her senior show, she wrote, “I want the audience to view my paintings as they would a play, so I focus on making each visual element count towards the final product. Among the works I am showing, almost all of them began with the idea of wonder and how it relates to religious experiences. I searched within myself to find the different emotions associated with wonder—fear, ecstasy, apprehension—and I translated them into images.”



Krista Maldonado, *Sarah Jessica Parker*

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