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## Over the Aesop

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# Ripp Harrison

Graduate Catalog  
Master of Fine Art Degree  
Fort Hays State University  
Hays, Kansas  
May, 2020

## Over The Aeosop



# Artist Statement

Fairy tales and nursery rhymes hold a certain amount of nostalgia. As part of our childhood, these familiar characters are often left behind while we grow and mature. Their stories are frozen in time and shown to the next generation in the same way they were introduced to us. True characters evolve over time, this is how they stay relevant to changing times. These well-rounded characters are what make the art of storytelling exciting. It is important for me to be able to intertwine traditional characters with a more modern appearance. By doing this, the presentation of the stories to my son would be just as exciting for me the second time as they are for him the first time.

For this body of work my goal was to create a visual narrative that incorporated traditional fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters with a pop culture story-line, while injecting references to more modern styles and trends along with some humor. The original story that this narrative is built on is Aesop's Fable; the Tortoise and the Hare. Once this was established as the base, I combined it with the traditional '80s overcoming the odds formula by referencing the Sylvester Stallone classic *Over the Top*. *Over the Top* is the fictional story of a trucker that attempts to reconcile with his estranged son and win the world arm wrestling championship. Like Stallone's character the Hare, after losing to the Tortoise, has no other option than to redeem himself through competitive arm wrestling.

These two stories mixed together need a strong supporting cast of colorful characters and environments in which to grow and thrive. That is where the collection of individual character pieces comes into play. The supplemental drawings help create a narrative for each of the individual fairy tale characters. Each character is placed in their own personalized environment filled with symbolism so that when drawn into the large narrative they are not just a blank-faced extra taking up space in the background.

The hidden references throughout all of the pieces pay homage to the age-old tradition of storytelling. These small nods to different author's approaches to the stories are important to me as an artist. We cannot progress forward without knowing and honoring where we have been.

The juxtaposition of modern-day adult life with the childhood fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters is my attempt at bridging the gap between myself and the master storytellers. By creating this narrative of images and very few written words, I hope to engage the viewers' imagination and fill the gaps that separate the drawings on each panel. Also, with the completion of the individual character drawings and the amount of symbolism used in the environment, I encourage the viewer to stand a little closer to the art and observe the connections in each of the pieces.

# Biography

Ripp Harrison was born in Lawrence, Kansas in 1986. He attended McPherson College where he graduated with his B.A. in Art Education in 2009. After graduating from McPherson Ripp started his teaching career in South Eastern Kansas where he spent 6 years teaching high school art. Ripp and his family then moved back to North Eastern Kansas where he continued teaching high school while he enrolled at the distance program at Ft. Hays State University. With the help of the professors and administration at Ft. Hays Ripp was able to continue working while taking graduate courses as a low residency student. His expected graduation date from Ft. Hays State University with an M.F.A. in drawing is May, 2020. Ripp plans to continue teaching art and creating his own work after graduating while improving his own artistic skills and eventually teaching at the college level.



## Snow White the Strong Woman

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic Paint Maker, Sharpies

12" x 16" 2019

**Notes: No. 1**

Fight Poster on the fridge

Seven supplements for the seven dwarves

Workout clothes match Disney color scheme

Right Arm tattoos:

Stabbed Heart

"Whistle While You Work"

Poison Apple

1937 Disney Snow White chipmunk face

Left Arm Tattoo:

1937 Disney Snow White sleeve pattern

## Jack-lynn & Jill

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic Paint Marker, Sharpies

12" x 16" 2019

**Notes: No. 2**

Fight Poster on the side of the shelves

Jack-lyn tattoos:

Broken Crown chest piece

Pail of water on left forearm

Street Address 1777 the year that Charles Burney's musical arrangement was first published

The conjoined twins have a yin and yang appearance to one another

3 Beers Brewery signs

KC Royals penant - The artist's home team



## Cinderella the Fire Eater

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic  
Paint Markers, Sharpies

12" x 16" 2019

**Notes: No. 3**

Glass Slipper behind the gas tank

Cinder = Fire = Fire Eater, supplies, and fuel

Cleaning supplies and pumpkin

Fight poster under her chair

Aschenputtel - Brothers Grimm

White bird and wishing tree - Instead of Fairy Godmother,  
from the Brothers Grimm

Giambattista Basile - first literary European version

Prince Charming autographed picture



## The Huntsman

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic  
Paint Markers, Sharpies

12" x 16" 2019

**Notes: No. 4**

1965 Chevrolet C10 similar to the artist's

Empty PBR cans

Pink and Purple flower curtains in the camper



## Evil Queen

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic  
Paint Markers, Sharpies

12" x 16" 2019

**Notes: No. 5**

Raven Skulls in Crown

Other Evil Queen References:

Monkey Feathers - Wizard of Oz

Voices - Little Mermaid

Pig Hearts & Poison Apples - Snow White

Fight Poster on Counter

Voodoo Dolls, Tarot Cards, Frog Princes - Princess and the Frog

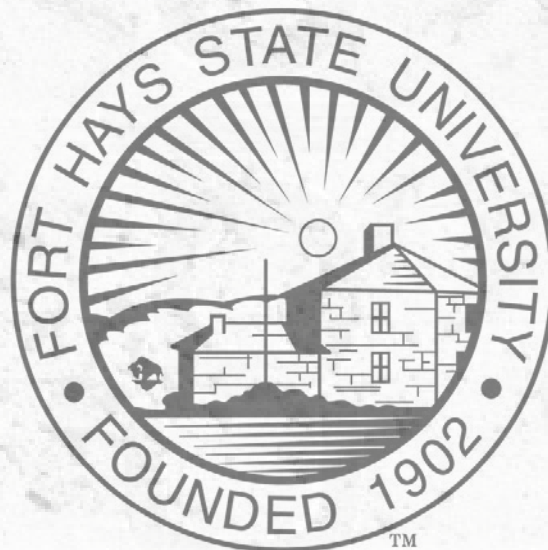
Arm Tattoos

Mirror, Mirror

Poison Apples & Serpents

Gremlin Eyes

*Special Thanks to Sarah Feris*



No. 6 is currently unavailable.



## B. B. Wolfe

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic  
Paint Markers, Sharpies

12" x 16" 2019

**Notes: No. 7**

Grandma's Liquor Store

3 Beers Brewery = From the narrative

8 Point Stars = High ranking Russian Mafia thief.

## Straw Pig

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic  
Paint Markers, Sharpies

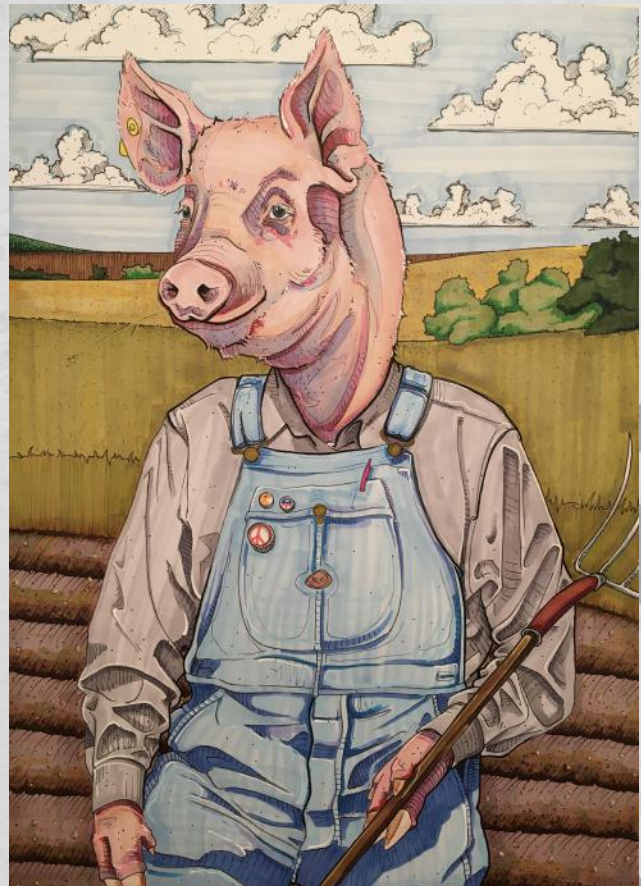
12" x 16" 2019

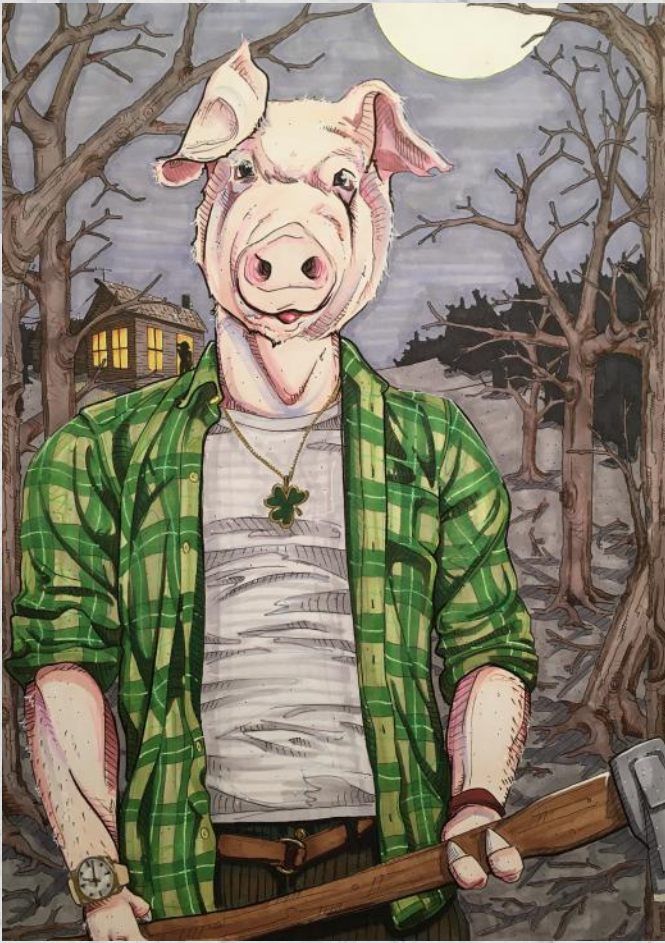
**Notes: No. 8**

Peace Button = Hippie gone to seed

Kansas style landscape like the region the artist is from

Ear Notch - Single notch on the left ear implies this is the first  
of the litter





## Stick Pig

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic  
Paint Markers, Sharpies

12" x 16" 2019

Notes: No. 9

A little luck around his neck

Standard Lumberjack flannel green edition

House made of sticks with a companion silhouetted in the door.

## Brick Pig

Mixed Media: Ink, Alcohol Markers, Acrylic  
Paint Markers, Sharpies

12" x 16" 2019

Notes: No. 10

Ear Notch for the 3rd

Local No. 15 is the Brick Layers Union Local out of Kansas  
City, Mo.

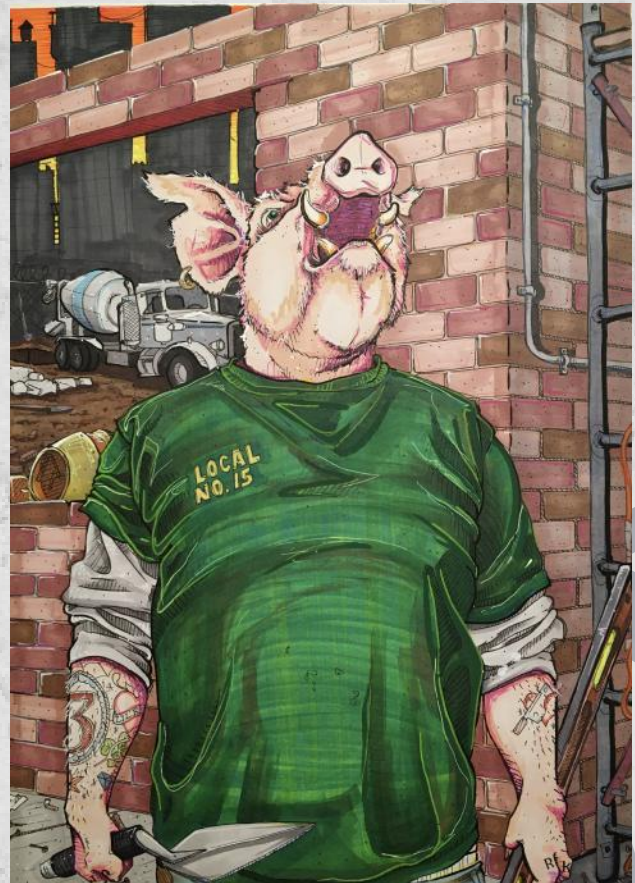
The Teamsters and Union had an interesting past involving the  
mob. This would explain the concrete work in the background.  
The tougher looking Hog appearance parallels the rougher and  
thicker skinned individuals who physically built our country.

Arm Tattoos:

3, Heart Lil' Red, Wishbone and clover.

Knuckles Tattoos:

Work





## Narrative Notes:

- La Fontaine, the name of one of the first authors
- Room 226, the number in the Perry Index
- Snow White in the bed in the background
- ASP, Aesop Sports Network
- Local 264, Labors Union out of Kansas City
- License Plate, Jackalope
- The Huntsman Bar, Lil' Red's background
- Passing out flyers, Evil Queen & The Brick Pig
- Loch Ness, Referenced the Plesiosaur an ocean dinosaur native to Kansas
- Flyers go Digital
- Marquee sign, Cinderella show
- Fight Night Walk In, Huntsman, Snow White,
- Arm Wrestling Set Up, Over the Top
- Introduction of Athletes, Rocky-sh
- Sponsors, 3 Bears Brewery, Rapunzel's Beard Oil.

## Catalog List

- No. 1 **"Snow White the Strong Woman"** Mixed Media 16"x 12"
- No. 2 **"Jack-lynn & Jill"** Mixed Media 16"x 12"
- No. 3 **"Cinderella the Fire Eater"** Mixed Media 16"x 12"
- No. 4 **"The Huntsman"** Mixed Media 16"x 12"
- No. 5 **"Evil Queen"** Mixed Media 16"x 12"
- No. 7 **"B.B. Wolfe"** Mixed Media 16" x 12"
- No. 8 **"Straw Pig"** Mixed Media 16" x 12"
- No. 9 **"Stick Pig"** Mixed Media 16" x 12"
- No. 10 **"Brick Pig"** Mixed Media 16" x 12"

- Narrative No. 1 **"Introduction"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 2 **"Departure"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 3 **"Final Straw"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 4 **"The Challenge"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 5 **"Accepted"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 6 **"Mass Production"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 7 **"Damn Loch Ness Monster"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 8 **"The Digital Age"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 9 **"Fight Night"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"
- Narrative No. 10 **"Over the Top"** Mixed Media 18"x 24"

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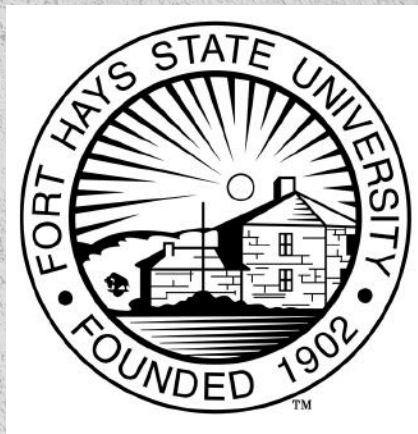
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Karrie Simpson Voth

Professor of Graphic Design

This catalog is submitted to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Fine Arts.



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