Alteration

Jared Jennings

Fort Hays State University, jaredejennings@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholars.fhsu.edu/theses

Part of the Illustration Commons, and the Sculpture Commons

Recommended Citation

DOI: 10.58809/FVDZ2926
Available at: https://scholars.fhsu.edu/theses/3171

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate School at FHSU Scholars Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Master's Theses by an authorized administrator of FHSU Scholars Repository. For more information, please contact ScholarsRepository@fhsu.edu.
ALTERATION

Jared Ean Jennings
Interim Dean of Graduate School
Mr. Glen McNeil

Graduate Committee
Chair: Amy Schmierbach, MFA
Professor of Drawing

Member: Tobais Flores, MFA
Professor of Sculpture

Member: Brian Hutchinson, MA
Instructor of Art Education

Member: Brooke Mann, M.S.
Lecturer and Director of Clinical Psychology

Department Chair of Art and Design
Karrie Simpson Voth, MFA

President of Fort Hays State University
Dr. Tisa Mason, Ed. D

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

## ALTERATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catalog</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Medium and Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><em>Unsung Psalm</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood and Metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><em>The Crossing</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood Collaboration/Social Practice with High Plains Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><em>The Last Temptation (Buzzsaw Jesus)</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><em>Little Green</em></td>
<td>Mix Media on Wooden Door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td><em>Nomad</em></td>
<td>Mix Media on Print Screens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td><em>A Tale of Two Cities</em></td>
<td>Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td><em>When the Body Grows Weak</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td><em>Who'll get the Family Bible</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td><em>I will not Grow only to be Cut Down</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td><em>I think therefore I am</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td><em>Mother</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td><em>Goodbye</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td><em>Found</em></td>
<td>Assemblage Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td><em>Deconstruct/Reconstruct</em></td>
<td>Mix Media on Wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jared Ean Jennings was born in Joplin, Mo, along famous Route US 66, but would grow up about 20 miles south in the much smaller Neosho, Mo. Neosho was also the birthplace of the late American Regionalist painter, Thomas Hart Benton, whose work would first inspire Jared to pursue art. Having experience with a family history of Mental Illness, he has long studied privately psychology to understand the inner workings of the troubled mind. His studies and personal experience with Mental illness and life has become a pure source of inspiration in his practice.

Jared Jennings received his Associates of Art and Design degree from Crowder College where he received the Outstanding Graduate Award 2013. He then transferred to Pittsburg State University where he received his BFA in Illustration 2015. Jared will be awarded his MFA in Drawing from Fort Hays State University summer 2021. During graduate school Jared started a collaboration and social practice project with High Plains Independence. With his interest in the stigmas of mental health, he worked side by side with individuals afflicted with mental illness. In 2020 Jared received a Graduate Research Grant from FHSU to further this collaboration to make an installation that combines his work and the work created during his drawing workshops and High Plains Mental Health. This work will be featured at Jared’s thesis exhibition titled, “Alteration” at the FHSU Moss Thorns Gallery.

Jared aspires to continue his social practice to help others with mental illness and educate those on the misinformation to combat stigma. Stigma can be both external and internal. Jared knows that by being open and continuing the conversation that those with mental illness can overcome it and those with family members with mental illness can be more supportive.
Mental illness is surprisingly far more common than people care to believe. This is in part due to the stigma which follows close behind it. Stigma, a mark of disgrace, began before medical experts and psychologists started studying mental illness in the 1840s. Before this time mental illness was seen as demonic possession. Usually, severe mental illness develops genetically. Although severe cases of mental illness are rare, the media has exploited them such as Jekyll and Hyde, Psycho, or Frailty. This stigma has caused many individuals who may suffer from mental illness to avoid treatment. I tell the stories of many different individuals with this stigma in my drawings.

How does nature vs nurture affect the mental health of the individual in question? Nature refers to mental illness developing from genetics. Someone that has developed mental illness through social and learning behaviors or experiences is called nurture. The debate over which one causes most harm is not relevant. These two causes will always coexist in harmony and chaos. The individual is at constant odds with these constructs. To fully understand the effects of nurture, nature must also be known and vice versa. This internal battle between nature and nurture can have a profound effect on the mental health of any individual which can cause immediate changes to the psyche and personality. While more severe mental illnesses are found in the nature of an individual, such as Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder, Autism, or Major Depression, the vast majority of mental illness is created through nurture. Examples of such include Anxiety disorders, Depression, Post Traumatic Stress disorder, and Borderline Personality disorder.

Individuals do not have control over their nature or what family they are born into. Everyone I have met has had experiences which have strongly affected their mental health to varying degrees of stress. My great grandfather was institutionalized for a portion of his life diagnosed with schizophrenia. I know little about him except for a few stories my mother could remember and my own memories of a frail old man bedridden in pen-striped pajamas that I jabbered to on occasion with no response. Learning about my grandfather’s mental illness was eye opening. No one in my family spoke about mental illness except for short responses when I inquired. Mental Illness was never something anyone wanted to talk about. I knew I wanted to understand mental illness. I wanted to understand my family connection to mental illness and how I could take better care of myself. I have no idea how my great grandfather led his life before his time at the mental institution. I often wonder what he did that made others take away his freedom. I remember my grandfather to be harmless. If it had not been for my grandmother, his daughter, there’s no telling what would have happened to him. Perhaps eventually discarded by the state. My grandmother took in a man she knew little about, except for by relation and whatever the hospital told her, fed and clothed him. She nurtured my great grandfather, whom most would see as broken natured.

Individuals do not have control over their nurturing in childhood or the trauma they have experienced in life. Unfortunately, these are serious issues which society is only recently willing to have an open conversation about. There is still resistance towards the subject which keeps stigma alive which continues to cause harm. Stigma can’t be completely eradicated but the conversation begins to diminish it.

I started gathering discarded objects I found during my drives or runs in the country. I found broken wood, a rusty gas can, and anything that was abandoned. These objects reminded me of myself and others who have struggled with mental illness. The found objects I use in my work symbolize this trauma that others have acquired throughout their life. Whether the found object is wood, metal, or another material, the object has been nurtured the same as any individual may be neglected. Drawing stories and events from people struggling with mental illness onto found objects, helps nurture the discarded back to life. I put myself in these people’s stories so I can try to understand their anguish or joy. All these drawn elements come together to express nature as well as nurture. This catalog is submitted to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Fine Arts.
UNSUNG PSALM
Assemblage Mix Media on Wood and Metal
3.5’x6.5’x5’
THE CROSSING
Assemblage Mix Media on Wood
13’x4’x5’

*Collaboration/Social Practice with High Plains Independence
THE LAST TEMPTATION/ BUZZSAW JESUS

Assemblage Mix Media on Wood

11.5”x37”
LITTLE GREEN
Mix Media on Wooden Door
32"x28"

#4
NOMAD

Mix Media on Print Screens

51" x 39"
A TALE OF TWO CITIES
Mix Media on Wood
79" x 25"
WHEN THE BODY GROWS WEAK

Assemblage Mix Media on Wood and Metal

17” x 14”
WHO’LL GET THE FAMILY BIBLE
Assemblage Mix Media on Wood
32"x17.5"
I WILL NOT GROW JUST TO BE CUT DOWN

Assemblage Mix Media on Wood
93”x33.5”
I THINK THEREFORE I AM
Assemblage Mix Media on Wood
20” x 60”
MOTHER
Assemblage Mix Media on Wood and Metal
23”x22.5”
GOODBYE
Assemblage Mix Media on Wood
25”x32.5”
FOUND
Assemblage Mix Media on Wood and Metal
23”x28”
DECONSTRUCT/RECONSTRUCT

Mix Media on Wood
18"x16.5"
CV
JARED EAN JENNINGS

EDUCATION
2021  MFA in Drawing, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS
2015  BFA in Illustration, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS
2012  AA Crowder College, Neosho, MO

GRANTS/AWARDS
2021  Art on the Oasis, Colby Community College Gallery, Colby KS, 3rd place 2D Works
2021  Earl O and Winona M Field Art Scholarship
2020  Graduate Scholarly Experience (GSE), Hays, KS
2020  Earl O and Winona M Field Art Scholarship
2017  Thomas Hart Benton Art Exhibition, Neosho Library Gallery, Neosho, MO, Merit Award Works on Paper
2012  Outstanding Graduate: Art and Design, Crowder College, Neosho, MO
2012  Thomas Hart Benton Art Exhibition, Longwell Museum Gallery, Neosho, MO, 1st Student Works on Paper
2010  Neosho High School Art Show, Longwell Museum Gallery, Neosho, MO, 3rd place Works on Paper
2009  Neosho High School Art Show, Longwell Museum Gallery, Neosho, MO, 6th place Works on Paper
2009  2nd place, Central Ozark Conference, Ozark, MO
2009  Outstanding Artistic Performance: Pencil, Central Ozark Conference, Ozark, MO
2008  Central Ozark Conference, Ozark, MO, Honorable Mention Works on Paper

EXHIBITIONS
2021  Alteration: MFA Drawing Thesis Exhibition, Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art, Hays, KS
2021  Mix Discipline: FHSU Graduate Exhibition, Annex 1010 Main Gallery, Hays, KS (curated by Jared Jennings)
2021  Art on the Oasis, Colby Community College Gallery, Colby, KS
2021  Perseverance & Fortitude, Hays Art Council Gallery, Hays, KS
2021  Smokey Hill Art Exhibition, Hays Art Council Gallery, Hays, KS (juried by Jay Nelson)
2020  Life, Death, and BS, FHSU CAD Gallery, Hays, KS
2020  Art on the Oasis, Colby Community College, Colby, KS
2020  Paseo: No. 3, Annex 1010 Main Gallery, Hays, KS
2019  Paseo: Red Hot, Annex 1010 Main Gallery, Hays KS
2019  FHSU Graduate Exhibition, Annex 1010 Main Gallery, Hays, KS (curated by Jared Jennings)
2019  FHSU Sculpture Exhibition, Fort Hays State University, Hays KS (curated by Tobias Flores)
2019  FHSU Advanced Drawing Exhibition, Annex 1010 Main Gallery, Hays, KS
2019  Smokey Hill Art Exhibition, Hays Art Council Gallery, Hays, KS (juried by Mike Michaelis)
2018  FHSU Advanced Drawing Exhibition, Hays Library, Hays, KS
2017  Home, The Harry Crew Gallery, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS (curated by Robby Raio)
2016  Untold Stories, Longwell Museum, Crowder College, Neosho, MO (curated by Jared Jennings)
2016  The Shape of Things: A Response Collective, The Bicknell Center of the Arts, Pittsburg, KS (curated by Robby Raio)
2016  Automatism in Art: Shinning Light on Doodling, Harry Krug Gallery, Porter Hall, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS (curated by Robby Raio)

302 W 6th St. Hays, KS  417-629-7815
EXHIBITIONS  (Continued)

2014  PSU Photo Exhibition, Harry Krug Gallery, Porter Hall, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS
2014  Fall Labette Community College Exhibition, Parson, KS
2014  Spring Labette Community College Exhibition, Parson, KS
2014  Fall Labette Community College Exhibition, Parson, KS
2013  Spring Labette Community College Exhibition, Parson, KS
2012  Thomas Hart Benton Art Exhibition, Longwell Museum, Crowder College, Neosho, MO

BIBLIOGRAPHY


EXPERIENCE

2019-2021  FHSU Woodshop Tech, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS
2019-2021  Graduate Teacher Assistant, Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS: Assist in Teaching, Classroom Maintenance
2019  Art Specialist, Camp Towanda, Honesdale, PA: Teaching, Classroom Maintenance, Woodshop Operator/Maintenance
2016-2019  Tattoo Artist, Ozark Ink Tattoo Emporium, Neosho, MO

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

2021  Drawing Workshop, High Plains Independence, Hays KS
2021  Social Practice Project teaching drawing to Individuals with Mental Illness and collaboration
2019  Drawing Workshop, Lincoln Elementary, Hays, KS
2019  Assisted Teaching drawing to 4th grade students
2015  Artist Lecture, Crowder College, Neosho, MO
2014  Ink Workshop, Crowder College, Neosho, MO
2014  Taught Ink drawing workshop for Upward Bound Students
2013  Artist Lecture, Crowder College, Neosho, MO

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2021  FHSU Graduate Exhibition, Annex 1010 Main Gallery, Hays, KS
2019  FHSU Graduate Exhibition, Annex 1010 Main Gallery, Hays, KS
2016  Untold Stories, Longwell Museum, Crowder College, Neosho, MO

SOCIAL PRACTICE PROJECTS

2019-2021  The Collaborative Art Project, Amy Schmierbach

jaredejennings@gmail.com  www.jaredejennings.com
Credits

THANK YOU

I would like to thank Fort Hays State University, the Department of Art and Design, my Graduate Committee, Professors, and any others that help me get to this point. I owe my success to all mentioned above.

Above all, I thank you, the viewer. An artist is nothing without their audience, and I appreciate each one of you for taking a look into my world and being a part of this journey with me.
I hereby grant Fort Hays State University an irrevocable, non-exclusive, perpetual license to include my thesis (“the Thesis”) in FHSU Scholars Repository, FHSU’s institutional repository (“the Repository”).

I hold the copyright to this document and agree to permit this document to be posted in the Repository, and made available to the public in any format in perpetuity.

I warrant that the posting of the Thesis does not infringe any copyright, nor violate any proprietary rights, nor contains any libelous matter, nor invade the privacy of any person or third party, nor otherwise violate FHSU Scholars Repository policies.

I agree that Fort Hays State University may translate the Thesis to any medium or format for the purpose of preservation and access. In addition, I agree that Fort Hays State University may keep more than one copy of the Thesis for purposes of security, back-up, and preservation.

I agree that authorized readers of the Thesis have the right to use the Thesis for non-commercial, academic purposes, as defined by the "fair use" doctrine of U.S. copyright law, so long as all attributions and copyright statements are retained.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, both during and after the term of this Agreement, I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Fort Hays State University and its directors, officers, faculty, employees, affiliates, and agents, past or present, against all losses, claims, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, liabilities, damages, expenses, fees and costs (including but not limited to reasonable attorney’s fees) arising out of or relating to any actual or alleged misrepresentation or breach of any warranty contained in this Agreement, or any infringement of the Thesis on any third party’s patent, trademark, copyright or trade secret.

I understand that once deposited in the Repository, the Thesis may not be removed.

Thesis: Alteration

Author: Jared Jennings

Signature: Jared Jennings

Date: 5/10/21