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## **Bloodlines**

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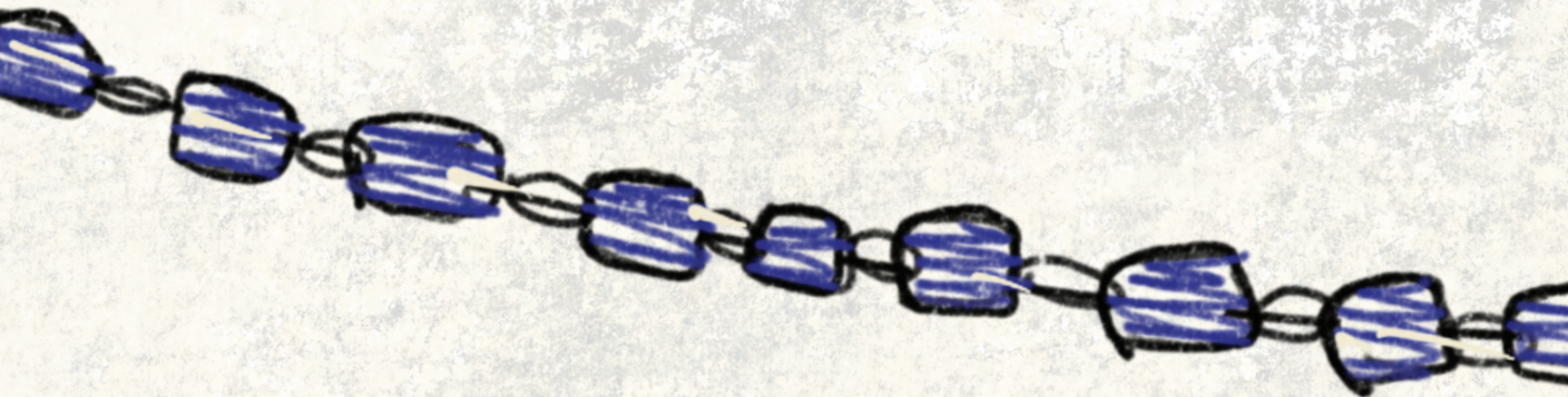
Dallis, Tyler, "Bloodlines" (2023). *Master's Theses*. 3222.  
DOI: 10.58809/BHJT4739  
Available at: <https://scholars.fhsu.edu/theses/3222>

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# BLOODLINES

Tyler L. Dallis  
MFA Ceramics Exhibition



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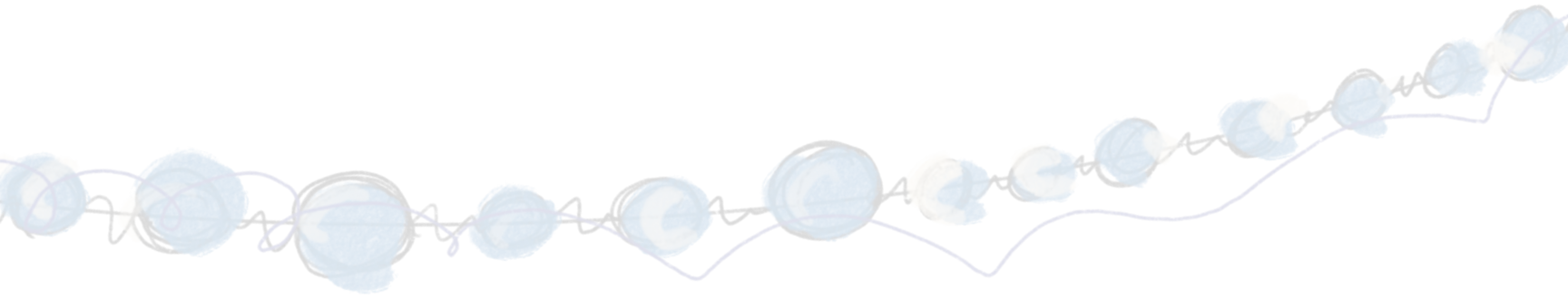
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Graduate Catalog  
Master of Fine Arts Degree  
Fort Hays State University  
Hays, Kansas  
April 29 — May 12, 2023

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



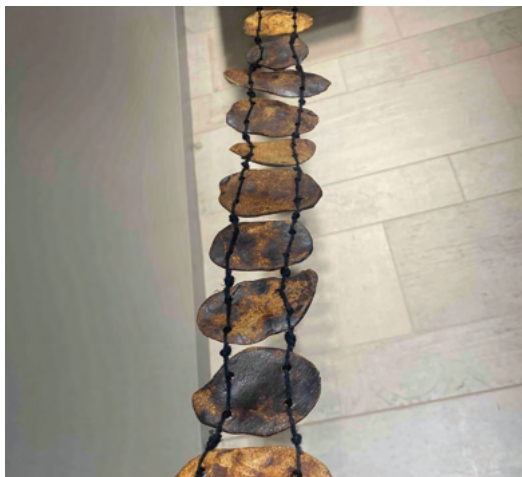
# THESIS STATEMENT

Connections are valuable in everyday life. *Bloodlines* speaks about my personal connections to my biological, adoptive, and found families, along with my heritage and what it means to be a contemporary Indigenous artist. I am not much of a sentimental person when it comes to physical objects, but I collect memories of the people closest to me. Through the process of collecting memories, I am creating a mental Rolodex of experience, people, things, and events from my life. When building my pieces, I braid these memories into the clay as I coil the form to completion. Embedding them into the clay, strengthens and solidifies these memories into reality, making them less likely to be forgotten. To me, my families are everything. From a young age, my bloodlines played a crucial role in my development as a human being. I was surrounded by people who either held me up or pulled me down. I was constantly conflicted with myself, and that helped me grow into my own person. I learned how to be unapologetic and just be me. It was through these interactions that I began to shape who I would later become. Growing up on a Cherokee Nation reservation, I was enveloped in Indigenous culture, but lost touch with that side of myself when I moved away. Recently, I found a deeper connection to my heritage and feel confident speaking to the importance of being an Indigenous artist. Using the same materials and techniques my people used before me, I am creating a contemporary body of work that represents me, my life, and personal experiences.



### **You Burnt Me First**

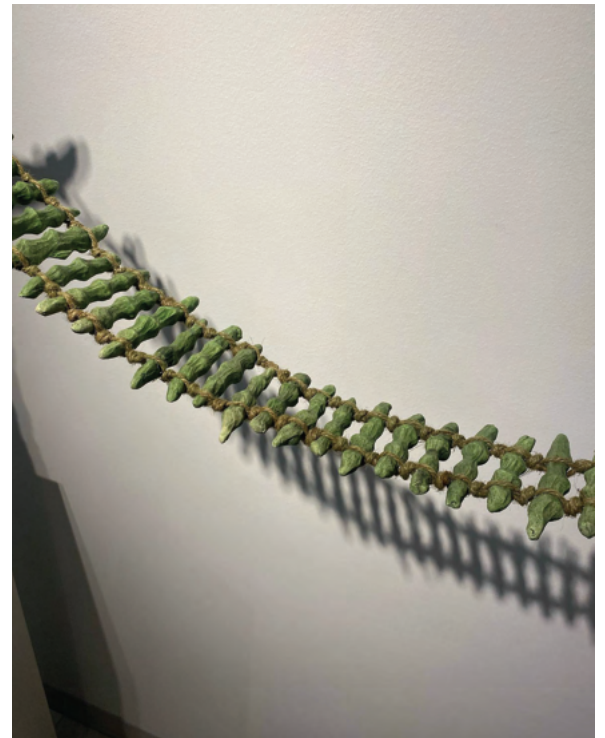
Stoneware, jute  
Approx. 9' x 1.5' x 1'





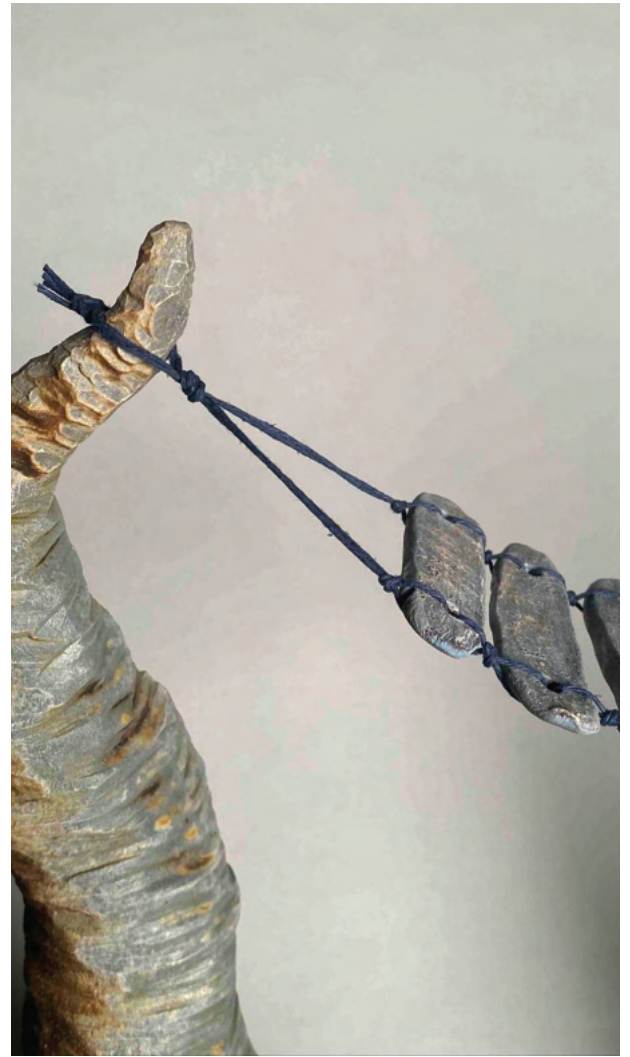
**You Healed My Wounds**

Half and half clay,  
porcelain slip, jute  
Approx. 2' x 2.5' x 1'



### **You Gave Me Hope**

Paper porcelain, cereal, glue, hemp  
Approx. 3' x 1.75' x 1'



## **You Nurtured My Heart**

Woodfired stoneware, hemp  
Approx. 2' x 1.5' x 5'





### **You Changed My Mind**

Woodfired stoneware, porcelain slip, hemp  
Approx. 1.5' x 1.5' x 5'



**You Mended My Soul**

Stoneware, porcelain slip dip, hemp  
Approx. 1.5' x 1' x 5'

**You Are My Rationality**

Stoneware and wax cord  
Approx. 2' x 2' x 3/4"





**Will I Ever Have a Family of My Own**

Half and half clay  
Approx. 22" x 1.5' x 1"





### **Escape**

Half and half clay,  
cast iron, wood  
Approx. 9' x 1.5' x 2'



### **The Places I've Been**

Porcelain frames, ceramic decal photography  
8" x 10" x 1/2" each



**The Places I've Been (Detail)**

Porcelain frames, ceramic decal photography  
8" x 10" x 1/2" each





# Imminent Insanity

Inkjet print  
20" x 30"





**Release**

Inkjet print  
2' x 2'

# in bloom

People and flowers are everywhere; we see them daily. To me, finding a good flower is just as hard as finding a good friend. When you finally find that special person in your life who makes you happy, it's like picking the best flower in the field and calling it your own. Flowers trigger three chemicals in the brain to make a person happy: - dopamine, oxytocin, and serotonin. Dopamine is triggered by the expectation of a reward. Blossoming flowers trigger the sense that something special is coming, that is the result of dopamine. Oxytocin is often called the bonding hormone. It creates a feeling of trust, whether it be romantic love, maternal attachment, or group solidarity. Serotonin is often mentioned in the context of antidepressants; however, research has found it to be released when a mammal advances its social importance. Serotonin is released when one feels important or prideful. Friends can do the same thing. They are there for you when you need them; they listen, learn, grow, move, and live amongst us. Friendships can have the same effect as flowers, releasing those chemicals within the brain. My friends and the people I surround myself with -my chosen family- help me be happy, releasing those three chemicals and making me feel wanted and supported.



**Excerpts from “in bloom”**

Inkjet prints  
16” x 16” each

my heart,

my hips,

my body,

my love

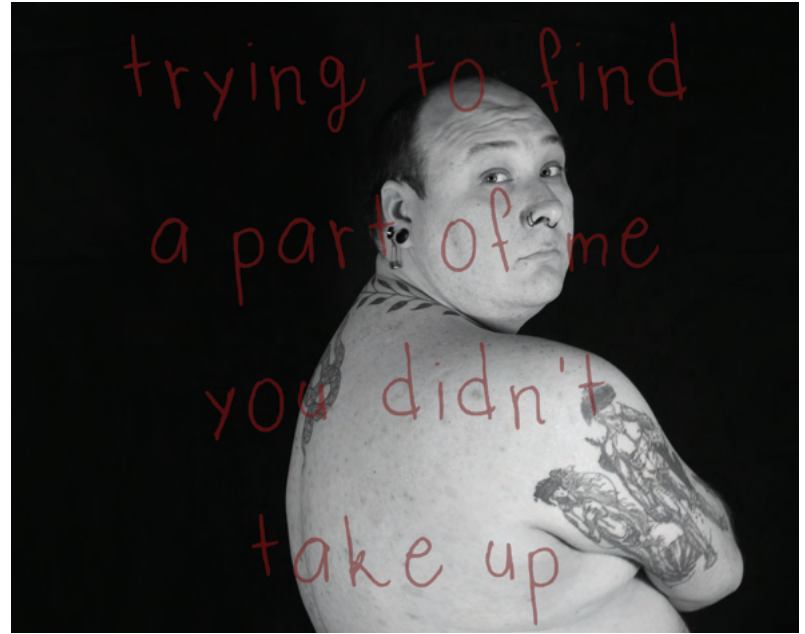


**Death by a Thousand Cuts**

Inkjet prints  
8" x 10"







### **Death by a Thousand Cuts**

Inkjet prints  
8" x 10"



but I'll

be all right,

it's just a

thousand cuts



# CATALOG LIST

1. **You Burnt Me First**, Stoneware, jute, approx. 9' x 1.5' x 1'
2. **You Healed My Wounds**, Half and half clay, porcelain slip, jute, approx. 2' x 2.5' x 1'
3. **You Gave Me Hope**, Paper porcelain, cereal, glue, hemp, approx. 3' x 1.75' x 1'
4. **You Nurtured My Heart**, Woodfired stoneware, hemp, approx. 2' x 1.5' x 5'
5. **You Changed My Mind**, Woodfired stoneware, porcelain slip, hemp, approx. 1.5' x 1.5' x 5'
6. **You Mended My Soul**, Stoneware, porcelain slip dip, hemp, approx. 1.5' x 1' x 5'
7. **You Are My Rationality**, Stoneware and wax cord, approx. 2' x 2' x 3/4"
8. **Will I Ever Have A Family of My Own**, Half and half clay, approx. 2' x 1.5' x 1'
9. **Escape**, Half and half clay, cast iron, wood, approx. 9' x 1.5' x 2'
10. **The Places I've Been**, Porcelain frames, ceramic decal photography, 8" x 10" x 1/2" each
11. **Imminent Insanity**, Inkjet print, 20" x 30"
12. **Release**, Inkjet print, 2' x 2'
13. **in bloom**, Inkjet prints, 16" x 16" each
14. **Death by a Thousand Cuts**, Inkjet prints, 8" x 10"

## NOT PICTURED

15. **You Carried Me Through**, Half and half clay, sand, glue, hemp, approx. 1.5' x 1' x 5'
16. **You Showed Me Peace**, Stoneware, hemp, approx. 3' x 1/2' x 3/4'
17. **You Showed Me Abuse**, Stoneware, hemp, approx. 3' x 1/2' x 3/4'
18. **You Taught Me Stability**, Stoneware, beads, hemp, approx. 5' x 3.5' x 5'
19. **You Gave Me Purpose**, Stoneware, wood, hemp, approx. 3' x 6' x 6'
20. **You Know My Struggle**, Porcelain and hemp, approx. 1' x 1.5' x 3/4'
21. **You Were My Devotion**, Stoneware, porcelain slip, jute, approx. 1/5' x 3' x 3/4'
22. **Will I Ever Find The Love of My Life**, Stoneware, approx. 2.25' x 1.5' x 3/4'
23. **Will I Ever Make My Dreams Come True**, stoneware, approx. 2.25' x 1.5' x 3/4'
24. **A Mother's Love**, Saggar fired stoneware, terra sigillata, approx. 4' x 1.5' x 2'
25. **Sidneiv**, Half and half clay, wood, canvas, approx. 8' x 3' x 2'
26. **Cruel Summer**, Porcelain and ceramic decals, approx. 8" x 10" each
27. **My Inner Struggle**, Porcelain, installation foam, alpaca wool, galvanized steel, MDF board, approx. 4' x 2' x 1.5'
28. **Fragments of My Life**, Stoneware, ceramic decals, wooden beads, hemp, approx. 2.5' x 3'
29. **Broken Memories**, Half and half clay, underglaze and wood, approx. 1' x 1' x 1/2'
30. **Ditlihi**, Stoneware and wood, approx. 6' x 1.25' x 1/4'
31. **Gathering**, Stoneware and jute, approx. 1/4" x 1.5" x 1/2"
32. **Giving**, Stoneware, porcelain slip, glass beads, approx. 3.5' x 1/2' x 1/2'
33. **Osiyo**, Paper porcelain, various fabrics and wood, approx. 7' x 3' x 1'
34. **A Second Home**, Stoneware, approx. 1.5' x 1/2' x 1/2'

# BACKGROUND

Tyler L. Dallis was born and raised in the capital city of the Cherokee Nation of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. They have always had an interest in the fine and performing arts whether it be visual art, music, or theatre. Dallis began their ceramic journey in August 2013 with Casey TZ Smith at Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri. It was the first ceramic course they had ever taken and immediately fell in love. Upon leaving Crowder College, Dallis decided on Fort Hays State University to obtain their Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics. Studying under Professor Linda Ganstrom for four years, they refined their skills, concepts, and professionalism. Dallis started graduate school at Fort Hays State University in the summer of 2020 and will graduate with their Master of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art, Ceramics with certifications in Art History and Digital Photography in May 2023. Coming from a Cherokee background, Dallis speaks about the importance of being an Indigenous artist in a contemporary world. Their work has been published seven times in literary and art magazines. They continue to apply for publications today. Dallis's goal is to become an educator, teaching about ceramics and Indigenous art. They would like to be known for their unique ceramic sculptures, collages, and photographic works which confront difficult and often personal experiences.

# RESUME

**Pronouns:** They/Them/Theirs

**Email:** tyler\_dallis@hotmail.com

**Website:** tylerdallisart.weebly.com

**Instagram:** @tylerdallisart @tylerdallisphotography

## EDUCATION

2020-2023: Fort Hays State University, Master of Fine Arts, Ceramics

2016-2020: Fort Hays State University, Bachelor of Fine Art, Ceramics

2012-2016: Crowder College, Associates of Art, Art and Design and Theatre

## CERTIFICATIONS

2020: Certificate of Art History

2022: Certificate of Digital Photography

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

**In Bloom**, Garden City Community College, Mercer Gallery, Garden City, Kansas, 2022

**Fortitude & Persistence**, Hays Arts Council, Hays, Kansas, 2021

**52nd & 53rd Annual Smokey Hill Art Competition and Exhibition**, Hays Arts Council, Hays, Kansas, 2021 and 2022

**Young Gods: Senior Exhibition**, Hays Arts Council Annex, Hays, Kansas, 2020

## RESIDENCIES, ASSISTANTSHIPS, AND GRANTS

Winter residency under Professor Linda Ganstrom, FHSU, 2019-20, 2020-21  
Student Gallery Assistant, Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art and Design, 2019-2022

Graduate Scholarly Experience Grant, FHSU, \$150, 2023

Graduate Scholarly Experience Grant, FHSU, \$200, 2022

## PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art and Design, Hays, Kansas

The Longwell Museum, Neosho, Missouri

The Printmaking Center of New Jersey, Branchburg, New Jersey

## Publications

The Quill

2014 p.67, 2015 p.59, 2016 p.79, 2017 p.53, 2018 p.70,

2019 p.41, 2020 p.74, 2021 p.87

## Memberships

Ceramica Clay Club: 2016-2023: member, secretary (2018-19),  
president (2019-20), v. president (2022-23)

Gender and Sexuality Alliance: 2021-2023: member

Fort Hays Honor Society: 2022-2023, member

Joplin Regional Artist Coalition: 2015-2016: scholarship member

# SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Caitlyn Frazer for all your help and creative guidance with my show design. Olivia Stinson for being the best studio mate and friend; you still haven't found the Slim Jim. Molli Banks for being my little sis, my gallery buddy, and my rationality. Thank you to my fellow MFA students in ceramics, you guys really are the best. I've gotten so much out of our time together.

Thank you to Colin and Stephanie Schmidtberger for literally the most help, not only during grad school but undergrad and everyday life as well. Colin for being the best boss and mentor. Steph, for singing Disney songs on backroads and Snoballs.

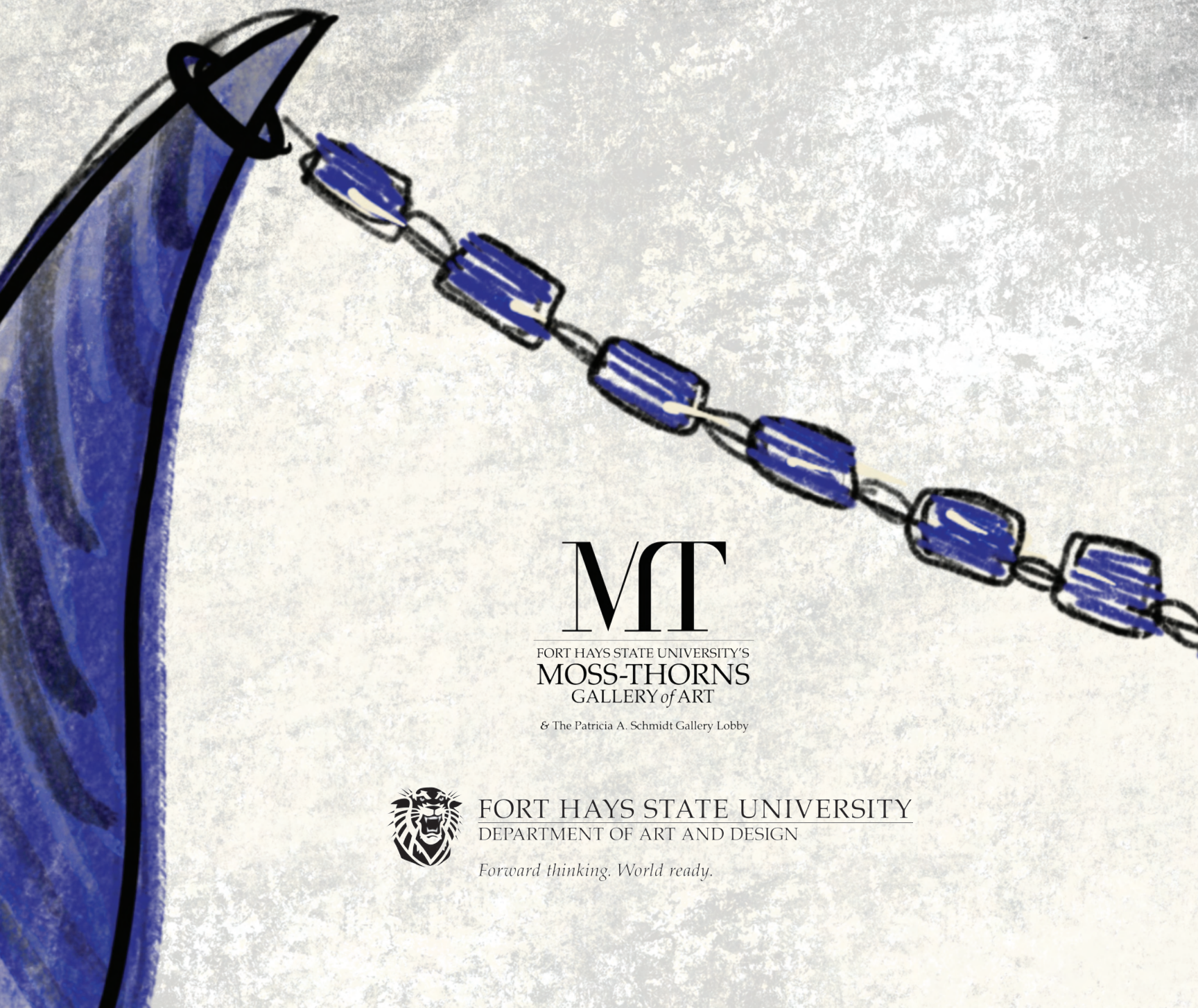
Thank you, Linda Ganstrom, for the endless knowledge, guidance, and encouragement these last seven years. My committee, for the advice and emboldening me to create this body of work. Nick Simko, for bringing me to the dark side that is digital photography; I appreciate that. Casey, Joshua, and Link Smith, for being my second family when I needed it, especially Casey, I wouldn't be here without you. That's the truth.

Thank you to my family for raising me, always being there, and supporting my art, even if you didn't understand it. Thank you to my farm fam for taking me, my mom, and Matthew in. You really have become my family; I can't see my life without you.

Thank you, Mom and Matthew. You are my fan club and cheer squad. I don't think I could have achieved this accomplishment without you in my corner. Your support means the world to me. I love you so much.

And special thanks to my partner, Mirah Garcia. You have given me the strength to continue through this journey. When it got difficult and I didn't think I could do it anymore, you talked me down and held me up. You are the best person to be around. You understand me and I understand you, so thank you for everything.

Oh, and Olive for being so darn cute.



MT

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
MOSS-THORNS  
GALLERY of ART

& The Patricia A. Schmidt Gallery Lobby



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DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

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Date: 5/03/2023