

# Connections

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### **Artist Statement**

When I am taking photos, I look for the relationship that is being created with the main subject and what surrounds it. When I am photographing horses I am trying to show the exchange that is going on between the horse and its rider, or the horse and its surroundings. Anyone who has worked with horses knows that there is a special bond between the horse and rider. It is hard for outsiders to understand this bond, so I bring that bond and connection to the viewer, so that they can better understand it. I try to capture the moments that are relaxed, natural, and unplanned between the pair, because that is when their personalities shine the brightest.

I also photograph broken down and abandoned buildings. I find it intriguing that nature is taking back what once belonged to it. Man came in and took the land and tore it up to construct buildings. Then when the buildings are abandoned the plants and trees come in and reclaim what once was theirs. I show this exchange between what man has made and the environment around it in the photos I take. I also find the textures that are created in these abandoned buildings to be great subjects for my photos. Some of the best textures I have found have been the insides of dumpsters and paint peeling off of old brick or wooden walls.

I take the textures that I find and work them into other photos in places where textures normally wouldn't be found. The reason that I do this is to make a link between the texture and the subject it is placed into seem as though it is supposed to be there. I am trying to make a relationship between the two works, even though they shouldn't in real life. I try to do this with a majority of my work, by making subtle changes within the image to catch the viewer's eye.

### **Extended Abstract**

The piece of work that I want to create is a mixture of photography and sculpture. I am going to have four life size sculptures of horses and one human sculpture that is also life size. The human figure and one of the horse sculptures will be paired together. Two more horse sculptures will be paired together, and then the last horse sculpture will be by itself. There will be three projectors in the gallery that are projecting images that I have taken onto the sculptures. The images will be of different textures that I have taken and they will be representing the different ways that horses react with the world around them. It is showing the influence that they make on their environment.

Wherever a sculpture is touching another the projected images will be growing out from that area. The horse that is solo will have the projected images grow from wherever it is touching the ground. This is symbolizing the connection that horses have with the earth that they walk and feed from on a daily basis. The images will be of various textures that are blues and greens. The textures will not be smooth and silky in appearance. They will be more rustic and tarnished looking. For this sculpture I will photograph hard and choppy water, along with old peeling paints and metals.

The two horses that are paired together will have the projected images spread from wherever they are both touching each other. This is showing the amount of contact that horses come into with their own species. Horses create tight bonds with other horse and many people don't realize this, they have friends just like humans do, and they have influences on each other too. The images for this pair will be images of old rusted metals, brick walls, and also peeling paint off or wood or stone. I am aiming for these textures to be in the red color spectrum.

The final pair of the horse and human figure will also have the projected images growing from wherever the two are touching. This is showing the bond that is formed between the horse and the rider. It is also showing the impact that each of them has on the other. They both play a large role in each other's life. The textures for this set of sculptures are going to be of wheat, hay, and wood. It is going to be different tones of yellows and browns. Like in the other two sets of sculptures I do not want the textures to be smooth. The sculptures themselves are going to be smooth and I want there to be a contrast between the sculptures and the textures that are being projected onto them.

The horses and the human figure will be set up in a traditional gallery with the walls painted white. One of the horses will be in a grazing position, with its head down towards that ground as though it is eating grass. Its tail will also be in motion, as though it is lazily swatting at flies. Next two of the horse sculptures will be interacting with each other. They will be nuzzling each other on the naps of their necks, as if they are scratching each other's backs in a friendly manner. Finally the last horse sculpture and the human figure will be paired together. The human figure will have one hand out stretched onto the horse's neck, while the other hand is caressing the horse's chin. The horse will be facing the human figure straight on with its head resting in the human figure's hand. The point that I'm trying to get across with this project is the connections that horses have with the world around them and especially with humans.

This project is very relevant with my artistic development, because I am tying my love for horses and photography together into one piece, but I am also adding in some 3-D elements also. I have always loved sculpture, but I haven't had the chance to incorporate it into any of my work and I thought that this would be the perfect



opportunity to do so. I am going to make the sculptures of the horse and the human figure out of chicken wire and plaster gauze. I am going to build a frame out of wood to help hold the forms of the sculptures. Once I have the chicken wire sculpted the way that I want it, I will then start to wrap the forms in the plaster gauze, which will give me the smooth appearance I am wanting for the sculptures.

I did a lot of research on how to make life size horse sculptures. I decided to go with the chicken wire and plaster gauze because I feel as though I can make the horses and the figure more personalized and unique. This method is also pretty user friendly, especially since I am not extremely familiar in sculpting large forms. I looked into marble statues and solid plaster forms, but I decided that I could not customize them the way I wanted too, so I choose to go with the chicken wire and plaster gauze.

I have come upon some problems while planning the creation of this project, such as the materials I would use, the time and patience it will take to edit the images on the projectors to make them absolutely perfect, and the amount of time that this project is going to take to complete. I have done a lot of research on each of these difficult areas and have found solutions to each. I have looked up on how to use projectors to display my images on the figures. I overestimated my time to create this project just to be safe, since I have never made sculptures to this large of a scale before.

I am very proud with what I have come up with for this project and all of the time I have put into the planning phase. I have always wanted to create a piece that combines my love for horses and photography and I have finally gotten the chance to dream up a project that will let me do this.

**Time Line**

Weeks 1-3	Building Horse Sculpture #1
Weeks 4-6	Building Horse Sculpture #2
Weeks 7-9	Building Horse Sculpture #3
Weeks 10-12	Building Horse Sculpture #4
Weeks 13-15	Building the Human Figure
Weeks 16-17	Photographing the textures that will be projected onto the sculptures.
Weeks 18-19	Editing the images and formatting them to work with the projectors.
Week 20	Instillation process
Weeks 21-23	Open to the Public
Week 24	Take down installation.

## **Molly McVey**

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### **Education**

Pittsburg State University

Graduation Date Fall 2016

B.F.A 2-D General Arts with a minor in Photography.

GPA 3.7

### **Artistic Achievements**

- Washington D.C. Display-Photography (Kansas State Fair) 2012-2013
- Rocks Spring Display- Painting (Kansas State Fair) 2012
- Finalist in the Shooting Stars Scholarship Award Contest for 3-D Art 2012
- Sunflower Award- Photography (Kansas State Fair) 2011

### **Work Experience**








- Bath and Body Works-Sales Associate Seasonal 2013-2014
- Hilltop Stables-Stable Hand 2006-2012
- Nanny Summer 2012 & 2013




### **Leadership**

- Department of Art Student Advisory Council 2014-present
- University Art Association Executive Board 2014-present
- National Art Honor Society- President 2011-2012
- Publications Coordinator for Alpha Gamma Delta 2014-present
- Website Coordinator for Alpha Gamma Delta 2013

## **Memberships**

- Member of the University Art Association 2012-present
- Hallmark Photography Explorer Post 2918 2011-2012
- National Art Honor Society 2008-2012
- Member of Alpha Gamma Delta, Epsilon Kappa Chapter 2012-present
- Stanley Buccaneers 4-H Club 2003-2012

<b>Image Inventory List</b>				
<b>Image</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Description/Relationship</b>
	Welcome to the Future, by Sober Industries & Studio Rewind	2011	Wooden Panels	This image is showing how I am going to project my own images on to my sculptures using the projectors.
	The White Horse, by Mark Wallinger	2013	Marble & Resin	This image is showing a life size statue of horse. I want to make my sculptures life size. They are not going to be this realistic, but this is similar to what I want to create.
	Study of a Hunter, by Rupert Till	n/a	Wire	This is the general idea of what I want my sculptures to look like. This particular sculpture isn't made from chicken wire, but it still gets the point across on how I want my sculpture to look. I am not going to leave my sculptures bare, as this one is shown. Mine will be covered with the plaster bandages.
	Horse and Girl	2011	Digital Photography	This is how I want the human figure and horse sculpture to look like when they are finally set up.
	Horse and Rider	2011	Digital Photography	This image is showing the connection that can happen between a horse and rider.
	Buffalo	2014	Digital Photography	This image is showing how I use textures within other photographs.
	Textured Face	2014	Digital Photography	This image shows a textures growing up the models face. I want to have this same effect on my sculptures when the textures are projected onto them.

	Cracked Eye	2014	Digital Photography	This image is showing the subtle use of textures in the images I create.
	Cat Eye	2014	Digital Photography	I combined two images together to tell a story in this photograph. This is something I want to achieve with my projections on the sculptures.
	Looking Cat	2014	Digital Photography	This image does not have a direct relation to my portfolio proposal, but it is a photo I am very proud of. It leaves the viewer wondering what the cat is intently staring at in the distance.

**Budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ortho Tape Plaster Bandages, 4 inch (12 rolls in each box)	10	\$25.99	\$259.99
Wood, 2inx4inx96in	14	\$3.12	\$43.68
Chicken Wire, 1inx4ftx50ft	15	\$41.97	\$629.55
Epson- Ex5220 Wireless XGA 3LCD Projector	3	\$534.99	\$1,604.97
Diamond- Universal Projector Ceiling Mount-Black	3	\$39.99	\$119.97
Advertisement Posters	35	\$2 each	\$70.00
Opening Reception	Snacks/Beverages	\$100	\$100

<b>TOTAL</b>	\$2,828.16
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Sketches

