art news

THE ART DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER — 2019-2020

art in the time of corona

BE ART8Y

NOT FART8Y
When the Corona virus (Covid-19) hit us in March we had to quickly shut down and begin to teach online. Art faculty stepped up and did their best under very difficult circumstances.

This fall we are teaching some classes in person, if possible, while others are being taught online once again. Despite these circumstances, faculty and students continued to make art. Printmaking Professor Nate Infante developed “Pendemic,” a series of prompts for students to use as inspiration for drawings. Many are featured on the covers of our newsletter.

We continue to prepare our new Art Education B.S. degree, which will involve housing the program completely at SUNY Potsdam, as St. Lawrence University has decided to discontinue all education programs. The new program is in final stages of approval on our campus and will then be sent to SUNY System Administration and the New York State Board of Education.

This spring we lost our beloved Art History Professor Emerita Dr. Teresa (Tracy) Watts, after a long illness. You can read about her many contributions to our department and appreciate the heartfelt tributes from her students on page 10.

We were also notified of the passing of another former faculty member, Painting Professor George Green. His obituary can be found on page 12.

In difficult times like these it is important to maintain connections with each other; I hope you will take the opportunity to contact us and tell us how you are doing. You can also see what’s going on by checking out our Facebook page, SUNY Potsdam Art Department.

In this issue

From Our Readers ..................3
Meet the Art Department ..........4
Faculty and Staff News .......... 5-6
Thacher Brothers Donation .....7
Printmaking ......................7
Alumni News & Notes ..........8
Dept Scholarships & Awards ...9
Thank You to Our Donors......9
In Memoriam ...................10
Watts Art History Scholarship ..11
Kappa Pi............................11
Art History News ...............12
Art Museum News ..............13
Give to the Art Department ...14
Bachelor of Fine Arts Show ...15
Honorable Mention .............16
I was delighted to receive your letter of March 12, 2020. News of the Art Department is always welcome and brings back fond memories.

I was especially pleased to hear about the Art Education program. I graduated Liberal Arts, Studio Art major, Art History minor. I may be one of the earliest Art educators to graduate from Potsdam.

I taught at Hermon-Dekalb Central School with an emergency certificate. Later I did graduate work at the University of Iowa and was honored to study with Dr. Brent Wilson. He later became the Art Education chair at Penn State University.

I retired in 2004, from the Hempfield Area School District near Pittsburgh, PA. I was Art Department chair (K-12) and a high school studio and Art History Visual Arts specialist.

I am looking forward to continued Art Education news and potentially a visit “home” soon.

Fear no Art, Kenneth Cutway ('68)

Near Eastern Archaeology in May, 2017, my second son was born two weeks later, and we moved to the US 6 months after that. I received a three-year research fellowship from the German Research Association and I am being hosted at the University of Michigan in the Department of Middle East Studies. I’ve been working on destruction at the end of the Late Bronze Age, and while it’s not art related, I have researched the end of Mycenaean Greece, and will be rewriting a bit about what actually happened around 1200 BC. So, maybe one day my work will end up in the survey class.

I have also published a number of articles. They’re all on the archaeology of destruction. I would be happy to send them to you if you want to see how far along my writing has come since I handed in my paper on Ancient Painting techniques.

Other exciting news, I am going to Greece in July 2020. I have been asked by Michael Cosmopolis from the University of Missouri-St. Louis to come investigate his destruction event at the site of Iklaina near Pylos! This is a big opportunity for me since I hope to become the “archaeology of destruction guy.”

Personally, my wife is going to be giving birth to our third child in September! We’re excited and while I’m hoping for a girl this time since having all boys and being from a family of five boys means I could use a break from all the testosterone, nevertheless we are excited no matter what.

I hope that things are going well in Potsdam. Please give my best to everyone in the department!

Jesse Michael Millek, PhD ('12)

Things have been a bit of a whirlwind for me over the past few years. I graduated with my PhD in Near Eastern Archaeology in May, 2017, my second son was born two weeks later, and we moved to the US 6 months after that. I received a three-year research fellowship from the German Research Association and I am being hosted at the University of Michigan in the Department of Middle East Studies. I’ve been working on destruction at the end of the Late Bronze Age, and while it’s not art related, I have researched the end of Mycenaean Greece, and will be rewriting a bit about what actually happened around 1200 BC. So, maybe one day my work will end up in the survey class.

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Jesse Michael Millek, PhD ('12)
meet the art department

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Art Department Chair
Distinguished Teaching Professor
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Bloomington, IN

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Provo, UT

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Lecturer, Foundations
MFA, Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, NY

ROXANNE LOCY
Adjunct Instructor
MFA, School for American Crafts,
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, NY

SHEILA NEAL
Assistant Professor
Graphic Design & New Media
MFA, University of Hartford
Hartford, CT

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Painting
MFA, University of Buffalo
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ARTNEWS Editor
Art Museum/Art Department
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PhD, Oxford University
Oxford, U.K.

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Palo Alto, CA

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Ceramics
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Foundations
MFA, University of Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

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MFA, University of Kentucky
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IGGY BEERBOWER led a travel course to Mexico in January 2020. Six students traveled to study art, architecture, history, and traditions of Mexico. Iggy is currently working on the next travel course to Rome and the Puglia area of Italy which will happen as soon as world travel can resume.

CAROLINE DOWNING has an article in press on her research in Late Roman Painting. She will be presenting her research at the 2021 Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, which will now be held virtually.

LAURA FAIR-SCHULZ has been working in the editorial collective of Red Wedge Magazine, where she has also had work published. She has also had artwork published in the Locust Review journal.

NATHANIEL INFANTE has been bringing new techniques to the printmaking area and is working to regularly offer Printmaking II as a Screenprinting class. He has made many new works this past year and has had success in combining a new method of printmaking which combines a wood-lithography process with more traditional relief printing. He has also been researching a variety of techniques to be able to offer students. Nathaniel continues to exhibit his work regularly and has participated in several print exchange programs including the Whiteaker Printmakers “Emerald Print Exchange” as well as the Connect: Collect 2020 curated exchange. During the Covid-19 Pandemic Nathaniel organized a daily drawing challenge “PENdemic” open to his students and other artists in which they created artworks for 61 consecutive days. Many of these works can be seen on Instagram using the hashtags #potsdamPENdemic and #PENdemic.

DANIELLE JOHNS is bringing BIG INK to campus in the spring for the LoKo Arts Festival. She has been working hard to plan the event with Lyell Castonguay of BIG INK, students from the Art Department and the local high schools. She is working in a new medium, woodblock printing, and experimenting with the possibilities.

ELIZABETH LABARGE PAIGE has taken a position at the North Country Children’s Museum and adjuncts part time at St. Lawrence University. Currently, she is working on two community art murals in Potsdam, NY, and has a solo show of her “Floral Fatal” series at Dolce Valvo Art Center at Niagara County Community College during fall/winter 2020.

MARC LEUTHOLD was preparing online course offerings previous to the pandemic. He sees possibilities with online offerings and particularly welcomes input from past students about critical elements from his courses that he should seek to retain. Marc remains an active artist with recent exhibitions at the Wutong Art Museum in Shanghai and Throckmorton Fine Arts in New York City. He was invited to symposia in Serbia, Germany, Thailand, and China, however all but the Serbian one have been postponed. He looks forward to international cultural exchange as much as he enjoys teaching and remaining in contact with former students. Drop him a line to let him know what you are doing and how he can help you.
ROXANNE LOCY has been busy the last few months renovating her studio with her family’s help and this will make it much easier to work during the winter months. She wasn’t able to enjoy her studio for a bit because of carpal tunnel surgery on both hands, however she always has plenty to keep busy. She hopes to be back in the art studio soon to help students get their hands in clay, throw on the wheel, and explore past and present ceramic artists, cultures, and trends.

DOUG SCHATZ has been developing a new intro to studio course for non-majors at the college. In his own work, drawing has been the main focus and he hopes to exhibit these new works soon.

AMY SWARTELÉ continues to develop her mixed media painting this year, also moving into public art/mural work and performance combinations with painting. This work is focused on transgressive identities that defy the status quo. Exhibitions have been challenging in the face of the pandemic but she has exhibited in NYC, NC, Montréal and locally while preparing for a solo exhibition in France. She will be on sabbatical during 2020-21 academic year developing both her mixed media and mural work and fine tuning a new Public Art/Mural course to be offered in Fall 2021. Amy continues to develop and adjust the painting curriculum to changes in contemporary practice. Two BFA painting students presented their thesis exhibitions in spring 2020. These students (Emily Morton and Rebecca Hasenauer) generated tremendous energy in the studio and explored across the range of contemporary painting practices.

RAY WHALEN used his time during the shutdown, before the black flies came out, on plein air painting in his backyard. After the critters were better, he resumed outdoor art making. Along with painting, he has been screen printing t-shirts for family and the Parishville-Hopkinton School teachers, building small pieces of furniture for the North Country Children's Museum in Potsdam, and working on an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven with his daughter.
Thacher Brothers Donate Art Supplies, Books and Equipment

It’s not often that the Art Department receives a call from someone who works in Hollywood. That’s what happened recently when Andy Thacher called asking about donating art supplies, equipment, and artworks to the Art Department. He and his brother Jeff, a musician and graphic designer from Colorado, were in Potsdam to settle the estate of their late father Eric Thacher. An engineering professor at Clarkson University, Eric Thacher was also a life-long lover of art and a prolific artist. He worked in oils, pencil, and pastels, and his studio was filled with his art supplies and equipment, including easels, palettes, and many other drawing and painting aids. Susan Thacher was a fiber artist who enjoyed quilt-making. The couple shared a lovely studio in their Bagdad Road home.

Because of the corona virus, many art supplies had not arrived at the department in time for the start of the semester. We were able to put Eric Thacher’s art supplies to great use right away. In addition to the many art supplies, Andy and Jeff also donated many art books to the Art Library in our department. They will prove useful for our students and faculty for many years to come.

Printmaking Exhibition Fall 2018-Spring 2019

The prints you see in this exhibition were created by students enrolled in Printmaking courses spring 2018 and fall 2019. Throughout the course, students explore a variety of printmaking techniques and processes and this collection of prints represents much of their efforts. Each print has been editioned by the student and depicts a variety of subject matter and imagery. Some of the processes explored include: emulsions screen printing, stencil screen printing, line etching/intaglio, aquatint/intaglio, softground/intaglio, polyester plate lithography, linocut, monoprint, stone lithography, and photo lithography.
Scott Miller (‘10) was awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of the Metropolitan Museum NYC research/curatorial postdoc in the Cloisters collection. It’s a renewable grant and he should be there until the end of 2022. Scott thanks Dr. Caroline Downing and the whole department of Art History at SUNY Potsdam for getting him on the road toward this journey!

Kyle Pawlowski (‘17) is studying Painting in the MFA program at the University of Buffalo. You can see his painting proudly displayed in the Art Office. We wish him all the best for a successful career.

Ceramic alumni: Sarah Banker (‘14) had her successful thesis exhibit at Ohio State University and Brooke Armstrong (‘12) soon will be finishing her MFA at the University of Montana. Christina Ely (‘99) has opened a successful independent ceramics studio. Meagan Fontanes (‘17), Lisa Dashnaw (‘14), Bronwen Keefer (‘08), and Chantel Torrey (‘09) have secured teaching jobs in well regarded high schools. Kate Kuligowski (‘12) helps run the Mudflat Clay Studios in Boston.

Meagan Fontanes, ’17, has accepted a teaching position at Kenmore East High School in Buffalo. Previously she taught at Massena High School.

Morgan Sychtysz, ’19, is pursing an M.F.A. in Fine Arts at Rochester Institute of Technology this fall.

Todd McGrain, ’83, installed the sixth in the Lost Bird series, Eskimo Curlew, at Galveston Island State Park, Texas.

Claudia Mengel, ’76, established “Art from the Hearts,” a program that donates artworks to frontline healthcare workers battling the corona virus.

Amanda Dillon, ’18 & ’19, has accepted a 3rd grade teaching position at Finn Academy in Elmira.

Three generations of Potsdam alums: Romi Sebald, ’85, Art Museum Collections Manager; Liza LaBarge Paige, ’12, Adjunct Instructor, and future grad Loxlin Paige, ’36.

SUNY Art Exhibitions

Sofy Alvarez ’20 capped her graduation year with an Honorable Mention Award from the SUNY Student Art Exhibition for a photograph from her series RealWomen.

Allison Medley ’20 had her painting accepted to the SUNY Pride Virtual Exhibition. The Art Department is very proud of her achievement.

At SUNY Potsdam Art Department, we take great pride in having close relationships with our alumni. We would love to hear from you!
SUNY Potsdam offers a variety of scholarships to deserving students. The Art Department awards were presented at the School of Arts and Sciences Virtual Honors Convocation.

Noreen M. Canfield Scholarship: Owen Williams
D. Allen Edrington Scholarship: Jennifer Ivison
Marty Phillips Scholarship: Mara Frisbee
Robert B. Dunn Award: Joyce Lau
John C. Riordan Book Award: Anna Lentzer
Lucy Dai Scholarship: Charlie Patterson
Andre Alexander & Patricia Sanford Scholarship: Naylah Williams
St. Lawrence River Patrons for the Arts Scholarship In Ceramics: Taine Millward and Lacy Wood
St. Lawrence River Patrons for the Arts Scholarship In Painting: Alex Staley
William Gambling Scholarship: Chloe Koegel
McCall Family Scholarship: Meadow Alexander
Katya Greer Memorial Scholarship for Art Education: Kennedy Steria
Dr. Teresa Sophia Watts Scholarship for Art History: Sarah Cullinane

Departmental Scholars: Isabella Colucci, Samantha Gatto, Zoe Gliganic, Morgan Lailer

We are most grateful to all who donated to the Art Department last year. These funds help us fund programs for our students, such as bringing outside speakers on art topics to campus, funding field trips, and many other activities.

Mrs. Debra M. Copeletti
Mr. Kenneth S. Cutway
Mr. Vincent S. Diamonti
Ms. Lorraine A. DiBello
Dr. F. Richard Ferraro
Mr. Robert Gillespie
Ms. Diane L. Kolber
Ms. Jo'El P. Kramer
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey B. Lazovik
Mrs. Elizabeth MacDonald
Drs. Nancy & Andrew Ramage

SOAR Institute of SUNY Potsdam
Ms. Colleen Spitz
Mrs. Jodi L. Steria
Ms. Robyn M. Tauss
Ms. Deborah D. Teska
Mr. Andrew Thacher & Mr. Jeffrey Thacher
Mrs. Margaret I. Tobelman
Ms. June L. Tyler
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Zeyher
Teresa (Tracy) Sophia Watts died this spring at her home in Raymondville, New York, after a long illness. She was 70 years old.

Tracy was born in Sweden to parents emigrating from Poland. Ultimately, the family settled in Canada, first in Montréal, and ultimately in Toronto. Tracy attended the University of Windsor, Ontario, graduating with honors in 1980. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, completing her dissertation on the work of landscape architect Johann Heinrich Müntz in 1986.

Tracy leaves behind her mother and two sisters in Canada. She was predeceased by her father and her husband Jonathan Watts. Tracy and Jon became U.S. citizens, and were always proud of their adopted country.

Contributions
Tracy’s contributions to the SUNY Potsdam Art Department, and in particular to our Art History program, were many and she will be greatly missed. She taught classes in Renaissance through the Baroque period, as well as specialty classes in architecture and vases. She was an accomplished scholar, presenting at numerous regional, national, and international conferences, publishing many papers, and completing a book based on her dissertation research.

An intrepid traveler, Tracy led many field trips to Canada and to New York City, as well as study abroad trips to Europe, including England, Germany, France, and Italy. Her knowledge of many languages, including French, Italian, and German, greatly enhanced the experience for her students.

Student Success
Her students’ success speaks to Tracy’s success as a teacher. Many of her students have continued their education in Art History and established successful careers in academia, auction houses, museums and galleries. To show how much Tracy meant to her students, there’s no better way than to let some of those students speak for themselves.

Dr. Watts was the first teacher I ever had class with on my very first day of my first year at Potsdam. I had chosen an Art History major purely because it sounded like something different. Being a first-generation college student (first of my siblings to even graduate high school), I had no idea what to expect.

She was my advisor for all five years of college. She was always so supportive when I wanted to go off the rails and explore some obscure concept we wouldn’t discuss but barely fit the parameters of whatever course I had taken. She was supportive when I took on studio classes and eventually the BFA. I remember trying to justify taking any course she was teaching, even if I didn’t need it (something there was never any extra time to do!).

I was devastated when I heard she passed. I had always hoped to stay in contact with her while I pursued Art History in graduate school. She was the reason I ever believed I was even capable of more school. I hope she knew of the impact she made on my school career and love of Art History. She was a great representative of the school and a model for her students, and she will be dearly and sorely missed.

Amanda Barrett, ’17

I was a part of the group who went to Italy with Dr. Watts in 2007. This was a special trip for me because the journey involved not only getting on an airplane for the first time but leaving the country for the first time as well. I had to give a speech in Rome on the Pantheon in front of the Pantheon and that left a remarkable impression on me and boosted my confidence in giving speeches. The audience turned from about 15 classmates to maybe 30 people as they would walk past to listen to the information I was giving. During my speech, I would glance at Dr. Watts a few times as she would give a smile letting me know that I was doing well because I was extremely nervous...
as I was one of the first, if not the first, to give my speech. I thank Dr. Watts for that experience and also for exposing me to a world of art that I never knew before. I feel more well-rounded because of her efforts and I will never forget her. In her classes she would make constant references to the memory bank to store valuable information and she will always be in mine. Thank You Dr. Watts.

Jamal Murray, '08

I’ll always have a soft spot in my heart for Dr. Watts, not only for her teaching, but also because she facilitated my very first trip abroad. She taught, and then accompanied, our class on the trip to Berlin, Munich, and Vienna in January 2009. I remember that Dr. Watts wanted to experience the trip the same as we did, taking everything in rather than instructing, as she already had. She still had plenty of insight to share if we asked, but this is how I remember her journey with us; standing back and soaking up the site alongside a student.

During her classes, she often turned back to face a slide and would share one last thought about a piece. Sometimes, it was a personal comment. I’ll never forget how much she disliked putti. It was during many of these “last thought” comments that she told us how she felt they were creepy. A classmate and I still reminisce about the all the ways she communicated this distaste. She always expressed it to us as if it were a secret critique that we were privileged to learn.

Madalyn Baron, '08

Those who knew Tracy, and especially her students, many of whose lives were forever changed by her, will be pleased to learn that a scholarship has been established in her name. Please see details below.

Kappa Pi International Art Honor Society
Kappa Pi is an International Art Honor Society of which SUNY Potsdam is a member.

2020 Inductees

Allison Constance  Emily Morton
Taylor Francis    Katelyn Nani
Rebecca Hasenauer  Alexa Pfeiffer
Alexis LaBarge     Morgan Sychtysz
Andrea Lussier  Rachel Trumble
Allison Medley

Officers and Faculty of Kappa Pi Art Honor Society, with assistance from Student Art Association members, held an auction of student and faculty work in 2019, with proceeds used by students for completion of art projects. The Holiday Art Auction, cosponsored by Phi Kappa Phi, is a popular annual event and a great opportunity to bid on artworks for holiday gift-giving. John Wicke, Development Officer and Director of Strategic Alliances, College Advancement, served as auctioneer.
George D. Green of Oak Grove, 76, a celebrated artist whose work is part of the permanent collections of over 70 museums, died April 14, 2020.

Green, a founding member of the abstract illusionism movement that became prominent in the U.S. during the 1970s, died at home surrounded by his wife, brother, sister and brother-in-law.

His wife, Jeri Hise, is the executive director of a nonprofit organization in his name (georgedgreenartinstitute.org) that shows some of the best paintings in the country to kids and communities that may be disadvantaged by geography or social circumstance. Founded in 2015, the institute dedicated to sharing a meaningful experience of art with Oregon youth plans to continue with its vision.

Green is a graduate of the University of Oregon, where he met his first wife, Charlene (the artist Cie Goulet). He received his MFA from Washington State University and then taught at the University of Texas, Austin.

While he was a painting professor at State University of New York-Potsdam, Green stacked canvases into a pickup and drove them to New York City. Louis K. Meisel, his dealer and friend, described the encounter: “A 6-foot-4 black-bearded man entered the gallery. I expected him to say he was Paul Bunyan, but he turned out to be George D. Green, an artist from the Pacific Northwest. He was then and has continued to be, a giant of an artist.”

In addition to Hise, Green is survived by: his daughter, Amber Charmei; son-in-law, Pavlos Ioanidis; brother, Sandy Green; sister, Meri McLeod; brother-in-law, Scott McLeod; granddaughters, Charlene and Mei Mei.


dr. mary jo mcnamara once again organized and led our annual art department field trip to the national gallery in ottawa. please see our photo of the field trip participants under the lovely bourgeois spider sculpture. mary jo was accompanied by michael yeomans and many students from the art studio first-year interest groups.
SUNY Potsdam Art students were accepted to the Fredric Remington Art Museum College Student Juried Art Exhibit. The exhibition ran from February 29 - March 29, 2020. Participating schools included Clarkson University, St. Lawrence University, SUNY Plattsburgh and Potsdam. Congratulations to the following students whose work was accepted into the show:

Lindsey Baker, Rebecca Hasenauer, Chloe Koegel, Kevin Ocampo, Charlie Patterson, Jacob Schue, Alex Staley, Abigail Tessier, and Chynna Tomastyk.

Art Department Award: Kelbie-Ann Rinaldi
President's Award: Rebecca Hasenauer
Provost's Award: Chloe Koegel
Dean's Award: Emily Morton
PACES Award: James Rush

Gallery Hours
Tuesday - Friday: 1 - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 1 - 5 p.m.
and by appointment
(Closed during school recesses and between exhibitions)
SUNY Potsdam’s Department of Art offers many programs and experiences for students that would not be possible without your support. From field trips to scholarships, your generosity provides opportunities for students to excel as artists, scholars and citizens.

YOU can make a difference in the lives of our students!

- Give online! Visit SUNY Potsdam’s giving page, www.potsdam.edu/giving, and click “Give Now.” To restrict your gift, select “Other” in the designation field and type “Department of Art.”
- Send a check! Mail your check, made out to “Potsdam College Foundation,” to the College Advancement Office with the giving form provided below.
- Make a gift of appreciated stock, held long-term, and save on capital gains tax. Call us for help making your gift.
- Establish an endowment to impact art students for generations, like the Meagher Family Endowment for Art History, which enabled over 40 art students to travel to the National Gallery of Art in Ottawa last year.

Contact the College Advancement Office for assistance as you make your gift:

(315) 267-3253
invest@potsdam.edu
www.potsdam.edu/giving

Thank you for joining with other alumni and friends to ensure the continued growth of our department and our students!

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Make your gift to the Art Department today!

Name(s) ________________________________
Address ________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Phone _________________________________

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☐ I am including my check, made payable to “Potsdam College Foundation.”
☐ I have questions. Please call me.
☐ I have included SUNY Potsdam in my estate plan.
Bachelor of Fine Arts Show 2020

Rebecca Hasenauer

I a(m) h(om)e 2019
Gouache, colored pencil
27.5" x 20"

(A)void 2020
Gouache, India Ink, Colored pencil
27.5" x 20"

Joyce Lau

Cyclone 2020
Illustrator, photoshop
36" x 24"

Scattered 2019
Illustrator, photoshop
20" x 20"

Emily Morton

Liminal 4 2020
Oil paint
60" x 36.25"

Liminal 3 2020
Oil paint
64" x 44.25"

Triple, but Double, 2019,
Illustrator,
36" x 24"