

RICHARD HELZER BRONZE PENCIL AWARDEES 23-24

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ART**



STUDIO ARTS

CAMERON ENGH



Cameron Engh has been selected by the School of Art studio faculty to receive a 2024 Richard Helzer Bronze Pencil Award. Cam completed her studies in December 2023 and received her BFA in Studio Art with a focus on ceramics. She presented her thesis exhibition with 3 fellow students at the Danforth Museum in Livingston, MT.

She makes utilitarian pottery, using local materials and the wood firing process. Cam brings a strong sensitivity to the surface of her pots, finding her own voice with how she touches the clay, and developing forms with confidence and generosity. Cam has a strong interest in wood firing and was active in firings in all our kilns. She's good with the firing process- reliable, present, curious, and eager to learn. She asks good questions.

Cam was clearly a leader in the studio, serving as Guild Presidency, managing a weekly open studio night, building enthusiasm in the program. She organized a good team to produce the annual Chili Bowl Fundraiser, generating funding for visiting artists, scholarships, and attending NCECA, and making a generous contribution to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. Cam received one of the inaugural Cory and Diane Pulfrey Ceramic Art Scholarships, a \$2500 scholarship awarded to an outstanding student with a focus on ceramics. The award included an exhibition with her fellow recipient Kevin Hock in the CAA Dean's Gallery.

The studio faculty were consistently impressed with Cam and her quiet, steady, comfortable presence. She has been a delightful presence in our School, always expressing a sense of gratitude. A refreshing attribute in today's world.

Congratulations Cam!

JOSEPHINE PARRY

I am honored to present this bronze pencil to Josie Parry. Josie is a jeweler and crafter of many materials with a unique and individualized aesthetic. Her work stands out from her peers because she trusts her eye and follows her intuition, resulting in artwork that feels authentically her. Her hard work and keen eye yielded her a solo thesis exhibition in the Exit Gallery this past spring. After a strong push to pull off a show filled with remarkable artwork, Josie continued to produce new work to showcase in the BFA exhibition here in the Helen E. Copeland Gallery. Ideas flow to Josie effortlessly and she doesn't hesitate to execute them immediately. It is not only her strong work ethic that earned her a bronze pencil, but it is also a result of her strong involvement in the arts community in the School of Art and across Bozeman. Over the past few years, Josie has been involved in the Metal's Guild consistently and her role as guild President this year was monumental; Josie organized dozens of events, including jewelry sales and ring making workshops to fundraise for guild members to attend the Society of North American Goldsmith's Conference in San Diego this June. Josie also unifies her community by organizing and hosting 'crit night', an opportunity for art students to hang out and critique each other's work. I can always count on seeing Josie at local art events, whether it is exhibitions and crit crawls at MSU, local art markets where Josie is likely selling her work, or Tin Work events where she has been an employee over the past two years. Josie doesn't miss a beat when it comes to being aware and involved with the art community. If you have been lucky enough to know Josie and experience her enthusiasm for all things art and community, then you know, just as I do, that Josie deserves this bronze pencil. Congratulations Josie!



ATHENA GARRON

Athena Garron is receiving a Bronze Pencil award for her extensive and complex multi-media BFA Exhibition work, her investment in and commitment to her artwork, and her leadership role as President of the Printmaking Guild in the School of Art. She was active and involved in several studio areas, emphasizing that her work is not categorized into any specific medium. As President of SPAM (the printmaking guild), she demonstrated her investment in her art community by organizing weekly meetings, holding fundraising events, and taking care of her peers by making soup for participants!

Athena received her BFA in the fall of 2023, and exhibited her thesis work in a show called, *An Amalgamation of Worlds*, at the Imagine Butte Resource Center in Butte, Montana. With her maximalist multi-media work she presented her worlds; our natural earthly environment, the cosmos, which holds our world, and the inner world of her body. Her artist's statement describes her overarching concept in this multi-faceted work that included drawing, painting, printmaking, metals, fabric, and more:

"I find dualities in my own art, biology, and technology, professional and personal, emotional, and physical. These dualities present in two clear categories within my art, internal reflection, and external reflection. I make art to understand myself and my emotions, trying to pull apart the many layers of detritus and fog that clouds the inner self. I try to understand and accept chronic illness, trauma, rage, nostalgia, depression and portray it in a way that matches my feelings, whether it be visceral or beautiful."

Congratulations Athena, may you continue to speak clearly to the world through your art, about all the topics that are close to your heart.



LIZ WORKMAN



Tapping into fraught and turbulent emotions of her own experiences as well as insights she gained as a certified nursing assistant about care for others and the nature of the human spirit during times of intense physical and emotional strain, Liz Workman has created a series of beautiful works for her BFA thesis that evocatively channel these nuanced layers of physical and emotional being. This is accomplished, however, without recourse to any overbearing narrative or explicit representation. Instead, a viewer is left to feel their way through what is obliquely revealed – and investigate what might be concealed through these ambiguous depictions. When looking at the drawings in particular – the paper appropriately suspended just as much as the images themselves “float” within the compositions – one is left wondering what they depict - fabric? flesh? something in between? Much like a veil or the skin itself, these drawings invite us to reflect carefully, and realize that things – and people – contain a richer being than we at first might understand, and that this being must necessarily be approached with empathy.

In addition to the gorgeous thesis work for her BFA, Liz is also an impressive student, simultaneously pursuing a degree in Art History (with a minor in Sociology) focusing on ancient Neo-Assyrian art and architecture. Relocating to upstate New York after graduation, and with the intention of eventually pursuing grad school, she's ideally placed to forge a future as an insightful practitioner and commentator on art and ideology. She's been a wonderful presence at the school of art and we're going to miss the hell out of her.



When I first worked with this person in Intermediate Painting, he was very clear about his 'subject matter'. He knew what he wanted to express in his work. In his first Capstone series, he explored themes of masculinity, violence and chaos when he portrayed presumably civilized men in Parliament dressed in suits and ties, engaging in fist fights and wrestling each other to the floor in complete mayhem. His commitment to respond directly to his anxiety of living in an embattled, over-masculinized and aggressive culture has grown in scale and approach from a contained series of 18" x 24"

NOAH DEAN-ERLANDER

stretched canvases to raw canvas stretched directly on the wall with larger-than-life figures in a massive brawl, where he juxtaposes and layers political events, sporting events and other forms of vicious engagement in an immersive and confrontational wall installation. As one female colleague in his class commented in our recent critique, it is particularly hopeful to see a young man question this violent and often misogynistic culture and call it into question in such a dramatic and emotive way.

Throughout his undergraduate career, this individual has combined broad art historical research and contemporary art study with his passion for painting as an act of defiance against prevailing cultural norms (and by the way, always with his notebook in hand taking notes). In his thesis work, he successfully unifies the subversive nature of graffiti art with grand scale narrative painting. Like Delacroix, known for his bold works that depicted scenes of violence, tragedy and destruction, this soft-spoken student's new work is anything but quiet--He demands that the viewer consider the state of the society we are living in. He speaks of the world he is building in his painting: Violence as entertainment. Violence as Heroic. Violence as not only acceptable but revered. His 'wrestling of men' is a profound metaphor for our time. It is important work. It asks each of us to acknowledge and own what we have created. The work suggests that only through facing this beast head on can we then consider how to dismantle what we have made of our culture and of ourselves.

For his exemplary visual research and production of a strong and focused body of work throughout his undergraduate career, I am pleased to award this Bronze Pencil to Noah Dean-Erlander.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

ANNIKA DANENHAUER

Annikia Danenhauer, an MSU Honors student, excels in motion design, evident from her notable achievements. As a Graphic Design Intern at Skagit County Parks and Recreation, she collaborated on a grant proposal for a new park acquisition. At the American Marketing Association (AMA) International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans, Annkia's team secured an impressive 3rd place among 70 universities. Her endeavors also include coaching for Bridger Ski Foundation, Division I athletics, a study abroad semester at Flinders University, and receiving the prestigious Presidential Scholarship award. As a motion designer for Mission Ranch Studio, Annkia showcases both creative vision and technical proficiency. Beyond mastering industry-standard software, her expertise extends to refining film projects for social media and commercial use. Working with esteemed clients like Riot Games, North Face, and Black Diamond Equipment underscores her professionalism. Annkia's consistent delivery of creative content across various platforms makes her an outstanding senior, deserving of the Bronze Pencil Award in graphic design.



HANNA JAKAB



The Graphic Design program is proud to present Hanna Jakab with a Bronze Pencil nomination for her outstanding engagement, achievements, and growth at MSU. Hanna is unapologetic about incorporating her unique style and drawing qualities into almost everything she designs—creating a strong connection and work that resonates with her audience. Hanna can be found risograph printing, letterpressing, screenprinting, and constantly drawing, and these processes are integrated in unique and creative ways into her projects. As an example, Hanna’s capstone project titled *Below the Surface*, demonstrates conscientiousness, self-motivation, adaptability, and self-awareness to create a risograph printed zine that addresses relevant and crucial educational resources for teens experiencing mental health issues. The final result is a sophisticated understanding of who she was designing for and how to successfully advocate for important causes for vulnerable audience groups. Hanna is also active as the Director of Arts and Exhibitions for two years at the Exit Gallery, a student-run gallery on MSU’s campus. This responsibility creates a robust working foundation for Hanna, demonstrating commitment and responsibilities that help create a well-rounded individual. It is with great enthusiasm that Hanna is awarded the Bronze Pencil based on her achievements at MSU. Hanna possesses the professionalism to become a strong leader and influential person in her field and future endeavors and we look forward to the amazing things she does after graduation and during her graduate education where she will be receiving an MS in Innovation and Management from MSU. Congratulations Hanna!

SHARON SEABURY

Sharon Seabury is an exceptional MSU Honors student receiving a BFA in Graphic Design with a cumulative 3.94 GPA. In the studio, it is easy to see that she is passionate about letterpress, printmaking, and design. During the summer of 2023, Sharon was awarded an internship at the iconic Hatch Show Print in Nashville, Tennessee. This historic print shop, founded in 1879, is part of the Country Music Hall of Fame and literally down the street from the Ryman Auditorium and original Grand Ole Opera. In addition, she is the founder and owner of a small apparel company called “Obviously,” which specializes in branded fleece hats and hand-printed clothing. These popular clothing items are sold through pop-up events and local art markets and hosted on a curated Instagram account.

Shanon recently received the Mary Edsal McLaughlin Award that fostered research travel to a type conference at the Hamilton Wood Type Museum in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. This legendary museum has 1.5 million pieces of wood type and is dedicated to the preservation, study, production, and printing. Always on the move with curiosity and a growth mindset, you can find her skiing, mountain biking, or sewing when not working on design. Sharon is truly an outstanding MSU senior and a deserving recipient of the Bronze Pencil Award in Graphic Design.



ETHAN SHOBE

Much like his dynamic graphics for Montana State University's Women's Basketball and Volleyball teams, Ethan Shobe has exploded over the last two years into a powerfully talented designer. His sense of composition, color, texture, as well as his classroom leadership and dedication, is truly remarkable. Another remarkable thing about this Stevensville native is how he has brought his love of Montana to his work, mixing a sophisticated aesthetic to projects highlighting the environment, hunting, and fishing. He truly represents what all of us at Montana State hope for: an in-state student that has, through a great education and exceptional personal drive, put himself on a world-class path. I, and the rest of the graphic design faculty, look forward to the championship-level art Ethan will create in his career.



ART HISTORY

QUEST DOVKY



Question Dovky is distinguished by a tenacity for formulating, interrogating, and completing original research projects on Black identity and community in the United States in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Quest's strength is balancing the rigors of library or archive research with the commitment to socially conscientious history. As a 2022 McNair Scholar, Quest worked with mentors Regina Gee and Melissa Ragain to generate supporting research for a proposed exhibition about Edmonia and Samuel Lewis. The work was of the highest quality, and Professors Gee and Ragain subsequently incorporated elements of their scholarship into the exhibit proposal, with gratitude for the contribution. Quest will pursue graduate studies in History at MSU in the fall and has expressed interest in working as an editor for an academic press.

CHARLES PATTERSON WERN

Charles Wern has earned superlative grades in all his courses over the last four years largely through his formidable writing abilities, and for this reason his output has served as a model for other students attempting to master the rigors of the discipline. Charles' memory and intuition is formidable—such that he can slay almost any essay question. Charles has long been an Italophile, venturing to Italy to participate in archaeological digs and to examine baroque frescoes in villas. And we are happy that he has decided to pursue graduate studies in Art History at MSU in the fall.



ART EDUCATION



ZOEY WASSON

I am writing to nominate Zoey Wasson as the Art Education Major for the 2024 Bronze Pencil Award.

Zoey's work in Art Methods has been exemplary, creative, and full of her own personal touch. She consistently goes above and beyond on all of her projects, and she is always available to assist other students with thoughtful ideas. Zoey brings her knowledge, work ethic, and humor with her everywhere she goes. She is a natural leader and will make an incredible educator.