

2019 Belmont University Research Symposium

Art and Design

Moderator: Christine Rogers

April 11, 2019, 5:30 pm- 7:30 pm
Johnson Ctr 422

5:30-5:42 pm

Absent Rivers: Water and Drought in Pre-Monsoon India

Marlow Amick

Faculty Advisor: Christine Rogers

India's seasons can be broken down into two categories: monsoon and drought. While the monsoon rages for a few short months' water is plentiful, but the monsoon ends eventually and is followed by a long, dry season. Locals have mostly grown used to these changes, but research shows these temperamental seasons are only getting worse. What are the implications of a rapidly changing climate in a country so in touch with and dependent on the land? Exploring the intersections of water, earth, and man through photographs, this researcher hopes to show a new perspective of climate change.

5:42-5:54 pm

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Art Historical Research in Modern Wallpaper Design

K. Camille Grager

Faculty Advisor: Judy Bullington, Ph.D.

The design of the Belmont Mansion, originally called Belle Monte, was created to imitate an Italian villa. Finished in August of 1853, the estate was inhabited by Adelia Hayes Franklin Acklen Cheatham and her family until property was sold in 1887. The mansion changed hands several times throughout the next hundred years, when the Belmont Mansion Association began the process of restoration in 1972. Almost fifty years later, Belmont University students had the opportunity to participate in a week-long master class headed by Kelly Diehl and Elizabeth Williams of New Hat Projects. During this intensive program, students were tasked with creating innovative wallpaper designs for the second floor landing of the Belmont Mansion. My team collaborated to create a design that was rooted in narrative, aesthetics, and historical accuracy. Given my background in custom wallpaper design, art history, and interior design I was intrigued by the gauntlet, being the only non-design major in the class. The culmination of my experience and the skillsets and the perspectives of my graphic design teammates resulted in a wallpaper that was both visually appealing and unequivocally authentic to both the traditions of the Belmont Mansion and the narrative of Adelia Hayes Franklin Acklen Cheatham.

5:54-6:06 pm

Striving for New Directions in Colour Understandings between North and South Korea in Relationship to Western Chromophobia: The Affect of Creative and Visual Wellbeing in Asia

Clinton Hamilton

Faculty Advisor: Michelle Corvette, Ph.D.

Chromophobia lurks beneath the framework of Western civilization, subordinating the value of color and limiting the visual freedom of those who live within it. To the average western individual the fear of color is adhered to quotidian life. But what of the Eastern world – and more specifically the cultures of North and South Korea. Are Korean citizens faced with the same crushing chromophobic mindsets that plague the West? This presentation explores the history of color seeing in prewar era Korea as well as contemporary mindsets in the detached modern societies. The perception of color from the concepts of symbolism and harmony, as well as modern color usage in entertainment, are explored to compare and contrast the state of color and visual wellbeing in contemporary South Korean culture. The deceptive use of color to create a false sense of prosperity in North Korea is also explored. From these discussions this presentation attempts to offer an overview of colors' presence in the Korean peninsula as well as hope for a future of collaborative liberating peace.

6:06-6:18 pm

MurALL: Belmont Students Bringing Colour to Our Nashville Community

Caitlyn Henneberry, Bethany Long, Clinton Hamilton, Montana Johnson, Anna Raunikar

Faculty Advisor: Michelle Corvette, Ph.D., Department of Art

Murals build a sense of community which have a lasting effect on all who encounter them and often last thirty years or longer. They help spaces become more welcoming, walkable, and may inspire future generations to explore creativity and colour. A Knight Foundation *Soul of the Community* Initiative in 2012 surveyed 43,000 people in 43 U.S. cities and found that “social offerings, openness and welcome-ness” and “aesthetics of a place - its art, parks and green spaces” were more highly valued by residents than education, safety, and the local economy as a “driver of attachment”. Also in 2012, a Philadelphia survey discovered that viewing public art was rated the second most popular activity by its residents (even above hiking and biking) for the city. Given that Nashville’s population has almost doubled since 2002, with more people arriving each day, health care has become a top concern for the city to make sure there are enough resources available for everyone. St. Thomas Hospital specifically reached out to Belmont’s Kappa Pi Art Society chapter because of a desire to facilitate a collaboration focused on wellbeing and building community relationships. The framework for this service-learning project was multifaceted involving theories from John Dewey, Kurt Lewin, and David A. Kolb. We focused on experiential learning theory as a theoretical approach for the research and service-learning project. In this presentation we review the literature about our frameworks, the mural process and design research, the significance of murals, and the positive outcomes of community collaboration.

6:18-6:30 pm

Jacob's Ladder

Hunt Pennington

Faculty Advisor: Professor Christine Rogers

American mythology is mediated through cultural symbols which manifest themselves in the form of archetypal images. Using the story of Jacob's ladder and Jung's notion of the collective unconscious as a framework, *Jacob's Ladder* is a photographic book which deconstructs American iconography through a sequence of original photographs and a curation of digitally manipulated archival images. The work seeks to examine the reification of American ideals and the construction of cultural mythology around images, considering themes of nationalism, religion, capitalism, gender, pilgrimage, manifest destiny, leisure, violence, and environment. The book follows a lyrical, stream-of-consciousness form; the images address the aforementioned themes poetically rather than journalistically or philosophically. By repetition and careful association, the body of work creates an atmosphere which immerses the viewer in the spectacle of the American mythos, drawing attention to its archetypes and the process by which these symbols are constructed and culturally embedded. It also seeks to open a meta-discourse about the photobook form, the process of image making, and the symbolic power of photography.

6:30-6:42 pm

Vulnerability in Art

Anna Raunikar

Faculty Advisor: Michelle Corvette, PhD

Vulnerability is allowing oneself to be open to harm or judgement. The act of vulnerability requires courage and bravery particularly in the expression of art. For a year, Anna worked on a series of portraits which were done during one on one sessions with herself and another. Through being vulnerable herself in the process of creating over eighty portraits and the courageous authenticity of those she spoke to, Anna grew in her understanding of the affect vulnerability can have as a connective force between people.

Vulnerability is a word which generally makes you think of the deep dark secrets. This is indeed an aspect of what it means to be vulnerable but it is not the whole picture. Embracing this concept means allowing yourself to be human and seek understanding and grow in empathy towards those around you. We are each unique individuals with our own stories but at the end of the day we have all suffered loss, had victories, failed and succeeded. At the end of the day we are all human and the act of being vulnerable is one thing we can do to bring us one step closer through our conversations and through our creative processes.

6:42-6:54 pm

Incorporation of Meaningful Connections and Traditions into New Approaches of Asian Art Education

Tara Woods

Faculty Advisor: Michelle Corvette, Ph.D.

It is important to consider the traditional role of art in Eastern cultures when developing an approach to art education in these regions to ensure that the art-making process is meaningful for the students. Through integrating the traditional role of art into instruction in the art room, students grow in their cognitive skills as well as their self-esteem and confidence. Through an arts-in-education approach, students will grow in their skills that will make them more employable in a modern workforce as well as honoring their traditions and culture.

6:54-7:06 pm

Let the Games Begin: Boyhood in Bangalore's Last Urban Cricket Grounds

Kate Wurm

Faculty Advisor: Christine Rogers

“Let the Games Begin” is a body of work I created based off of the Shantinagar cricket grounds located in Bangalore, India. Bangalore, the capital of the state Karnataka, India, is now the 24th most populous city in the world and the fastest-growing Indian metropolis behind New Delhi, growing 38% from 1991 to 2001. Bangalore was formerly known as Garden City, in the 15 years between 1999 and 2014, when the city took off as an IT destination, it has lost nearly 65% of its green cover. The rapid growing rate of the city of Bangalore has an immense effect on Shantinagar cricket grounds. This project highlights the effect of the rapid growing rate of the city of Bangalore on the lives of those who spend their afternoons playing a pick-up game of cricket.

7:06-7:18 pm

The Relationship Between Race, Gender and Socioeconomic Class in Daily American Life

Aminah VanArsdale

Faculty Advisor: Michelle Corvette

The relationship between race, gender and socioeconomic class is one that defines the lives of many people, Americans particularly. Although we are one of the richest countries in the world, there is a disproportionate relationship between income and wealth distribution. There are de facto lines drawn that separate us by race, despite the United States being known as a “melting pot”. There is a wage gap between men and women, unexplainable in many ways. It is easy to see the disparities when looking at one characteristic, but we often overlook the effects of multiple characteristics simultaneously. In a business meeting, a white man may speak effortlessly, a white woman may struggle to speak, and a black woman may not even be at the table.

Despite these difficulties, our intersectionality can also shape our lives in positive ways. Getting the perspective of a white woman may prove beneficial to someone, while a woman of color may bring an even better understanding of the subject matter. In a room full of otherwise identical white men, the one who grew up in a working-class family may have the more useful opinion on zoning for a new grocery store, as he has likely experienced the effects of a food desert in his lifetime. The effects of race, gender and class plays such a vital role in the daily lives of Americans, and it is something that must be considered more often in order to create a more welcoming and enriching daily life.