

2017 Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium

Belmont Honors Program: The Artist's Studio I

Moderator: Devon Boan

April 20, 2017, 3:30pm-5:05pm

IHSB 140

3:30-3:50

Deconstructing a concept album: an exercise in references, plot, and style in long-form songwriting

Stephen Sesso

Faculty Advisor: Devon Boan, Ph. D

The presentation will be an exploration of a concept album based around a young man's experiences navigating college, love, familial strife, and mental health. The presentation will discuss the various devices used in the creation of the album, both lyrical and musical, such as references, plot, and acoustical exposition. Instead of listening to the album in full, the work will be broken down in pieces, exploring the depth of each section and the intended purpose, with a focus on outside sources to tear apart the veneer of the creation in order to further illuminate the work, and where exactly each piece comes from. The breaking of 4th wall will be a main subject of the discussion, and the inspirations for the work as well will play a larger role in the discussion. Audience members should expect a more interactive presentation, modeled after the various TED talks and Red Bull Music Academy discussions by noted artists and producers, and will be comprised of video clips, outside music, and charted out depictions of the album. Pro Tools sessions will also be used to show production concepts, with individual tracks soloed to break down each instrument, and mixing techniques expounded upon such as compression, EQ, and temporal based effects, with enough detail for industry students while maintaining a literacy aimed at the layman audience member.

3:55-4:15

CREATEBASE: An Exploration in Branding and Business

Ann-Elise Wall

Faculty Advisor: Daniel Johnson

CreateBase is a student-oriented creative arts project-connection website. My crowdsourcing business model is focused on the connection of skilled students with students needing those services on a campus. Student designers, photographers, and videographers are in need of jobs and practice for their portfolio, and many students outside those departments need those services for album art, business cards, logos, websites, etc.

I have spent this past year developing CreateBase to solve this problem of disconnection on campuses. From branding the company, to writing the business plan, I have fleshed out all that

needs to go into jumpstarting this company. To me, the strategy involved in branding a company is equally as important as its financial and business planning. CreateBase is the culmination of this thought process.

4:20-4:40

Teach Me How to Sew

Olivia Hamilton

Faculty Advisor: Robbie Pinter, Ed.D.

Not quite a zine, not quite a book of essays, not quite a travel diary, not quite a chapbook. Then what exactly is *Teach Me How to Sew*?

It is a book (yes, let's use that word) that blends medium as it explores places new and familiar. It is the process of learning how to tell a story, of making sense, of stitching everything into one cohesive piece. What does it mean to feel at home? Is there a limit to how many lives we can invent for ourselves? Why does everyone want to be famous, and are they right? What would we do if the sun died? *Teach Me How to Sew* is about learning to piece all these elements together, to flow from one to the next without hesitation. Within it surfaces a meditation on love, contentment, place and fear.

“A person is the culmination of the places they have been, just like they are the culmination of their stories. You can't have one without the other. But every time you tell a story, you're taking a risk. You could illuminate the version of the place that you remember in your head or you could kill it, and you won't know until you try.”

4:45-5:05

Flipped: One Student's Journey Through the World of Novel Writing

Mackinna Hart

Faculty Adviser: Devon Boan, Ph.D.

It's 2020 and the U.S. has entered an age of espionage. New York and L.A. have fallen, and Nashville has become the center of it all. But don't worry, because we have our hero. The only problem is she has no idea how to be the hero. Partially because she has no memory that she was supposed to be the hero, or any memory of her life for that matter. Can she remember in time to save Nashville from certain demise? She'll need the help of three gamers, a member of the Italian mafia, an ex-KGB, and her roommate in the Witness Protection Agency. Throw in an explosion, a broken engagement, a double agent and some awful hospital pudding and you can see that she's got a lot to navigate to figure out what happened.

This novel explores the plight of Mac Rosengrand and her adventure of finding herself before it's too late. The project delves into what it takes to create an engaging story, believable characters, and humor that will leave readers chuckling throughout the tale.