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Georgia Southern students combine past and present works for new art exhibition in November

November 2, 2022



Artwork by Asia Le will be featured in the senior exhibition, “Figure It Out.”

Art is often considered an unspoken language meant to express emotion, voice and identity, though audiences may not always have a clear translation of what an artist is trying to express.

In an upcoming Georgia Southern exhibition, “Figure It Out,” the audience will traverse a variety of mediums that include charcoal drawings, fibers, sculpture, digital and acrylic paintings. With these mediums, figure and portraiture will meld into the concepts of the everyday to other-worldly. Through this journey, the hope is for audiences to develop a connection to each artist’s pieces to interpret a meaning for themselves.

Asia Le, a Savannah native, is a visual art major. In her work, she found inspiration from individuals from her past, and individuals of her own creation. She created a digital narrative played out by characters from her own life and career.

“I felt excited to finally show people my characters, stories and visions,” she said. “So, it means a great deal to have the opportunity to share my work with a wider audience than just family and friends. The digitally rendered paintings give a glimpse of who the characters are in their world and their story.”

Students in the Georgia Southern Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art are encouraged to explore their own creativity to find inspiration for their work. Many times, the passion and creativity from one student can rub off on another.

“The most impactful part of my experience at Georgia Southern are the connections I made with my professors and peers,” said Le. “I was able to learn a great deal from each person’s own art style and perspective of what it means to be an artist.”

“Figure It Out” will also showcase the works of fellow graduating seniors Rodney Briggs, Storm Patterson-Edinger, Demarious Hartley and Gregory Tyson. The show will run from Nov. 2 through Nov. 30, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus Fine Arts Gallery.

This event is free and open to the public.

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Community to bid for student-designed sculptures; metal eagle up for grabs

November 2, 2022



Katie Snyder, left, uses a plasma cutter to shape a sculpture she designed with assistance from Jeff Garland, Chair of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. Snyder is an interior design major taking Assistant Professor Casey Schachner's 3D Art and Design Foundations class.

Where is home for you?

Georgia Southern University student Katie Snyder was born in Kansas, moved to Arkansas, spent her teenage years in Richmond Hill, Georgia, and now calls Statesboro home.

"I feel like the Statesboro community has really welcomed me," she said. "I've made so many friends and met so many different people who've helped me advance my career, helped me advance my social life or helped me as a person."

Snyder is an interior design student, and a competitive one. The junior recently participated in a competitive design contest for the Sculpture Walk, a public art exhibition sponsored by the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority (DSDA) and Georgia Southern's Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art.

Alongside her fellow students in Assistant Professor Casey Schachner's 3D Art and Design Foundations classes, she was to use a 6-by-6-inch square piece of paper to create a three-dimensional object. Students could cut and fold the paper, but they could not remove or reattach pieces of paper. The paper submissions were juried by art and community representatives, and eight were selected to be translated into full-steel sculptures.



A paper model of Katie Snyder's sculpture design.

In November, the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt) will display this series of steel sculptures along the Willie McTell Trail in downtown Statesboro.

Snyder's design shows just how strong her True Blue blood runs. After growing up doing origami with her siblings, she applied those practices to turning a metal sheet into a metal eagle.

That's right: a 5-by-5-foot sheet of metal will be cut, bent and transformed into the shape of an eagle.

Not only will the students' sculptures be on display for the public, but they will also be available for purchase through an online auction. That means a member of the Georgia Southern alumni family or local community could be going home with a student-produced metal eagle sculpture; a true sign of one's Eagle spirit.

While Snyder didn't struggle to pick what to model her sculpture on, she did struggle to find a design she liked. She was far from the only one in that boat.

Interior design student Kiara Washington, who considers herself a perfectionist, admittedly, didn't like most of her first original designs, and most of them ended up in the trash. Then, she found inspiration.

"I tried different things and I found the easiest design came from my personality," she said. "When I add myself into my art, it becomes very technical and architectural. That's what happened when I came through with my piece, and I love that."

Her design was one of the handful selected for the outdoor sculpture exhibit.

“All that hard work paid off,” she said.

Now, her paper design is being transformed into a large metal sculpture. Each steel sculpture will be powder-coated in a vibrant color to help preserve the work for years of enjoyment.

Additional students with designs selected for the exhibition are Alicia Aguirre, W’Cayla Brigham, Liam Lightfoot, Sophie Romeo, Katie Snyder, Maia Storm and Haylee Workman.

During the opening reception, guests should park downtown and take a shuttle to the beginning of the trail and enjoy a stroll along the trail to see each sculpture, with the walk ending at City Center, the headquarters of Georgia Southern’s Business Innovation Group.

Proceeds from the auction will go to the BFSDoArt Travel Fund. This fund helps art department students travel for various types of educational experiences including class field trips, art study abroad programs, professional conferences and more.

For more information about the Sculpture Walk and how to bid online visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Art.



Katie Snyder, right, and Assistant Professor Casey Schachner work together to bend a sculpture Snyder designed.



Jeff

Garand, Chair of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, left, looks on as Katie Snyder uses a plasma cutter.

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