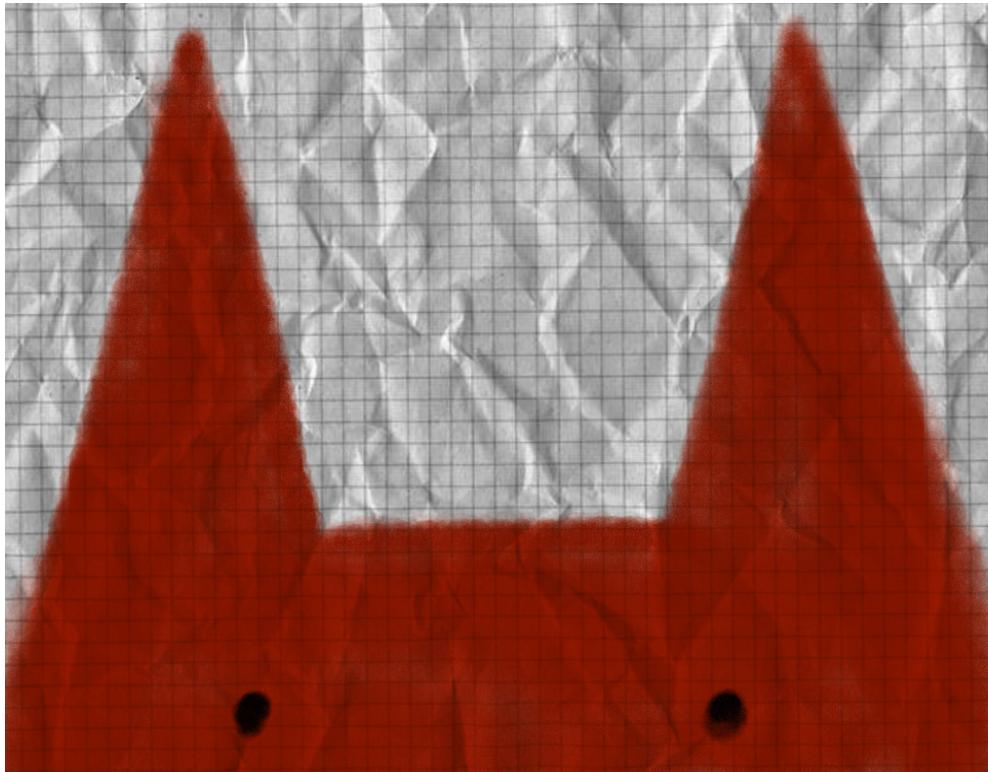


Flea in a jar.

2023



s o l o e x h i b i t i o n

R i a n n e G a r c i a





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ARTIST STATEMENT

A sense of hopelessness, pressure, and despair— Flea in a jar is an experiment where fleas are trapped inside a jar and will jump repeatedly until they learn that hitting the lid is painful. When the lid is removed, they will only jump as high as the lid. Dealing with mental health alone, one feels they are confined to a tight space and are unable to move. Constantly jumping from one problem to another, unable to break free of this never-ending loop.



Flea in a jar a series focuses on one anonymous red subject, a crumpled paper cutout. The series features dissociation from reality, a sensation of alienation from oneself and one's surroundings. a space where you can express your feelings

This is my catharsis to reduce stigma and educate the public. And a reminder to others who are still caught like fleas in a jar.

ROUGH CONCEPT

inverse painting

While brainstorming ideas, I came across inverse painting, which I want to execute on canvas. Though I haven't attempt to make one. I am well aware that this is an ambitious move, but I want to challenge myself

The pictures below is an example of inverse painting done by Little Thunder

inverse painting

"In photography, a negative is an image, usually on a strip or sheet of transparent plastic film, in which the lightest areas of the photographed subject appear darkest and the darkest areas appear lightest."



Original Version



Inverse Version

For the content, I aim to make as many connections with my own prior experience

The sketches are divided into two parts: Trauma and Hope.

Rough Sketches



sad clown



isolation



anxiety

Trauma



self-discovery



perseverance in the
face of uncertainty

Hope

FINAL CONCEPT

painting, sculpture and installation

A day before the exhibition proposal, I made a 360 move to renew my concept. I realized that I couldn't finish the inverse painting within weeks because it requires a lot of practice finding the right tone.

Therefore, I tweak some ideas and made it more specified.



3 Sculptures, 2 Mixed Media Painting, 1 Installation

- Nostalgic, Dissociation from reality
- A representation of psychological disorders we have encountered in all areas of life, including the childhood traumas I faced and till now.
- Awareness to reduce the stigma of mental health
- A series of artworks from childhood through adolescence
- Will focus on slightly crumpled paper cutout anonymous character

An anonymous red character

A version of my younger self

Crumpled cartoony character with horns symbolizing the growing pains of adolescence

Flea in a jar is an experiment where fleas are trapped inside a jar and will jump repeatedly until they learn that hitting the lid is painful. When the lid is removed, they will only jump as high as the lid

Like fleas, humans start out as young and innocent. Along the way, we become conditioned by our thinking to function and live within the confines of our surroundings, and we start to acclimate to the boundaries others or ourselves we establish as if we were fleas in a jar.

Dealing mental health alone, one feels they are confined to a tight space and are unable to move. Those affected because of the stigma are becoming more socially isolated and even subject to discrimination. Even how mental illness is portrayed in the media doesn't always improve the situation.

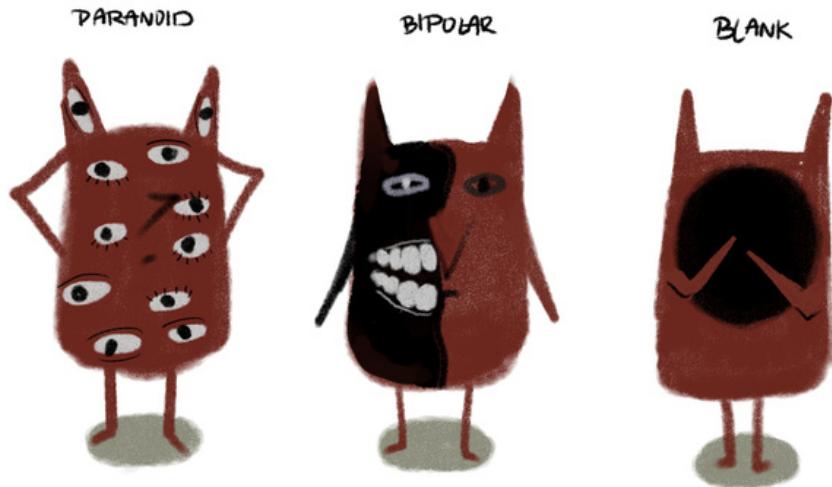
This artwork highlights my interpretation of mental health to reduce stigma and educate the public and media how crucial this is.

It serves as a reminder to my younger self as well as to others who are still caught like fleas in a mayonnaise jar. That you are not alone in this journey.

The exhibit will highlight the character in two settings in the painting. Each location has its own timeframe from childhood through adolescence. I plan on making an air-dry clay sculpture of my character.



I plan on making an air-dry clay sculpture of my character. Prior to that, I had planned on making a 3D papercut of my character to give them a texture like paper, but I'm still unsure of my ability to do so.



The installation would be the last piece, and anyone may participate by sticking stickers on the wall. Light to dark hues are used to represent how they are feeling right now. The installation serves as a tool to connect people through their mood dialogue



INSPIRATIONS

literary and visual sources

I enjoy their illustrations because they have deep, unique meanings. By depicting difficult-to-explain emotions, these two artists produce emotive and evocative visuals.

When you examine closely at each of Avogado6_jp's drawings, you'll notice that they're typically rather dark. His artwork depicts the harsh realities of human life.



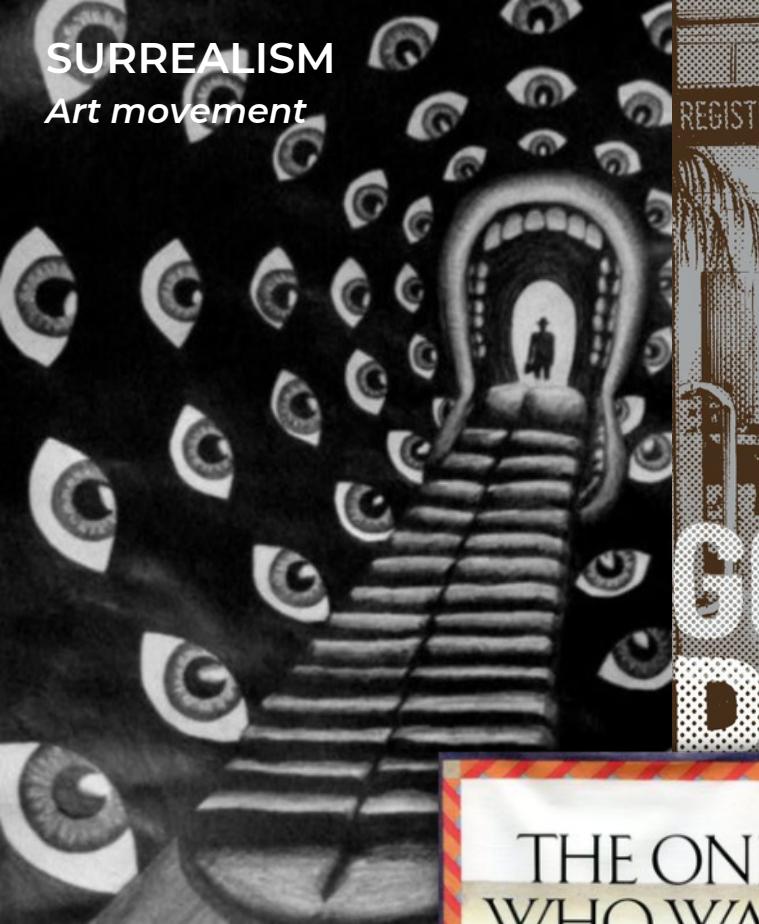
Avogado6 & manuhamu



Mamuhamu is somewhat comparable but focuses more on slice of life.

SURREALISM

Art movement



Oyasumi Punpun

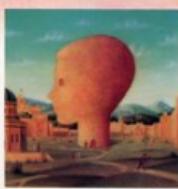
Manga

5

NIO ASANO

GOODNIGHT
PUNPUN

THE ONES WHO WALK AWAY FROM OMELAS



URSULA K.
LE GUIN

CREATIVE
SHORT STORY

A short story written by Ursula K. Le Guin. This story posits that there can be no happiness without suffering.

Although it appears to be a true utopia, it is considered dystopian literature. It is a dystopia since the majority of happiness is actually built on the abuse of innocent child. I recommend this.

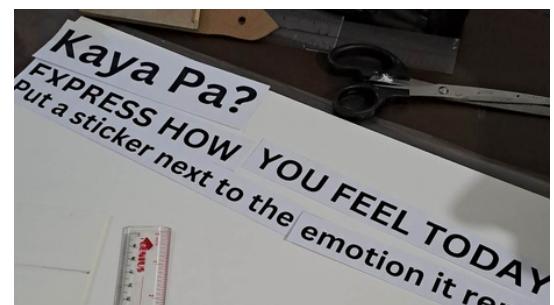
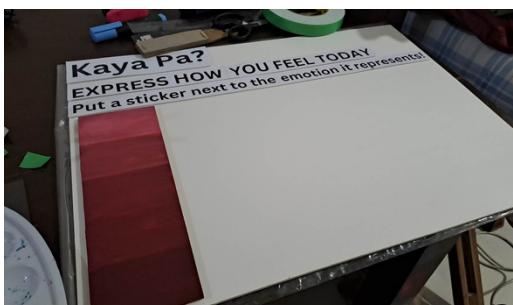
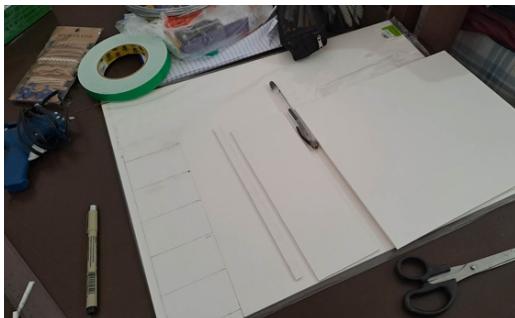
**THE ONES WHO WALK
AWAY FROM OMELAS**
Short Story
Ursula K. Le Guin

■ PRODUCTION

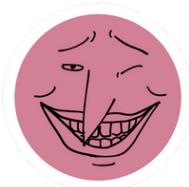
Participative installation

Materials:

- sintra board
- foam tape
- cutter
- acrylic paint
- color stickers(round)
- print cutouts(lettering and color)



I created five different stickers, ranging in color from red light and dark hues





Mixed-Media Painting on Canvas

Materials:

- 1 Canvas size 16x22
- Paint brushes and oil paint
- Linseed oil
- Paper cutouts of the character and other images(it gonna be like a collage)



One of challenges I encounter was the canvas. I tried to look for another one with the same size but to no avail. I planned on buying online but it'll take weeks to arrive and oil paint dries very slow. In the end, i decided to stick with one canvas since i was running out of time.



EXHIBITION

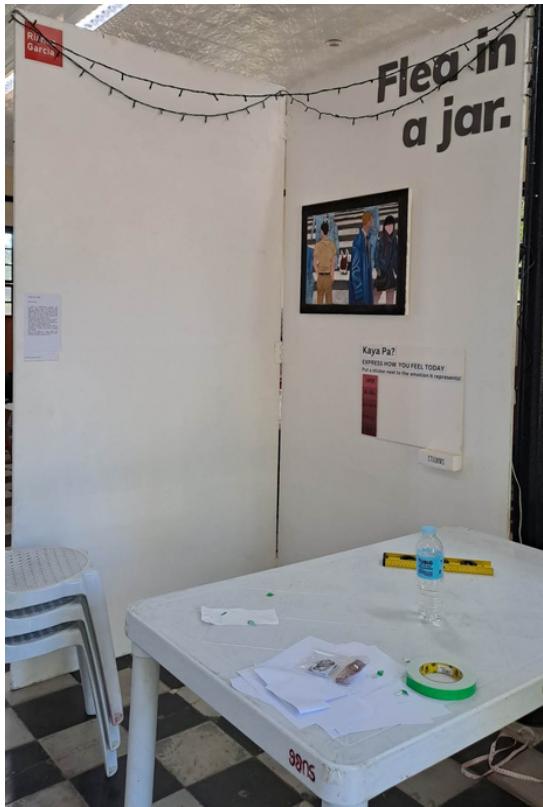
inges

During the ingres, when I found the size of the panel, I got concerned that I might not have enough artwork to fill the area. I think about alternate layouts that will allow the entire panel to be utilized.

The lighting then became a concern. We had to do something to bring some light and contrast to the dark interior of SU Hall so that people could see our artworks. Thanks to Angela(a fellow exhibitor) she let me borrow her extra christmas lights

I was going to get a battery-operated light or some fairy lights, but neither are available.

Janne was with me as I rushed back and forth from downtown to print out my letter cutouts and Silliman to get materials for illustrations. It was such a hectic day.



EXHIBITION

the day



On the day of the exhibition, it felt so relieve that the pressure had finally subside. I liked the way everything was laid out and how the lighting complemented it. It was packed inside as many students and parents showed up. My exhibit was the first one to be seen by visitors since its located directed in front of the entrance. Photographs and videos were captured.

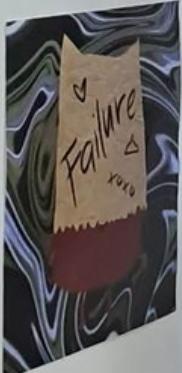




The mood board was well-received, hehe. Compared to the other words, "YAWA" was the most stacked. I can't really blame them, since it's finals week and we're all passing away. I purposefully put that there since I knew that everyone would find it funny and relatable.



Flea in a jar.



Kaya Pa?

EXPRESS HOW YOU FEEL TODAY
Put a sticker next to the emotion it represents!



STICKERS

Rianne
Garcia

Flea in a jar.



Kaya Pa?

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STICKERS

FINAL WORKS

Kaya Pa?

EXPRESS HOW YOU FEEL TODAY

Put a sticker next to the emotion it represents!

SUPER!



OK LANG



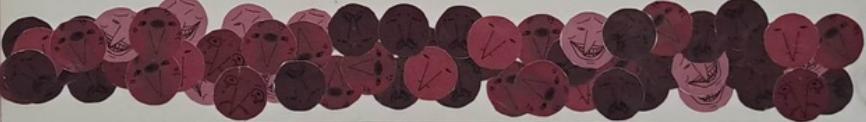
DELE LANG SA



KAPOY NA



YAWA



"Kaya Pa?"

installation

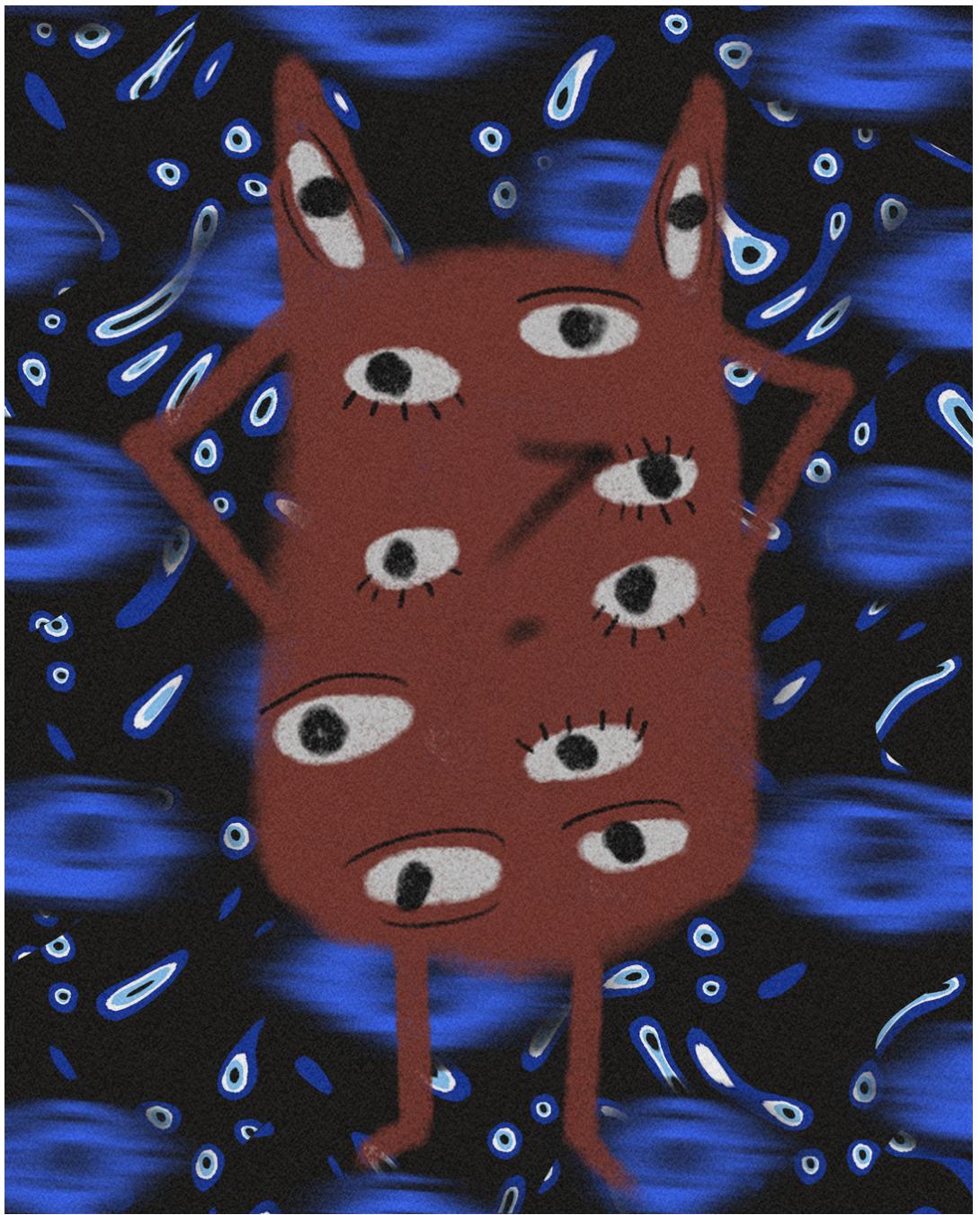
8.5 x 11



"Who am I"

oil on canvas

16 x 22



"Paranoid"
Digital Illustration



"Blank"
Digital Illustration



"Bipolar"
Digital Illustration



"Anxiety"
Digital Illustration

My first ever solo exhibition, congratulations to everyone! I'd like to thank Maam Dolly and Maam Florena for the consultation, feedbacks, and never ending support. To Janne and Paris, thank you for the last minute help and keeping up with me haha. Thank you Angela wife for giving me advices whenever im having a hard time . A big thanks to my grandma, who always gives allowance and support me.

Therese, Vhenese, Myrrh, Treng, Gem, Marielle, and to those who cheered and believed in me, thank you. Words cant express how grateful I am and it means a lot me.

Around 2 months of preparation starting from concept maping, sketches, presentation of proposal to buying of materials.

The entire process was full with multiple mental breakdowns, art blocks, sleep deprivation and nearly giving up but it was worthwhile in the end.

Thank you once again for those who came and appreciate my exhibition

Flea in a Jar signing off

Rianne Gracielle M. Garcia, a grade 12 Arts and Design student. She took up this course to expand her creativity in the arts.

A multimedia artist whose mediums include traditional and digital artworks. Despite her love for digital art, she is always interested in exploring different media and materials.

A dreamer who never gives up.

