

ART 4753 SUMMER 2024

“IMPERFECTION”

ALY HARTMAN

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08.06.2024

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INTRODUCTION

Image, Volume, Layers is a decentralized project, in which the main object/design output is presented alongside content related to its conception, process of production, and intent. Each project should utilize the combination of image, volume, layers in its design process, as well as conceptually - as we consider that language in relationship to histories.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH SUB-CONTENTS:

- IDENTIFICATION OF TOPIC/ ISSUE
- INITIAL RESEARCH
- RESEARCH REFERENCES
- FOCUSED RESEARCH

INITIAL RESEARCH

WHAT?

My initial research included a deep dive into the symbolism of the blue jay, inspiring architecture of the Gothic variety, and Artist Olafur Eliasson. These three things were the basis for the look of my project, however were not the only influences. I was interested in a sort of self-reflection of my personal journey, a history of self if you will.

WHY?

This pursuit of self-love was in response to the personal journey I have been on this Summer Semester. I wanted a symbol of my accomplishments, as learning to love yourself and work out your own trauma and flaws is majorly taxing.

HOW?

In pursuit of finding myself, I wanted to take the core values I had strengthened during my journey and put this into a form that was very symbolic of my soul's growth through both damage and healing.

I wanted to use the rainbow as a symbol of light, holiness, love, as well as my connection to Jesus and the LGBTQIA+ community.

I also wanted to use the Blue Jay, as a personal symbol of perseverance through hardship, and a more general symbol of love and protection.

I also knew I wanted my project to interact with light, as finding the light inside all of my darkness was essential to my journey.

Image- I planned to use the imagery of the rainbow, the blue jay, and the presence of light.

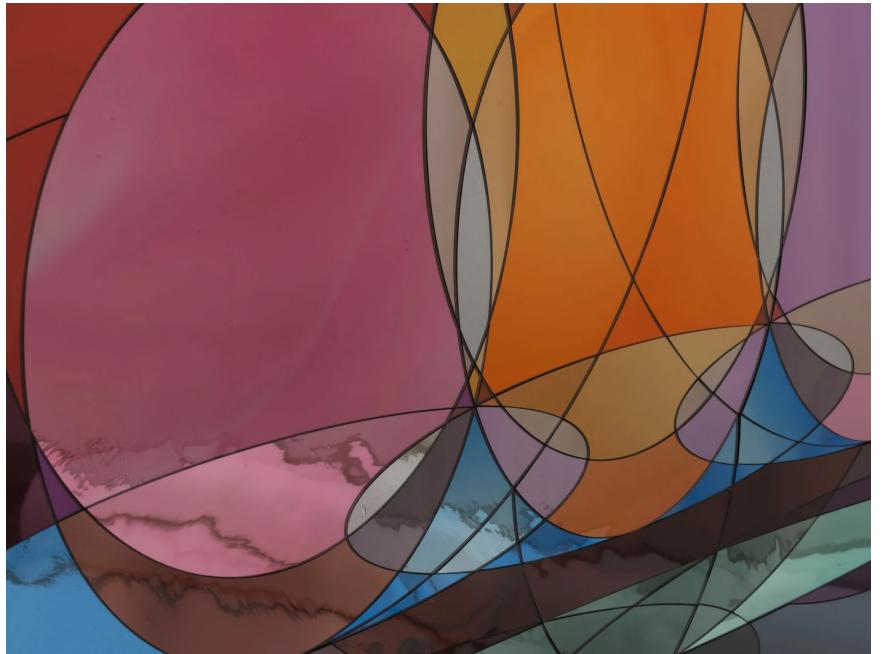
Volume- I planned for this sculpture to be small in actual volume, but take more space with the light interaction.

Layers- I planned for this sculpture to use layers of symbolism, as well as physical layers.

Studio Olafur Eliasson

- An artist that works a lot with rainbows, light, transparency, and how they work together.
- The work I am most interested in combines layers of stained glass and works with light through its transparency.

"The triple presence problem"
Studio Olafur Eliasson, Berlin – 2024
Photos: Jens Ziehe



Gothic Architecture

(stained-glass windows)

These windows often depicted holy figures, illuminated in color and light. They are integral to gothic architecture, as this light coming through these windows is considered holy, as these were mostly used in Cathedrals and places of worship.



Blue Jay Symbolism

"In North America, the blue jay symbolizes **love** as well as guardian and is believed to carry the message of **love** from their dead relatives. St. Francis of Assisi, a catholic saint church priest, used blue ay as a symbol of **love** for his teaching. In Celtic culture, Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Breton, and Cornish blue jay symbolizes **love** and is often used in their folklore. According to Native American culture, blue jay feathers are powerful talismans representing power, protection, and **love**. In Hindu mythology, blue jay gives its melodious voice to the princess with a harsh voice. Thus, it symbolizes **love and sacrifice**. In Christianity, as per the Bible, the blue jay is considered a symbol of **love shown by god for his creation**" (Literary Devices).



Drawn from nature by J.J. Audubon T.H.S. F.L.S.

Blue Jay
CORVUS CRISTATUS.
Male. I. Female. 2. 3.

John J. Audobon
Print Plate 231
Ed. 2-4



John J. Audobon
Print Plate 231
Ed. 2-4

PLATE.CII.

AN IMPORTANT TANGENT...

John Audobon, a French artist known for illustrating the famous Audobon bird books, as well as pioneering some of the most extensive research on birds, was not a respectable man. He was a slave owner, a white supremacist, and sent human remains to his colleague to prove how superior whites were.

This behavior is despicable, and it is important to know his contributions to science and art also come with some skeletons in the closet (Audobon Society).

FOCUSED RESEARCH

IMAGE, VOLUME, LAYERS

My initial research heavily informed my final project, and the symbolism I initially planned for in the piece is still there, just in a different form than originally planned.

IMAGE

The final project still uses the imagery of light, rainbows, and the blue jay, albeit more subtle. The egg shapes in the final design are there to call back to the initial love of birds, as well as add deeper symbolism to the piece.

VOLUME

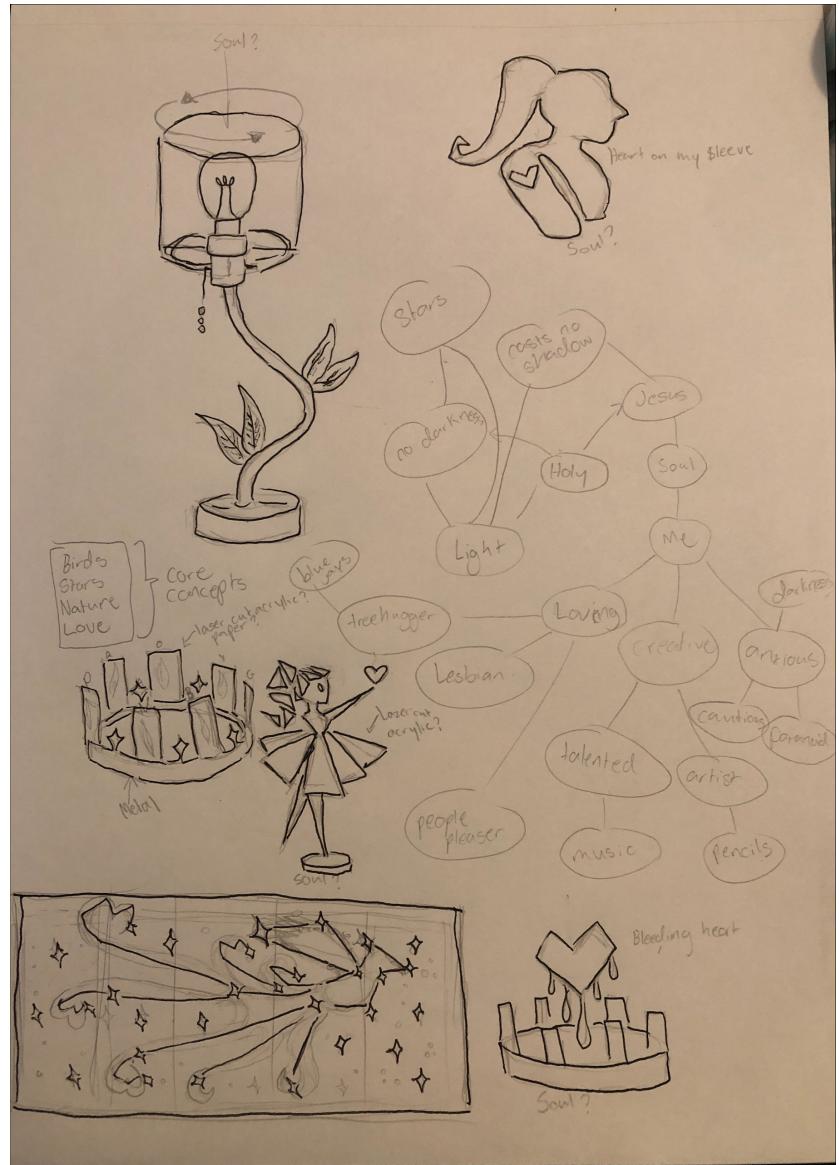
The volume of my piece changed rather drastically from concept to finality, as the original concept piece was much more dense than the final sculpture.

LAYERS

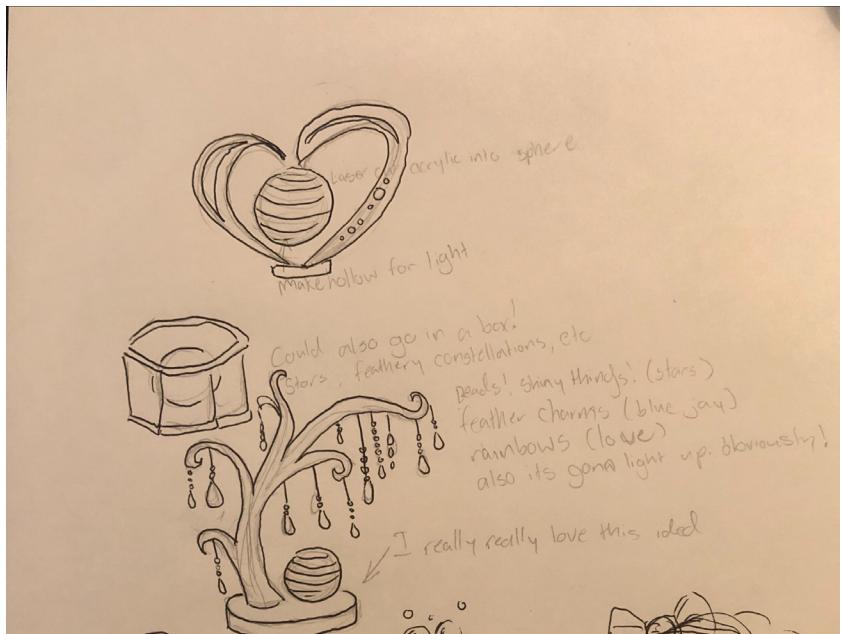
Originally, I had planned to use layers of acrylic to satisfy this prompt, however as the process went on, I discovered that metaphysical layers of symbolism and personal attachment made a much more powerful statement.

PROCESS & PRODUCTION

This entire project was an arduous process, from the tedious beading to the mishaps along the way. I made many mistakes, and the end result could have never been perfect, but I think that is the most beautiful thing about it.

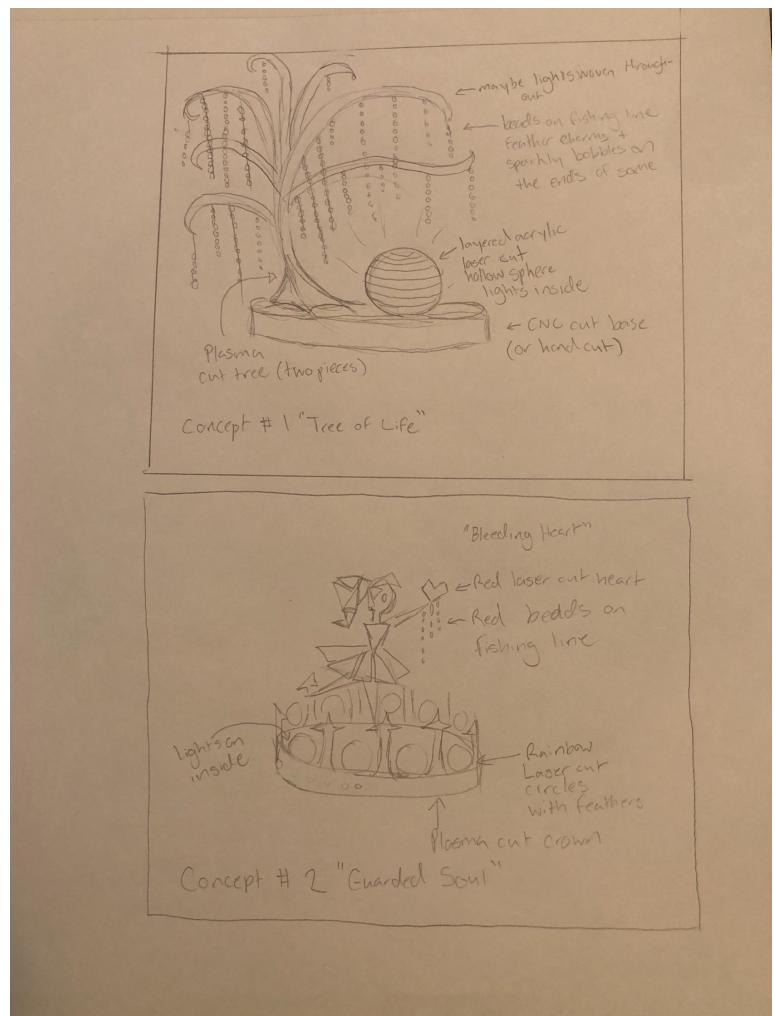


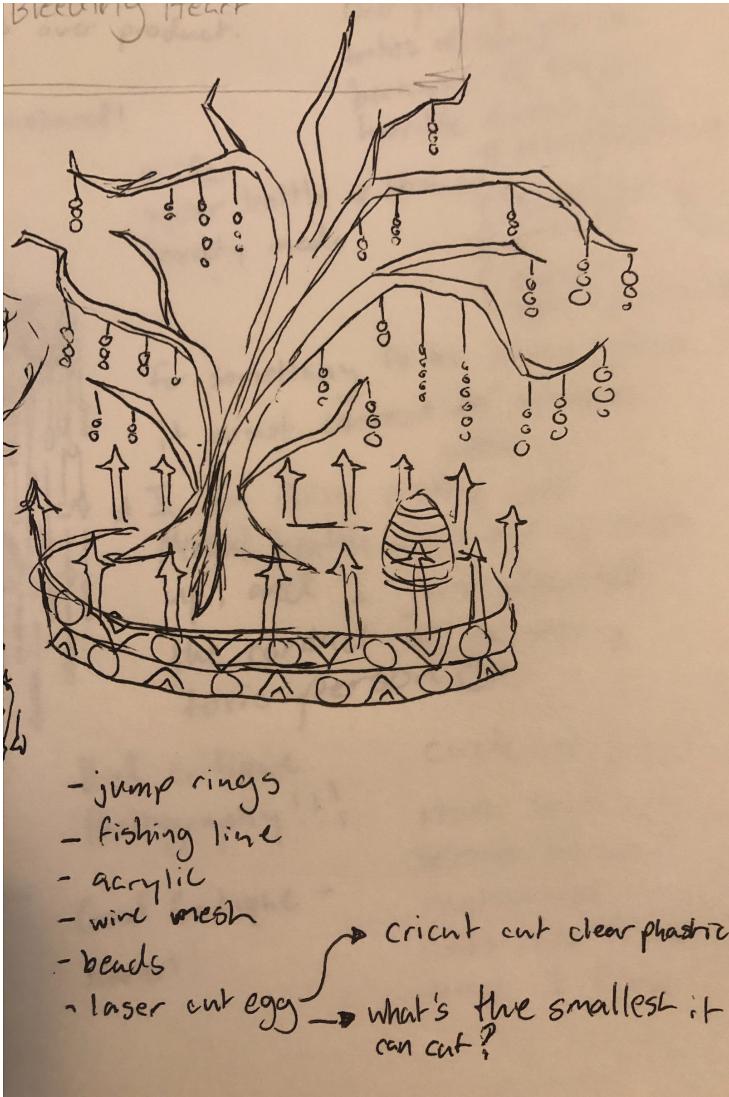
above: my intial ideation sketches along with a word map that was used to narrow down my "core values" that made up my soul.



above: more concept sketches revolving around the idea of my soul. the tree drawing was one of my favorite concepts I had come up with at this point in time.

below: two polished sketches of two of my favored concepts. again, I was still favoring the "Tree of Life" at this point.

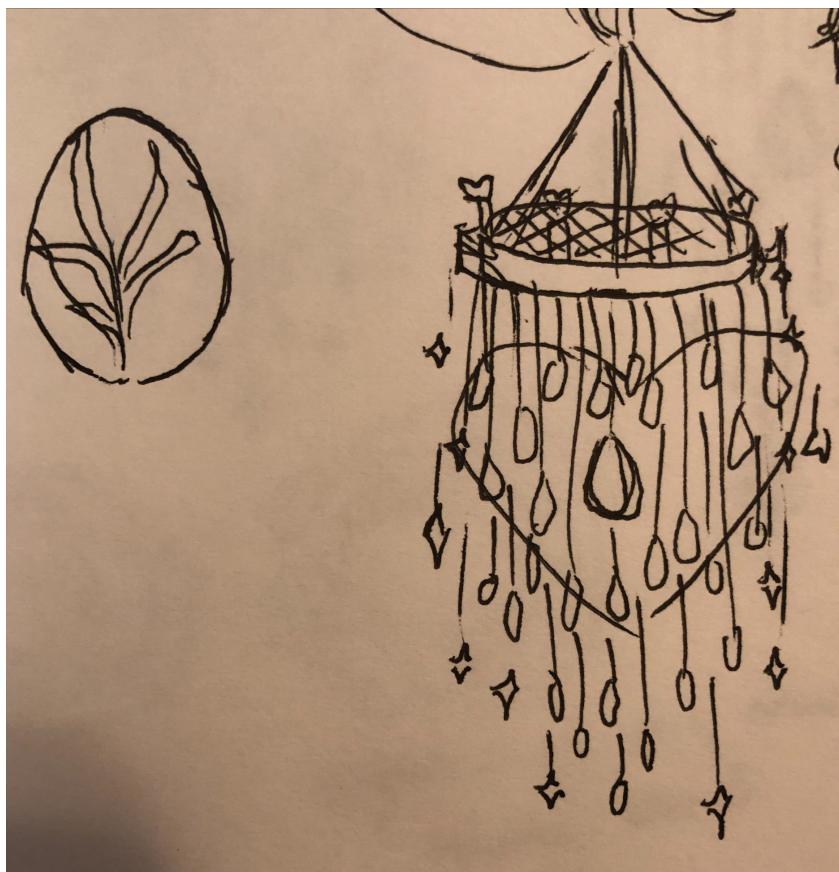




above: a polished sketch of the concept I decided to go through with after our design review, however this was not the final. you can see the egg imagery taking shape here.

Biting off more than I can chew...

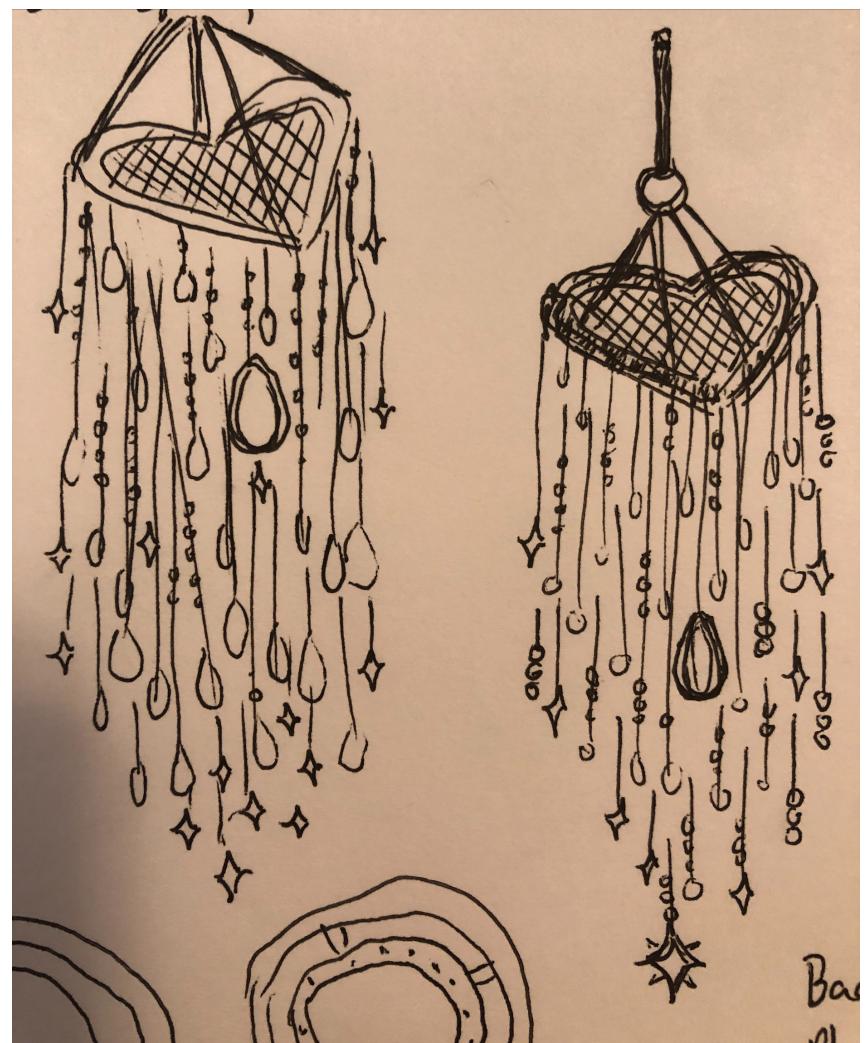
After a discussion with my professor and colleague Caroline Hatfield, I decided with her that my project was far too ambitious for the two-week timeframe we were given. Thus, I started drafting ideas for something a bit more simple. Writing this, I laugh at the word simple, because this process was anything but simple. I hit many roadblocks, especially when I started to actually make and assemble my sculpture. In the end I still bit off a lot more than I could handle in my humble opinion.



A shift in the wind...

After further discussion, I started sketching more reasonable ideas. I stumbled across the idea of a wind-chime-like structure that held all the same symbolisms as my previous concept. The form of the egg was used as a simple nod to the original blue jay symbolism, and the interaction with light was very much still present.

As seen below, I played with the idea of a heart motif as well, to further solidify this connection to my soul. This was scrapped quickly in favor of not having icons used in my sculpture.





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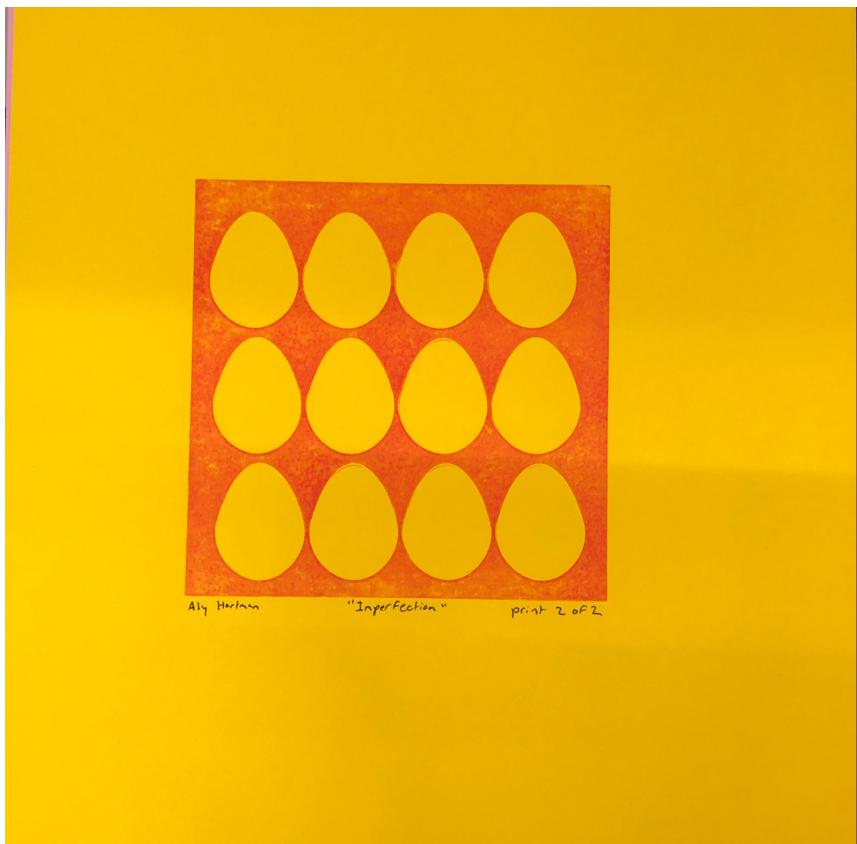
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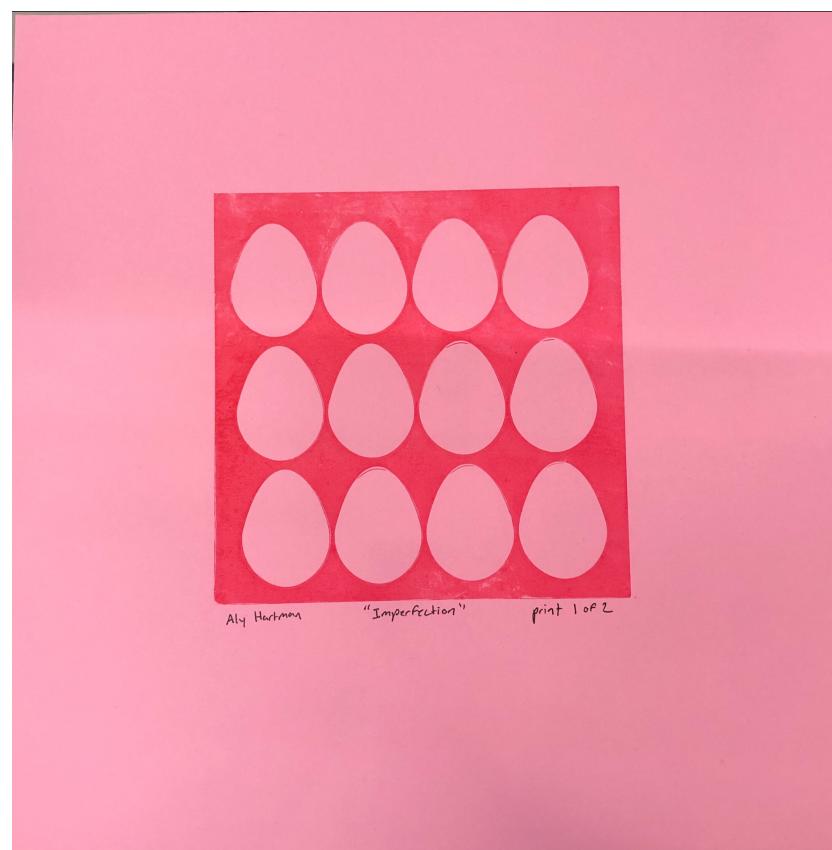
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"IMPERFECTION"



My final project is a wind-chime-like sculpture that includes laser-cut acrylic eggs, beads, fishing wire, beading crimps, wood, acrylic paint, reflective vinyl, and beading wire. The central egg is made of smashed acrylic pieces encased in resin.

The most tedious and aggravating part of this project was beading and stringing all of the laser-cut egg shapes. Even in making these egg shapes, I had issues with the acrylic not cutting all the way through. The wooden disc was painful to make as well, as the laser-cut holes were too small after painting everything. I spent an hour drilling the holes out, and even more than that beading and stringing and tying and all of the tedious processes that went into this sculpture. The finished product is not perfect. Even the hanging is lopsided. But even with these imperfections- the green laser-cut eggs with rough edges, the smashed acrylic laden in resin with bits of dust and bubbles, the less-than perfect attachment of the fishing wire- I still find so much beauty in it. Light in the Darkness. Love persevering through the hate. A journey of loving everything about myself, good and bad. Perfection in Imperfection.



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THANK YOU - AH

SOURCES

Page 16-17 / Blue Jay Information

Admin. (2023, January 31). Blue Jay Symbolism - Meanings in Literature and Culture - Literary devices. Literary Devices. <https://literarydevices.net/blue-jay-symbolism/>

Page 16-19 / John J. Audubon information and his prints

John James Audubon. (n.d.). Audubon. <https://www.audubon.org/content/john-james-audubon>

Page 14-15 / Notre Dame Cathedral Window Images

<https://pixabay.com>

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