



Sommerset Wolnick

2024 Fall

Capstone - Drawing

Department of Art and Art History

Artist Statement:

Sympathy for a woman stops the moment she is tainted by the sexuality that is pushed upon her at a young age. The value of a woman lessens as she ages, and as she gains more power in her life, she loses worth to the world. As she dies, she will only be remembered as a bearer of children or a symbol of sensualism. There is ugliness in life as in death, and women are not granted the right to show any sign of wear.

My work focuses on the ugliness of women, and celebrates the neutral state of a woman; not the extra steps that society uses to measure their own definition of half the population. I explore the nuanced experiences of women through a lens of empowerment and resilience. I strive to give my muses a narrative; questioning what we deem beautiful and worthy, both in art and in people. I aim to challenge traditional narratives and highlight the diversity amongst a variety of expressions of femininity. My illustrations serve as both a mirror and a window—reflecting the complexities of womanhood while inviting others to engage with and understand these experiences.

My main mediums include pen, charcoal, and oil pastels. My work aims to embody some illustrative and childlike structures and emphasize the figure as a living breathing thing. My latest work is inspired by the recent challenges to the laws protecting reproductive rights, and I have channeled these feelings to pieces that question the motives of those who wish to control such a personal matter.

Title	Original Format
Figure 1: Leda and the Swan	Oil Pastel, 24 in x 54 in
Figure 2: Scaling, Trimming, Gutting	Graphite, 30 in x 22 in
Figure 3: Semelparity	Pen and Chalk Pastel, 22 in x 30 in
Figure 4: Working Woman #1	Charcoal, 36 in x 46 in
Figure 5: Working Woman #2	Charcoal, 36 in x 46 in
Figure 6: Pity Forgotten #1	Oil Pastel and Pen, 15 in x 22 in
Figure 7: Pity Forgotten #2	Oil Pastel and Pen, 15 in x 22 in
Figure 8: Self Dissection	Oil Paint on canvas, 24 in x 30 in
Figure 9: Matryoshka	Pen, 24 in x 20 in
Figure 10: Death as the Maiden	Gouache, 30 in x 22 in ; 15 in x 22 in



Figure 1: Leda and the Swan



Figure 2: Scaling, Trimming, Gutting



Figure 3: Semelparity



Figure 4: Working Woman #1



Figure 5: Working Woman #2



Figure 6: Pity Forgotten #1



Figure 7: Pity Forgotten #2



Figure 8: Self Dissection



Figure 9: Matryoshka



Figure 10: Death as the Maiden