



Bugged: A Cultural
Metamorphosis

Josie Weese

April 25th-27th 6-8pm

Opening Reception Friday
at Kestrel Fields Studio

2434 W Vine Dr, Fort Collins

View my art on Instagram at Josieweese

Josie Weese

2025 Spring

Capstone - Printmaking

Department of Art and Art History

Artist Statement:

As I have learned about the world of arthropods and entomology, I developed a profound sense of care for these often-overlooked creatures. I was taught that their survival is intricately tied to human actions—both on a micro and macro scale. Our relationship with insects has evolved through time and across cultures, and I aim to show that changing dynamic through my work. My intention is to invite you to reflect on how we interact with these creatures and recognize their vital role in our ecosystem. This is more than just an observation; it is a call to action, a plea for us to care about the world of insects and, by extension, the world around us.

Title**Original Format**

Figure 1: Roman Street Market, Insect Kabob	Printmaking, 13 in x 17 in
Figure 2: Education Poster	Foam Core Poster, 13 in x 18 in
Figure 3: Greek Feast of the Cossus Moth	Printmaking, 16 in x 16 in
Figure 4: Educational Material	Foam Core Poster, 13 in x 18 in
Figure 5: In Another World	Printmaking, 8 in x 20 in
Figure 6: Education Poster	Foam Core Poster, 13 in x 18 in
Figure 7: The Comfort of Pressure	Printmaking, 8 in x 8 in
Figure 8: Conservation Commonality	Printmaking, 8 in x 8 in
Figure 9: Natural Disaster, Scale; Insect	Printmaking, 16 in x 12 in
Figure 10: Educational Poster	Foam Core Poster, 13 in x 18 in
Figure 11: Delicate Little Lifeforms	Printmaking, 16 in x 12 in



Josie Weese (2002)
Roman Street Market, Insect Kabob
2025

Figure 1: Roman Street Market, Insect Kabob

Entomophagy is the act of eating insects, this is done in modern society but it has also been recorded long throughout written human history. *Historia Naturalis* is one of the first books recording the natural history of the world and observations of ecosystem interactions. This was written by Pliny the Elder, he made note of roman elite and the poor enjoying the larvae of the cossus moth. This larvae turns into a moth of the common name goat moth.

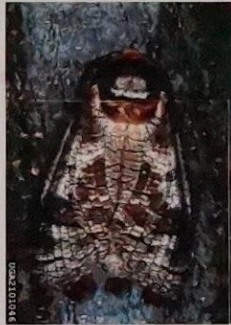


Fig1



Fig2

Philosopher Aristotle also wrote about the greeks consuming cossus moth. To some it was considered a delicacy. This larvae was said to have a mushroom like texture and that it tasted nutty, but it was not a prominent part of their diets.

Fig. 1. European Goat Moth (Cossus cossus) Adult, photographed by Louis Michel Nagelstein, Département des Forêts, Bugwood.org, 8 sept. 2009.
Fig. 2. European Goat Moth (Cossus cossus) Larva, photographed by György Csöke, Hungary Forest Research Institute, 10 Oct. 2008.
Olivaretti, Marianna, and Marta Luisa Divito. "Edible Insects: A Historical and Cultural Perspective on Entomophagy with a Focus on Western Societies." *Insects* vol. 14,8 690. 4 Aug 2023. doi:10.3390/insects14080690

Figure 2: Education Poster



Figure 3: Greek Feast of the Cossus Moth

It is a little too late in our evolution to start looking like bugs but imagine if we had diverged down a different path.

Insect sight is unique due to the structure of their eyes, they have hundreds to thousands of ocular units in their eyes.

Butterflies undergo metamorphosis completely rearranging their caterpillar form into a butterfly.

We use our hands to eat food but arthropods like spiders have specially adapted mandibles for grabbing and holding their prey to eat.

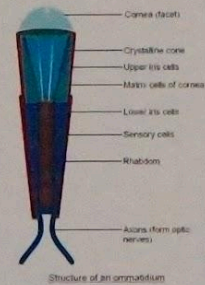


Fig1



Fig2



Fig3

Fig. 1. Structure of an Ommatidium. Insect Vision. Crowood.
Fig. 2. Owl butterfly caterpillar. Photo: uploaded by Brian L. 1976, The University of Georgia, 2023.
Fig. 3. Orb weaver family Araneidae, photo: uploaded by David Carpenter. Rugerovox.org, 4 Apr. 2003.

Figure 4: Educational Material



Figure 5:In Another World

In many ways humans are very comparable to insects, particularly in our behavior. Cockroaches are thigmotactic they seek a lot of physical contact and when cockroaches crowd together it resembles some behaviors that people perform.



Many conservation efforts maintain delicate or endangered species. In Colorado the kokanee salmon struggle to repopulate so Colorado Parks and Wildlife collect and rear the salmon so their offspring can continue into the next year. The adult salmon are given out to eat. This is similar to the interactions between ants and aphids. Aphids produce a sugary substance called honeydew and the ants really like it. Some ants will bring aphids into their colony to protect them and put them back out to let them feed and collect their honeydew.



Fig. 1. Cockroach colony setup, as featured on Culturing Dubia Roaches - Dutch Oven 31 via By Jim O'Neil, O'Neil's Pressing, 12 Oct. 2020.
Fig. 2. Ants tending aphids, as featured in Die Ant's Farm (part 1) by Scott Lazar Steinhilber, 29 Nov. 2022.
Fig. 3. Kokanee salmon spawning in Colorado, as featured in Colorado's Kokanee Salmon System by Jerry L. Neal, Colorado Outdoors Online, 29 Nov. 2022.

Figure 6: Education Poster



Figure 7:The Comfort of Pressure

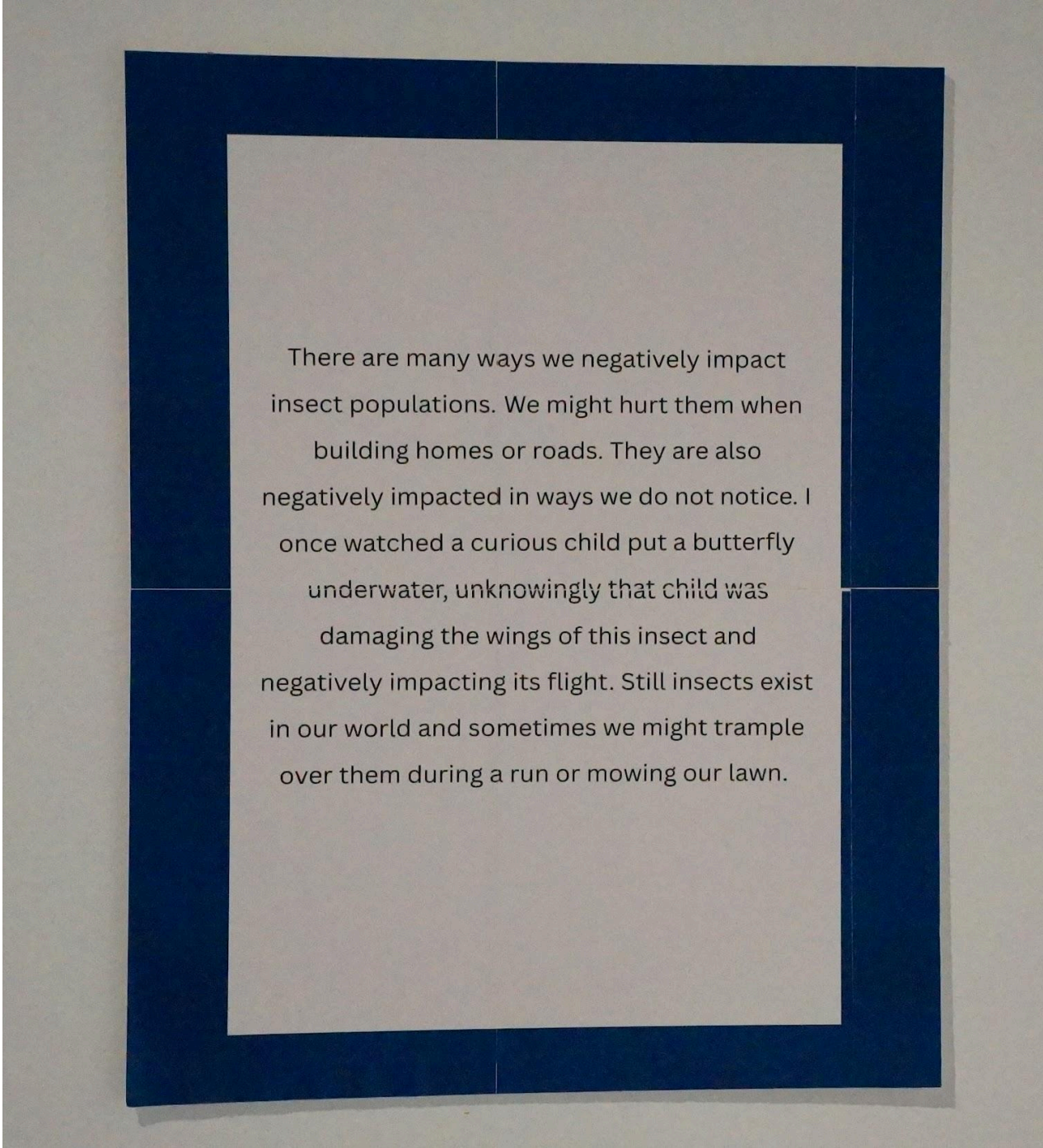


Jesse Vesco (b. 2002)
Conservation Commonality

Figure 8: Conservation Commonality



Figure 9: Natural Disaster, Scale; Insect

An educational poster with a dark blue border. The text is centered on a white background. The text discusses the negative impacts of human activities on insect populations, such as building homes or roads, and provides an example of a child putting a butterfly underwater, which damages its wings and flight. It concludes by stating that insects still exist in our world and can be trampled during activities like running or mowing.

There are many ways we negatively impact insect populations. We might hurt them when building homes or roads. They are also negatively impacted in ways we do not notice. I once watched a curious child put a butterfly underwater, unknowingly that child was damaging the wings of this insect and negatively impacting its flight. Still insects exist in our world and sometimes we might trample over them during a run or mowing our lawn.

Figure 10: Educational Poster



Figure 11: Delicate Little Lifeforms