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Short Catalogue Essay: We All Fall Apart

Stories are powerful things, even more so when approached through a desire to better the audience listening. We All Fall Apart seeks to display such stories, with each belonging to six diverse up and coming artists with a passion for communicating with others through their work. A corporate executive, a young woman with a budding career in tech management, an Iranian

American who has lived and worked in three continents, each of these artists and more have sought out change in their lives which embrace their own creativity and confront societal issues both ancient and contemporary alike. We All Fall Apart highlights this vulnerability, welcoming viewers to share in art as a refuge from a world which can seem cruel and uncaring if it weren't for the individual.



In her story, our corporate executive turned artist, Laura Holzinger, describes not the discovery of a new passion, but a return after a twenty year hiatus. When she fell ill, Holzinger certainly didn't see it as a blessing as she was forced to give up her career and her dream of making it big in business. However, this trial allowed her to step off of the hamster wheel and return to her passions of creating and learning. Her attention to detail, community, and the state of the world all led to the creation of her piece "One Word". An examination of responses to the outbreak of COVID-19, for this piece Holzinger posed the question "What single word would

you use to describe your experience in the wake of the ongoing pandemic?". The resulting piece then highlights glimpses into the lives of others, ultimately allowing them a voice through her



own representative work.

Artist Stephanie Alacon also works to give those underserved a voice, including herself. Highlighting the often taboo subjects of mental illness and her status as a woman, Alacon uses the mediums of ceramic and glass to provide her audience with an insight into her own

emotional condition, with the utter humanity in her pieces allowing the viewer to not only place themselves in her shoes, but to also examine their own thoughts and experiences through the lens of her creation. Her pieces "Bottlenecked" and "Just a Thought" each serve to highlight this purpose, vulnerably revealing Alacon's own experiences with sexism and anxiety to generate empathy with her own audience and ultimately, self-reflection.

Bringing a third dimension to this reflection is Neda Towfiq. Born and raised in Iran,

Towfiq grew to love and appreciate beauty through the influence of her mother, and was inspired

to continue her artistic journey in Florence Italy before moving to America. Vibrantly colorful, Towfiq's paintings emerge directly from the heart of the artist herself, conveying stories of love and pain, often in the form of portraiture. Through her works we see the soul of her subject sat before us, and are challenged to not only embrace their diversity but to share in their emotion. "Tears of Joy" and "The Immigrant" each present us with figures whose



he Immigrant", 2020 Vatercolor, 24 x 20"

stories are revealed through their eyes and their aged hands, calling us to investigate their lives and experiences.

Art cannot be separated from the artist, and the artist cannot be separated from their stories. As one artist lovingly put, it is the story behind the stories which make us who we are, each approaching this exhibition with our own experiences, judgements, and preconceived notions. We All Fall Apart welcomes you to examine your own story, how it affects you, affects others. So please, join us in our work to connect with ourselves and with one another through these amazing pieces.