

Amanda Taylor

Professor Cluff

Art 271

01 May 2020

Short Catalog Essay

The chosen title for my exhibit will be “Human Nature”. This title was chosen due to a common theme amongst all of the artist’s works. Within each of the selected pieces, humanity is depicted in various ways, each one unique to the artist's mind and perspective. Given the current climate of the world, these brilliant works of art reflect and connect us to our core values. The way we interact with one another, how we function within friendships, desires and stigmas that we hold to each other, these are all things that we as a collective group have experienced.

Stephanie Alacon’s *Take a Bite* is what helped to strike inspiration. This beautiful piece was a reminder of the original sin, and the temptation behind it. Original sin is considered by most to be the downfall of mankind, which fits in perfectly within the narrative for the exhibit. Neda Towfiq’s *Underpinnings* was another piece that I was inspired by for the narrative. By depicting a group of people working in what appears to be a harmonious manner inspires those looking to feel a sense of hope, especially now due to the current stage of the pandemic. The world feels so isolated, but this piece can serve as a reminder that humanity can and will regain composure within due time. The last piece that inspired the narrative and theme of this exhibit would have to be Benjamin Poarch’s *Party of One*. While the previous example showed teamwork and collaboration, this stunning photograph showed the opposite— isolation. This is something that humanity can yet again relate to. It displays the opposite end of the spectrum in

terms of what it means to be human in that humans are often considered to be happier in groups, rather than alone. This lovely picture shows just the opposite, that happiness varies person-to-person.