

NCUR Application

Name of Student: Will Lopez

Class: Senior

Name of Advisor: Desy Schoenewies

College/School: College of Liberal Arts, School
of Arts and Humanities

Department/Major:
Art Education

Email

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Attach File: <http://>

Title of Presentation:
Portraits of Unknown

BHSU IRB, IACUC or Biosafety #:
None

Abstract:

Using a process called Sagger firing, I am able to create unique surface treatments on the vessels I create on the potter's wheel. The process involves a lidded container used to contain and isolate pots during sagger firing. Different chemicals are added to the fire to create different colors and textures to the vessels. Sagger firing allows me to create pieces of artwork that never turns out the same. Each piece has its own characteristics and this is why I enjoy the process, because relating it to life the outcome will always be unknown. My artwork is a reflection of my life and family, my ceramic vessels are portraits of people close to me. Their characteristics are carved into clay metaphorically through technique and texture. The reason I began working with clay was the opportunity it gave me to escape reality. My reality is sometimes tough, faced with two loving parents who struggle daily. My father can no longer work and is partially paralyzed due to a stroke, while my mother suffers from a progressive disease called Huntington's disease. It has forced our family to take her to assisted living. Huntington's disease is a non-curable disease, and I have a 50% chance of carrying the gene. Knowing that I may carry the gene frightens me, so I must rely on ceramic art and its natural ability to escape reality for a moment in time. Ceramic art is my passion and it gives me confidence to express my creativity from my life events.

I certify that: My project is at or near completion and the abstract accurately represents my findings:
Yes

Statement of Student Responsibilities:

If my project is accepted for NCUR and I receive funding, I agree to:

- complete my project before departure
- make a trial presentation to my faculty advisor before departure
- present my paper/project at NCUR and attend other sessions
- all required IRB, IACUC and Biosafety approvals have been received
- give presentation at Black Hills Research Symposium (BHRS)
- Represent BHSU in a professional & responsible manner