



Lambent

MFA THESIS EXHIBITION
MARIA NEALE

OPENING RECEPTION
July 31, 2026

ON VIEW
July 31-August 14

Moss-Thorns Gallery
(785) 628-4247

MT
Moss-Thorns
GALLERY & ART

Artist Statement

Maria Neale

As an ever-evolving artist, I am drawn to ideas and processes that open new doors in my work. I find myself most inspired by nature and the world around me, especially by textures and unexpected forms of beauty. I often become more deeply invested in a project when I discover organic shapes, flowing movement, and small details that gradually come together to create something unexpected. The flickering light of ideas is what keeps me moving forward. I trust that art and design will find their way to me, even when I am not yet sure what they will become.

The work in *Lambent* began with small flickers of “what ifs” and ideas that were not fully formed but invited me to explore. Rather than needing to know where each project would lead, I allow myself the freedom to follow these paths, experiment, and discover possibilities along the way. I find that some of the most meaningful work comes from embracing uncertainty and allowing an idea to evolve naturally. Through this process, I discover connections, forms, and details that I may not have anticipated when I began, allowing the work to reveal itself as I move forward.

Lambent reflects this process of transformation, where a single spark of curiosity can become a lambent flame that is bright, unexpected, and alive.

Thank You

Firstly, I would like to thank Chaiwat, Karrie, and Thomas for being constant sources of inspiration and guiding lights throughout the program. Your curiosity about the world and perseverance will always be something I carry with me.

To my pit crew, Caity Boots, Thomlyn, Twin, and Toni, I am eternally grateful for your constant support, reassurance, and kindness, all of which helped me make it to the finish line. Thank you to Colin for taking the time to skillfully set up my work and for understanding the importance of vision as a fellow artist.

Thank you to all the members of Rancid Leg for being amazing designers, artists, and comedians. From undergrad through grad school, I could always rely on the friendship and creativity of these incredible people.

To my roommates, Ashlyn and Megan, thank you for showing up when it matters and reminding me of what I am capable of.

Thank you to my family for gifting me my heritage, from which I am always inspired, and for being lifelong cheerleaders in my artistic endeavors. I would not be where I am today without them.

Lastly, thank you to you for taking the time to be here and look through the work that has endured trials, failures, and, luckily, some success.

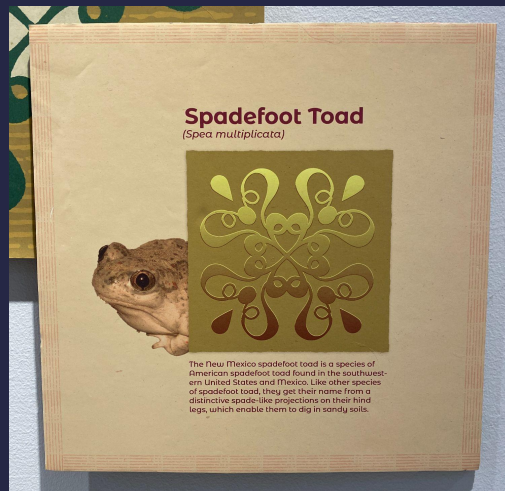
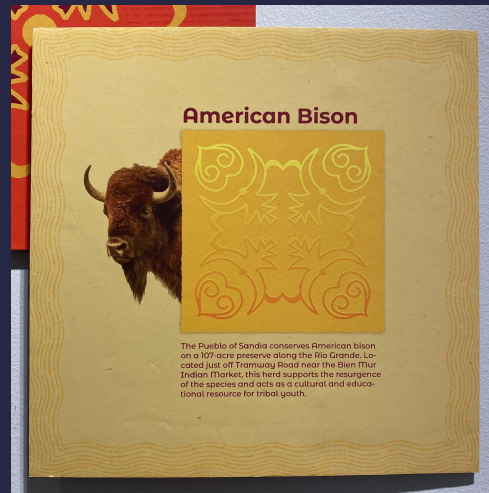
Hazón Arts and Cultural District



Hazón Arts and Cultural District

Cactus Displays 2026





Hazón Arts and Cultural District

Cactus Displays 2026



BEHIND THE TILE

Take a closer look at the intricate tile designs that adorn Mexican Art and Shopping District, where art and culture come together to celebrate the vibrant spirit of New Mexico. Inspired by the animals that inhabit the state's diverse landscapes, Together, these tiles tell a story of the deep connection between people, wildlife, and the land. Our district is a place that celebrates New Mexico's unique heritage and creativity through art, culture, and community.

new Mexico Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis neomexicanus*)



The New Mexico whiptail, is a female-only species of lizard. It is the official state reptile of New Mexico. It is one of many lizard species known to be parthenogenetic. They are active foragers, constantly moving and digging in leaf litter or sandy soil to eat insects, crickets, ants, and beetles. They are timid, quick to flee, and move with rapid, jerky motions, often sprinting on their hind legs.

Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*)



Affectionately called el corcorrimo or el palero in Mexican and Spanish traditions, the bird is a symbol of courage, good luck, and endurance. While they are capable of flight, they prefer running and can reach sprinting speeds of up to 15 to 25 mph. They are opportunistic carnivores and feed on insects, tortoises, scorpions, lizards, and even venomous snakes.

Peñasco Least Chipmunk (*Neotamias minimus atristriatus*)



They primarily live in open grassy habitats, subalpine meadows, and ponderosa pine savannas where downed logs, stumps, rocks, and shrubs offer crucial shelter. Found only in the high-elevation subalpine meadows and open ponderosa savannas of the Sacramento and White Mountains in Lincoln County, New Mexico, Federal protection has been enacted for this vulnerable mammal.

Caterpillar Hunter Beetle (*Calosoma*)



The Caterpillar Hunter Beetle, also known as Firey Searchers, are native to southern New Mexico. Famous for its brilliant, metallic-green shell and copper-edged wings. Growing up to 1.5 inches in length, they frequently roam on the ground and climb trees to feed on caterpillars.



Hazón Arts and Cultural District

Branding
2026



Hazón Arts and Cultural District

Tile Magnets

2026



Hazón Arts and Cultural District

Branding
2026





Hazón Arts and Cultural District

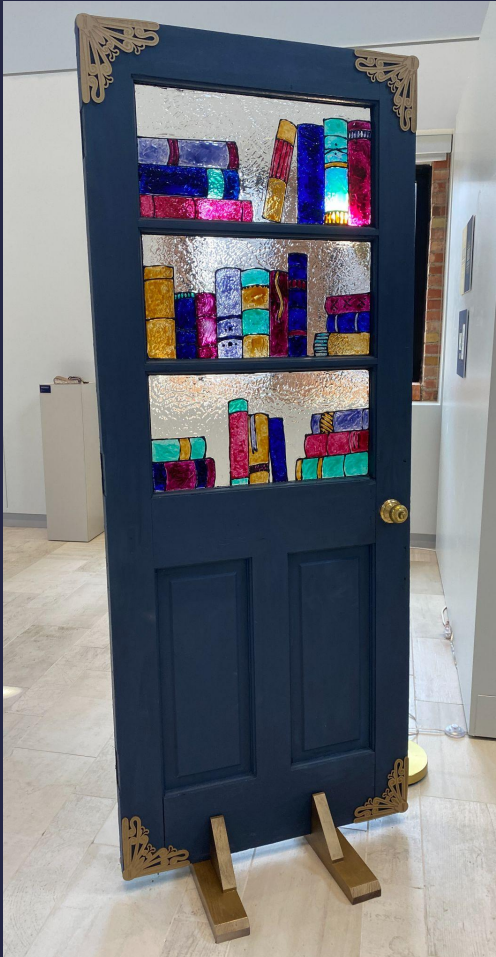
Tote Bag

2026

NARRACY

Rare and Vintage Books





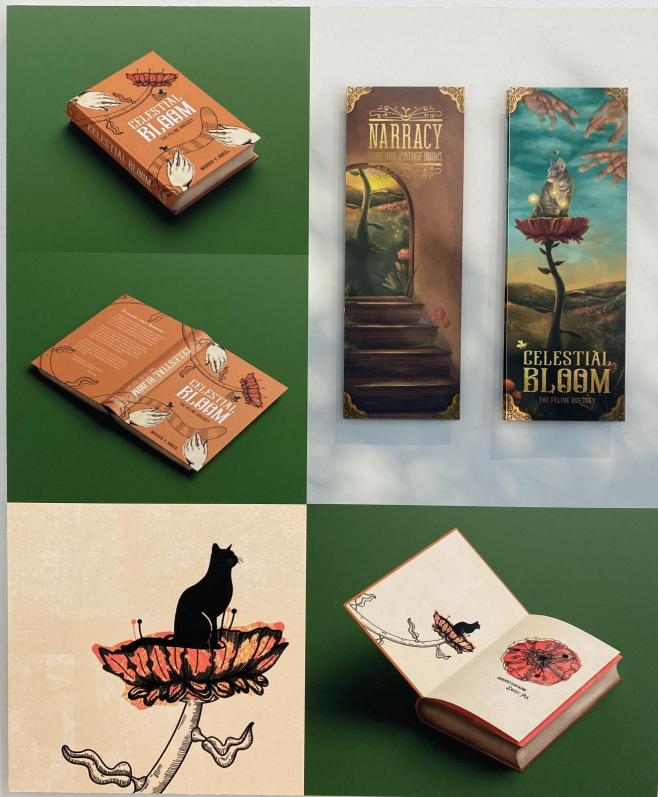
Narracy Rare and Vintage Books

Store Door

Narracy Rare and Vintage Books

Branding Materials





Narracy Rare and Vintage Books

2 Book Fantasy Series

Leather Beaded Journal with Macramé Closure

8.5" x 5.5"

2026



Leather Beaded Journal with Macramé Closure

8.5" x 5.5"

2026





Ezper Travel Journals
(Hard and Soft Covers)

6" x 4.5"
2026



Microcosm Bookmarks

Bookmark Set, Packaging
2026



Caliana Greenhouse







Echoes of the Green.

POSTCARD SET BY BEATRICE MULLINS

Morning dew fades again,
sunlight bends toward times
kept promise of a tomorrow.

Beatrice Mullins

6 POSTCARDS



Beatrice Mullins grew up in a rural town, inspired by her late grandfather's lush garden, which he called "nature's fleeting poetry." As the plants withered during a drought, she turned to art to preserve their beauty, creating compositions that blended art and charity. Beatrice described her process as "giving the plants a second life," capturing their decay in unique textures and patterns. The series, Echoes of the Green, became a meditation on impermanence, celebrating the profound, fleeting beauty of nature.

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WWW.CALLIANA/POSTCARDS.COM

Caliana Greenhouse

Fertilizer, T-Shirt, Bags,
Gloves, Pins
2024





Caliana Shop Door

77" x 28" x 15"

Acrylic Paint

2026

Heritage

Terracotta pot with
acrylic paint
8"
2025



Heritage

Terracotta pot with
acrylic paint
6"
2025



Death to Life to Death

Terracotta pot with acrylic paint

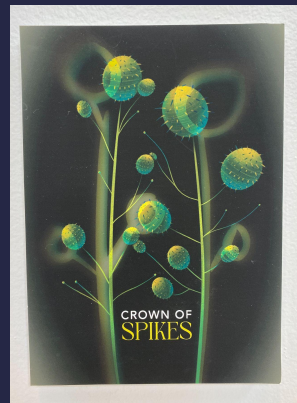
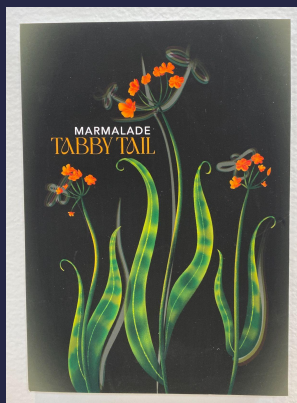
10"

2025

Radiant Growth

Matching Card Set 2024







Morlor x Ezper Bandanas

Cotton Fabric with Direct-to-Film print

23" x 23"

2026



Caliana Greenhouse Potting Station



Sink.
Listening Room





Sink.

Branding material, door



Sink.

Branding material,
zines, stickers,
monthly subscription



Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026

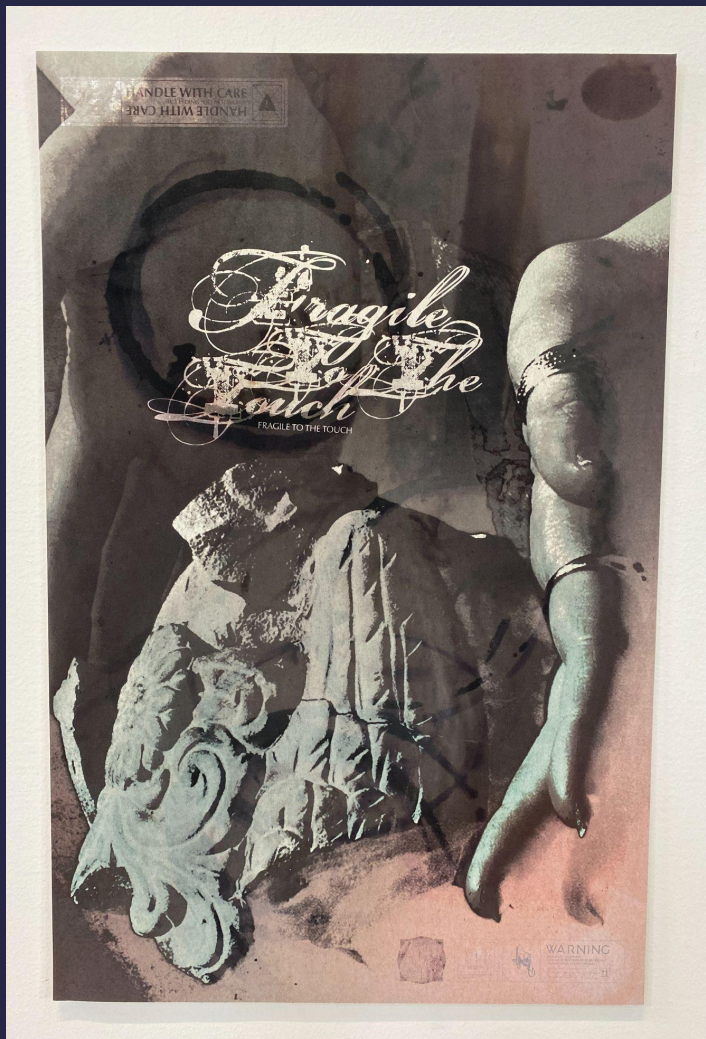


Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026



Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026



Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026



Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026

Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026



*Clearing
the
Clutter*

AUSTRALIA TOUR
JAN. 2026
Travis



Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026



Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026



Sink. Fictional Musician Poster Series

Matte Paper

Varied Size

2025-2026



Keys in Transit

Album, Poster, Vinyl Label



I'm a Flower, I Swear.

CD Jacket, lyric book, CD label

12" x 55"

2025



Where They Live

Album, Vinyl Label

13" x 13"

2025



The Haze

Album, Vinyl Label, Piñata, Candy, Plush Doll
Varied Size





The Haze Plush

Collaborative Project with Emma Kuhn

Fabric, stuffing, acrylic paint

14"

2026

The Haze Plush
Collaborative Project with Emma Kuhn

2026
14 inches
Fabric, stuffing, acrylic paint



The Haze Candy Pieces

Varied Size
2025

Stepah Boots





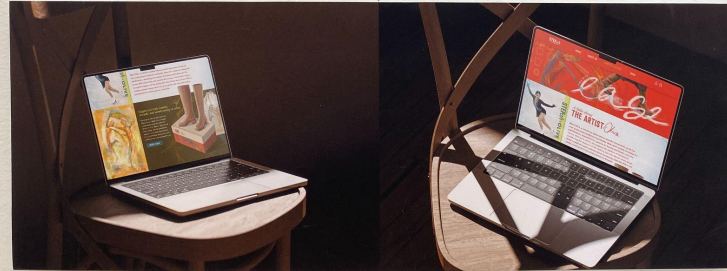
Stepah Boots

Door



Stepah Boots

Branding Material, Tags 2024



Stepah Boots

Branding Material
2024



Stepah Boots

Socks, Tags

2024

Crumby Day Crumbs





Crumby Day Crumbs

Branding Material, Dozen Box
Cupcake Box, Parchment
2023



Digital Illustrations













Other Works



Exper Goods



Exper Goods

Exper Goods

Exper Goods

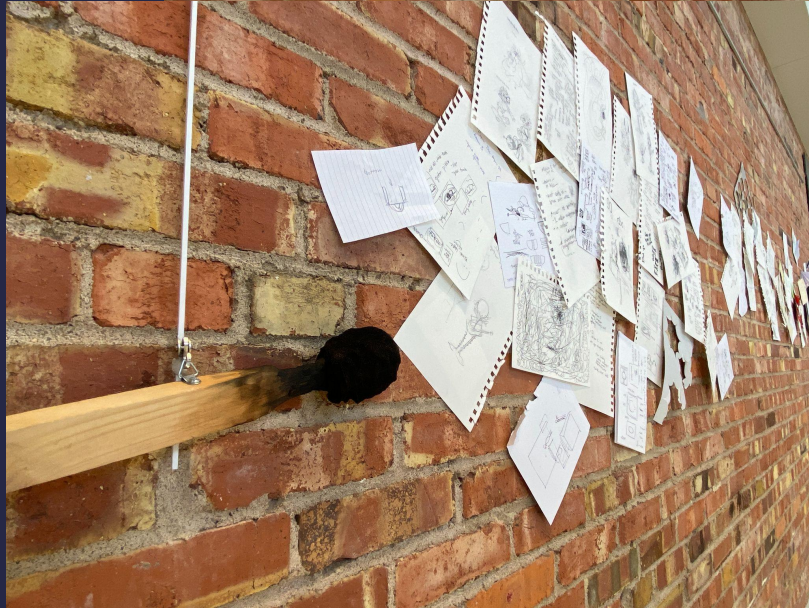








The Thought Process





FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S
MOSS-THORNS
GALLERY *of* ART

& The Patricia A. Schmidt Gallery Lobby

Department Chair

Karrie Simpson-Voth

Gallery Director

Colin Schmidtberger

Student Gallery Assistants

Toni Leiker

Elli Brandt

Izzy Dorner

Kelsey Kimbrel