

August 24 - September 11



PJ STAUFFER | DRAWING MFA THESIS EXHIBITION | **MOSS-THORNS GALLERY OF ART**

710 Park Street, Hays, KS

Reception

August 28, 6-8 PM

MT
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY'S
MOSS-THORNS
GALLERY of ART
785-628-4304

Thesis Statement

The human body is an interconnected web of flesh, nerves, bone, and electrical impulses dictated by genetics, experiences, atmosphere, memory, and pattern recognition. Our upbringing and capacity to empathize with the world around us influences how we operate in society- and if you deviate from the expectations thrust upon you, your life is going to be fundamentally different than those around you. We operate on emotional and evolutionary blueprints- our physical and mental wellbeing are delicately balanced aspects of life that can alter how you navigate society. So... what do you do when the environment around you isn't made for someone like you?

Your central nervous system can and **will implode** if you compartmentalize your feelings to cope with that incongruence. There is no *ignoring it*, it will find a way to resurface. Autoimmune conditions are misunderstood, and many are invisible yet they completely change you live your life. In some cases, there is no blueprint for how to deal with certain issues... like grief. The compositions incorporating the weaving of bodies, thread, DNA, and matchsticks act in conversation with each other. Our energy is finite, friction is inevitable, a chemical reaction can trigger a chain of events, and the ash remains as evidence. While time may take care of the ashes, the scorch marks will scar, shaping how you carry forward.

I create collages out of monoprints, gelli-plate body prints, cyanotypes, self-portraits, flocking, oil pastel, pan pastel, charcoal and ink to transfuse the literal and metaphorical layers of human experience.

Artist Statement

Growing up, I would draw to escape from the word and do something tactical with my hands. Now, I draw to ground myself to the present moment. The materials and subject matter I gravitate toward have shaped into subversive commentary on gender, grief, chronic pain, and memory. The continuous tangled compositions of the human figure reiterate how trauma can haunt you to the point it changes you on a molecular level.

I believe my art is simply a documentation of my life, which is heavily impacted by the fact that I am a transgender man who grew up in an unaccepting environment. The transgender body has been politicized and villainized in recent years. It seems everyone has something to say since society has taken it upon itself to rip apart and scrutinize every aspect of the transgender experience. Lucky you, I took the liberty of doing the hard work for you. This exhibition displays deeply personal and uncomfortable feelings through self-portraits with ripped, disfigured, mannequin-esque limbs to symbolize the effort it takes to put oneself back together. I have been told my work evokes discomfort. Good. Nothing about my life has been earned comfortably.

My art is just evidence of the fact I exist.







slingshot

Gelatin Plate Body Monoprint
2025



andro... with a touch of gin

Gelatin Plate Body Monoprint
2025



rumination

Gelatin Plate Body Monoprint
2024





Allegory of The Cave for Midwestern Queers

- What Happened
- Eikasia
- Dissonance

Charcoal, Pan Pastel

2026



don't reach back

Gelatin Plate Body monoprint
2025



self-preservation

Gelatin Plate Body Monoprint
2024



repeat

Gelatin Plate Body Monoprint
2025





ingrained

Gelatin Plate Body Monoprint
2026



scorched

Gelatin Plate Body Monoprint
2026





THAT SHIT HURT

Mixed Media Collage
2026

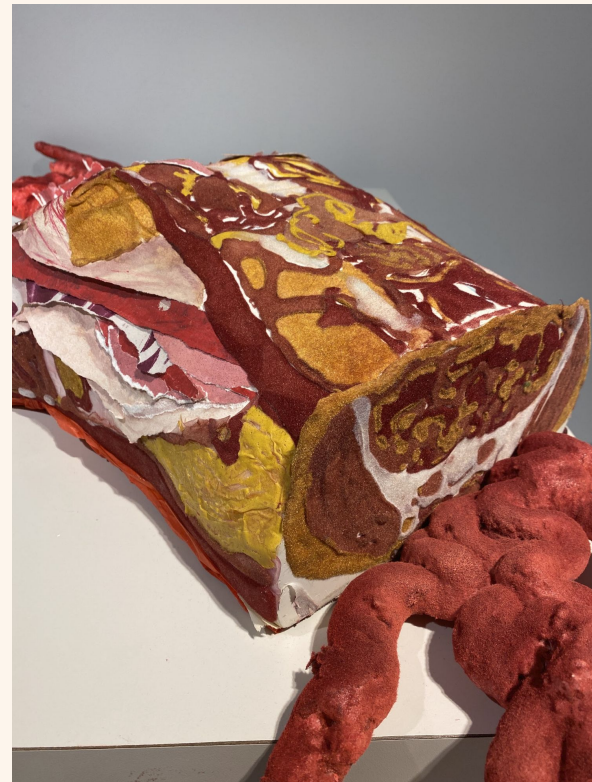




YOU ARE BEING WATCHED

Mystery Materials - Not Human Remains.
2026





PLUCKED BY SCAVENGERS

Flocking, Ink, Paper
2026





Interwoven

Matte Photo Prints, Flocking, Ink, Collage
2026



Rewired

Matte Photo Prints,
Flocking, Ink, collage
2026



Genetic Predisposition

Matte Photo Prints, Flocking,
Ink, Collage
2026





First Impressions

Matte Photo Prints,
Flocking, Ink, Collage
2026



Expectations

Matte Photo Prints,
Flocking, Ink, Collage
2026



Nonconformity

Matte Photo Prints,
Flocking, Ink, Collage
2026



Rejection

Matte Photo Prints,
Flocking, Ink, Collage
2026



Full Transparency

Matte Photo Prints,
Flocking, Ink, Collage
2026





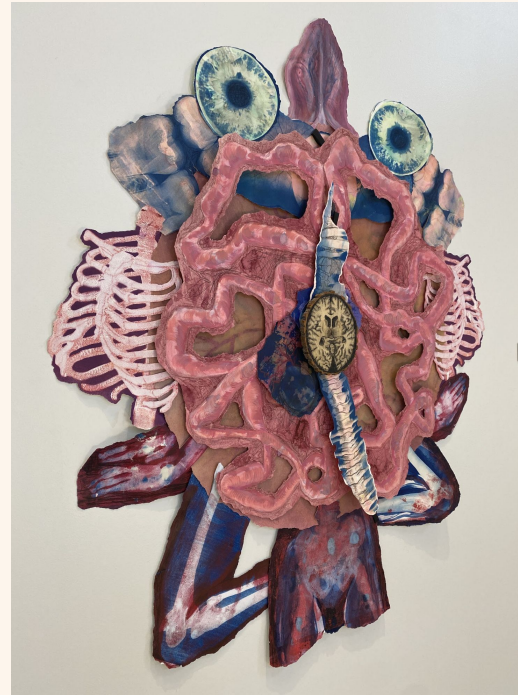
Ignite

Matte Photo Prints,
flocking, Ink, Collage
2026



***flesh and bone have memory!
you can try to ignore it!***

Cyanotypes, Gelatin Monoprints,
Suminagashi, Ink, Oil pastel
2025

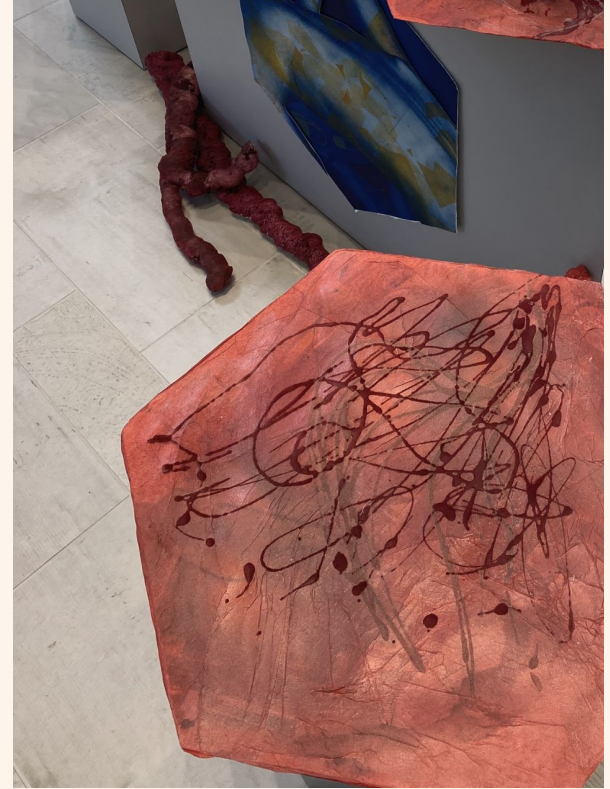
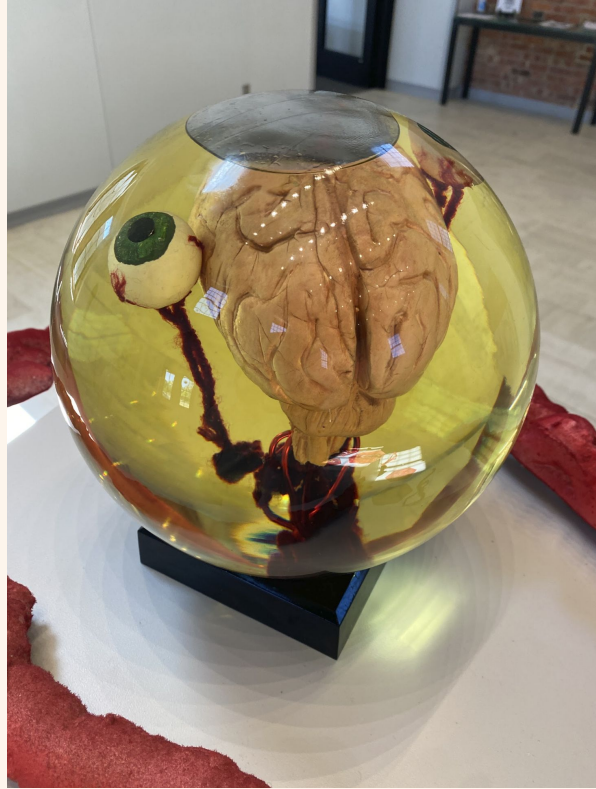




CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT

Mystery Material - Not Human Remains.
2026









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

& The Patricia A. Schmidt Gallery Lobby

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Karrie Simpson-Voth

Gallery Director

Colin Schmidtberger

Student Gallery Assistants

Toni Leiker

Elli Brandt

Izzy Dorner

Kelsey Kimbrel