

VIY LAHOWETZ

CRACKS IN THE GLASS:
2022 UNDERGRADUATE FINE ARTS
THESIS EXHIBITION



DEPS ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

MAY 12-JUNE 16, 2022

CRACKS IN THE GLASS: 2022 UNDERGRADUATE FINE ARTS THESIS EXHIBITION

cracks in the glass: 2022 Undergraduate Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition features the works of eleven BFA candidates in Columbia's Fine Arts program. The exhibition, which includes paintings, drawings, prints, books, video, performance and installation works, represents the culmination of four years worth of development of a cohesive body of work for each artist while earning their degrees.

Participating artists:

Lisette Chevalier
Micaela Felix
K.R. Fowler
Nadia Khan
Viy Lahowetz
Nicole Leung
Alexis Malone-Alvarado
Caroline Robinson
SEAH
CJ Shaw
Aleida Zapata

cracks in the glass: 2022 Undergraduate Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition is presented in conjunction with the Department of Exhibitions, Performance and Student Spaces (DEPS), the Art and Art History department, and Adam Brooks, Professor at Columbia College Chicago.

VIY LAHOWETZ

Viy is a multi-media artist, that has created works in a wide array of mediums. They feel the most drawn to the re-purposing of materials usually discarded. Their work focuses on the abject, the absurd, and that which rejects and refuses.

Viy is an interdisciplinary artist currently focused on papermaking.

Instagram: [@hotsackofbones](https://www.instagram.com/hotsackofbones)

Website: spookyspectacles18.wixsite.com/victoria



Untitled (triangle), 2022, handmade paper from scraps placed on repurposed canvas frame



Roach paper 2, 2022, handmade paper from trash produced by artist with embedded cockroach



Untitled (torn plastic), 2021, handmade paper from cotton with embedded plastic



Untitled (rip), 2022, handmade paper from trash produced
by artist



Brussel Sprout Paper, 2022, handmade paper from notebook paper, brussel sprouts, and kimchi



work in progress, 2022, handmade paper from trash produced by artist

INTERVIEW WITH VIY

Conducted by Kaylee Fowler

Kaylee Fowler: A lot of your work is made from trash, recycled, or found materials; why is re-purposing materials important to your practice, and how did you get started working this way?

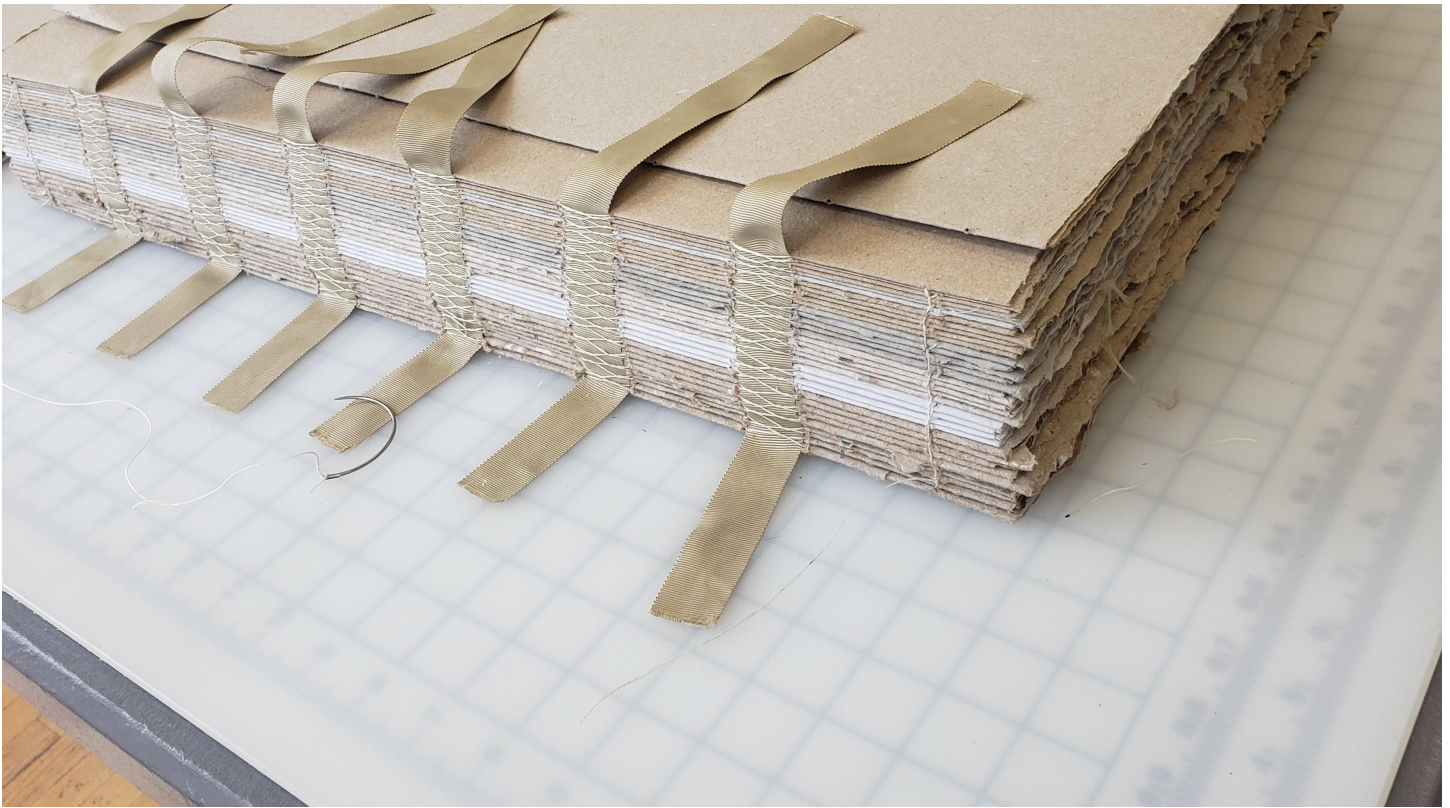
Viy Lahowitz: Repurposing materials is important to my practice because it's the history and materiality of objects that informs and inspires my work. It's experimenting with the things I already have around, finding the different ways it can be manipulated and formed. I've always been interested in the materiality of objects and the various ways they can be manipulated and transformed.

KF: Do your material choices affect the visual and conceptual aspect of a piece, and if so, how? Has the outcome of a materially driven piece ever surprised you?

VL: The materials I use always have some impact on the visual and conceptual aspect of a piece. When working on a piece I usually start with the material and through constant experimentation, I'm able to understand how it's made, moves, and can be manipulated from there I just let the material guide me and form itself. One of the great things about all of the work I've been doing with recycled paper is there is always a level of unpredictability. Specifically, what I've made out of the scrap bucket because each batch is so different and the mix of all the different fibers always creates a different result. One of the batches I did must have had more plant fiber in it because it's retained a wet earthly smell even after it's dried which was surprising.

KF: Conceptually, you focus on the abject and the absurd, and "that which rejects and refuses." What draws you to working with and exploring these themes, and how have they informed the way you approach your practice?

VL: Working with ideas of the abject, absurd, and what's rejected and refused always creates an opportunity for learning. Rather than just going with what I'm told, or the traditional ways of creating, I prefer moving forward and exploring on my own, doing things incorrectly and learning the hard way to figure out the best way to do things. It can be infuriating but it's almost always interesting.



THE DEPS ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

The DEPS Artist Profile Series presented by Columbia College Chicago's Department of Exhibitions, Performance and Student Spaces (DEPS), is a virtual publication on select artists involved with the DEPS Galleries and the Columbia College Chicago community. Our goal with this series is to connect artist and viewer on a deeper level, and to highlight the amazing works and thoughts of our featured artists through interviews, artist biographies, and catalogs of work. Art has always been a way to connect with others, no matter where one may physically be. We hope by presenting the creativity and insights of the people involved in the DEPS Artist Profile Series that viewers may have one more way to stay in touch with, and support the arts community. The DEPS Artist Profile Series is managed by Fine Arts major and DEPS Exhibitions Assistants Kaylee Fowler and Sierra Delamarter. Graphic design is managed by DEPS Exhibitions Assistant Gray Beyer. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Learn more at: colum.edu/deps

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