

2021 UNDERGRADUATE FINE ART THESIS EXHIBITION

DARBY JACK



DEPS ARTIST PROFILE SERIES

MAY 10 - MAY 26 2021

DETRITUS AND DESIRE: 2021 UNDERGRADUATE FINE ARTS THESIS EXHIBITION

Detritus and Desire: the 2021 Undergraduate Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition features the works of four BFA candidates in Columbia's Fine Arts program. The exhibition, which includes drawings, prints, books, video, performance, and installation, represents the culmination of four years' worth of development of a cohesive body of work for each artist while earning their degrees. Taking place at C33 Gallery during Columbia's Manifest festival, this edition of the DEPS Artist Profile series is a way to connect audiences with the artists of the exhibition and give you an in-depth look into the processes and ideas that have informed this body of work.

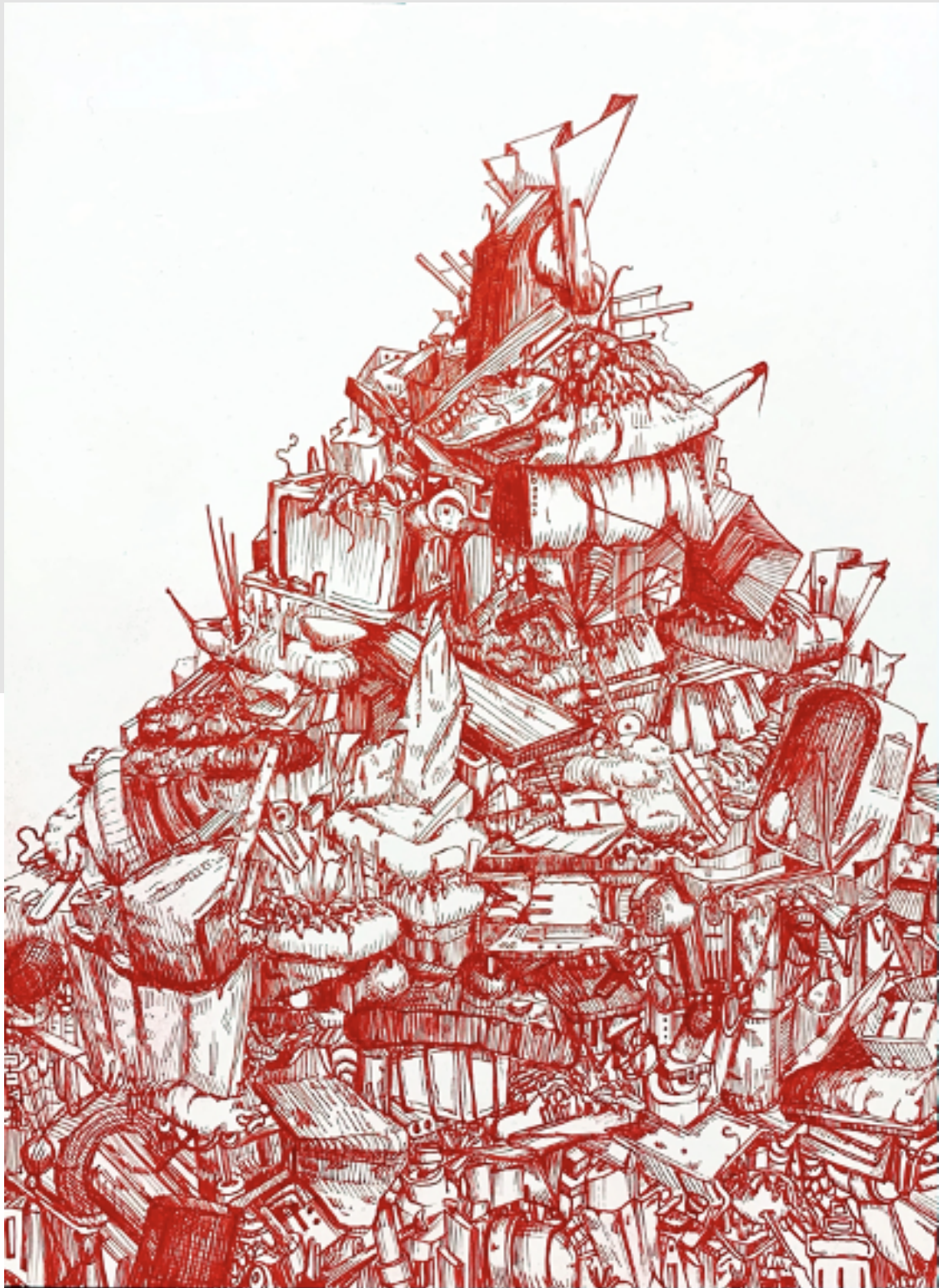
Participating Artists: Darby Jack, iph, Amanda Adela, and Miranda Randel

DARBY JACK

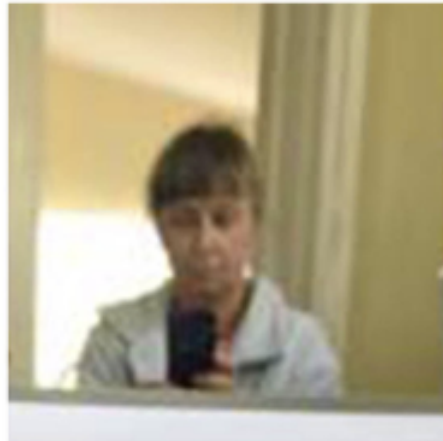
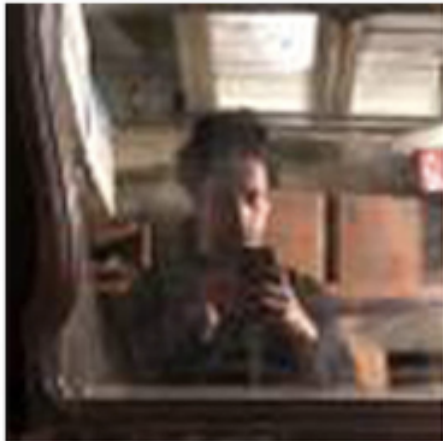
Hoard is an ephemeral work that elaborates on Darby Jack's trash pile drawings. The piece consists of a large, abstract, pencil drawing of an assemblage of different shapes and fictitious objects that are inspired from litter that Jack documents on long walks around the city of Chicago. It was drawn directly onto the wall and is meant to only last for the duration of the BFA exhibition. The fleeting nature of this piece is meant to reflect the constant transformation of consumer goods into garbage which are often "out of sight and out of mind" once they are tossed away. Jack uses documentation of litter he finds as influence for pieces of the pile, all of which have their own unique design and way of existing in the larger accumulation. The familiar shape of the garbage pile is meant to draw the viewer in to search for any sort of familiar articles in the larger work. Hoard is also meant to act as an abstract portrait of Chicago using the idea that a city's trash is an unfiltered reflection of its accumulators.

Darby Jack makes paintings, videos, and drawings. With the use of materials that are largely associated with children, he creates a feeling of childhood nostalgia within the work, regardless of what the subject matter may be. These recognizable elements confront the viewer with how they are conditioned to think about materials and make room for the viewer to recall memories that may be lost in one's past. Jack uses found imagery to reference texts and media which have largely existed only in American subculture. By manipulating familiar imagery into unique combinations, new narratives are created and are waiting to be discovered by the viewer. Playful means of creating and the abject underbelly of counterculture are combined causing a conflict between the categories. Darby Jack currently lives and works in Chicago.

DarbyJack.com



Axis Mundi, 2021
Ink on paper



Selection of four Photographs from the publication *Craigslist*, 2020
Found photograph zine



Pile, 2021
Ink on paper



Large Pile, 2021
Pen on paper

INTERVIEW WITH DARBY JACK

Conducted by Kaylee Fowler

Kaylee Fowler: You state that with your work you hope to evoke feelings of childhood nostalgia, regardless of what the subject matter may be. What is some of the interest for you in evoking this feeling, even if it is not reflected in the subject matter directly? What's the power of evoking memory in a work for the viewer? How does this intersect with ideas about the intention of the artist and what interpretation viewers bring to a work?

Darby Jack: I think I, like many people, have a lot of anxiety about the current condition of the world around us. There is kind of a blissful ignorance of being younger and not worried about real world problems. When I was younger, I was interested in cartoons and comic books which have a very distinct visual language that they use to tell stories. However, much of my own visual language has been developed by avidly digging through media that exists on the web. With this nearly infinite resource, I'm able to tap not only into my own nostalgia but the nostalgia of others as well, using similar techniques and tools that those artists use, to talk about subject matter that is important to me today. Often this allows me to access much deeper parts of people's interests as well as my own.

KF: Your work for this exhibition, Hoard, uses piles of trash as imagery, and is an ephemeral piece. How does this project intersect with the other themes you explore in your work, and what are you hoping for viewers to take away from this work?

DJ: These drawings are large, abstract, trash piles drawn with utensils that I find on the ground. It seemed only necessary that the drawing also exist as trash. Meticulously formed and delicately produced, but ultimately tossed away, much like the meticulously designed and produced trash that we are always surrounded by.

KF: What are some of the unique challenges you face as a multi-disciplinary artist and how do you meet them? Is there ever any conflict for you in translating the themes and ideas you use into different mediums?

DJ: The medium comes secondary to whatever concept I'm trying to convey. It's just a tool and every idea requires a different tool. Sometimes ideas can use similar tools but the constant through-line between my work is that it is from my head and therefore I am reflected in that work.

KF: What is something you are looking forward to in the future, and what directions do you hope to take your practice as time goes on?

DJ: I have no idea what I'm doing next week much less years from now. I'm looking forward to trying to create a place for myself in the art community, I have no idea what that will look like at the moment. I've been lucky enough to execute a few projects, at Columbia, that I am proud of and would love to expand upon.

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 Assistant Kaylee Fowler. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Learn more at colum.edu

C33 Gallery
33 Ida B Wells Dr, 1st Floor, Chicago, IL 60605
Gallery Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Capacity of gallery is 10 visitors, and masks are required.

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