

Lauren Grant Undergraduate Student, Fine Art

Artist Statement

The dominant themes that emerge from my work are brokenness and transformation. The work recounts the process of finding strength through acknowledging weakness. I am drawn to details I find in mundane scenery and objects that are damaged. These are things I encounter daily such as cracked cement, peeling paint, crumpled trash, and so on. These flaws, which are alterations from an original state, are what captivate me; the patterns of line I discover within an image often seem beautifully purposeful. I select these patterns and transform them into a fresh creation that relies on and celebrates the flaws.

Two-dimensionally, I use various drawing material to interpret my own photographic images, bringing out the element of line. In my most recent work I use paper to carve out patterns of line and display them beneath light, casting a secondary element of less tangible, complex shadows. The white forms embody the flaws as they are encountered by light and given an underlying purpose. I strive to express the tension I feel in my own struggles and weaknesses, contrasted with a sense of calm acceptance, one that leads me to understand I was not meant to be my own source of stability.

The idea of brokenness is essential to my identity and work; I long to continually remain humbled to the point of only receiving strength and life from outside of myself. I have encountered vast transformation from coming to know Christ and understanding the sacrifice he made for me; that he died for me even while I completely rejected him. The only way I now find life in God is by abandoning my pride and coming to him utterly broken and helpless. The overall concept of this current work can be wrapped up in this quote from Watchman Nee:

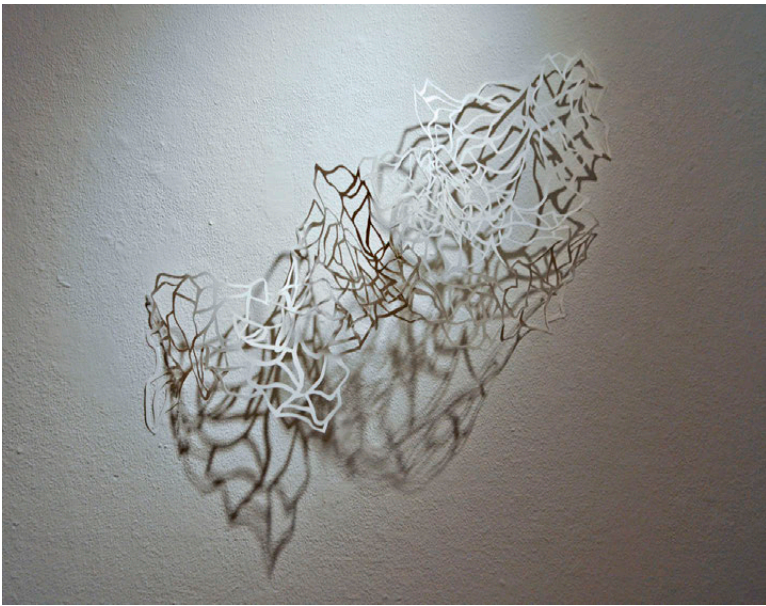
“There is no one more beautiful than the one who is broken! Stubbornness and self-love give way to beauty in one who has been broken by God.”



Cohesion, 2011, Watercolor, pastel, 18" x 24"



Endless, 2012, mylar, colored pencil, 12" x 18"



Momentary Affliction; Eternal Glory, 2012, paper and acrylic paint, 24" x 30"



Fragility Sustained, 2012, paper, (dimensions unknown)

