**THE RUBICON - MAY 2023** 



Junior Art show: earth, insects, unease, daytime and night. May 17 - Jun. 2 [Drake Gallery]



THE RUBICON

The Advanced Art Seminar opened up to the junior class this year, opposed to being only for seniors, as it has been in the past. US Fine Arts teacher Spencer Legendre-Gillespie was a part of this decision to open up the class to all upperclassmen. "The juniors have an opportunity to learn what [a gallery show] looks like so they can prepare for next year," they said.

However, the teachers play a small role compared to the artists themselves, who orchestrate the majority of creative direction and planning. The biggest decision for artists was to decide upon a theme that united their artwork. They settled on "Between Light and Dark" Ceramics student Clare Kimmel enjoyed working with students from different mediums. "It was great collaborating with [everyone]. We just started throwing out ideas and light and dark just stuck," Kimmel said.



**DIGITAL ARCHIVE PHOTO**: Clara Ann Bagnoli

**FLY ON THE WALL.** "A delicate balance between fragility and strength," Clare Kimmel. These bug sculptures are supposed to be representative of the bugs Kimmel finds in her house.

For others, the theme is more personal. Video arts student Dashiell Horstman used photography to take self-portraits. "My inspiration was the feeling of unease ... so in my photos you can't actually see me," Horstman said. "I also use a lot of darkness in my photos to represent [the unease]."

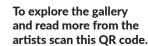
For some, light and dark as a theme is more literal. Ceramics student Mikkel Rawdon created bowls with differing glaze colors to represent elements found in nature such as rocks, dirt and moss. Similarly, Kimmel is constructing ceramic bugs inspired by the stink bugs she finds in her home. "Bugs come out in the dark, but I have one black stink bug and the rest are all bright for when they come out into the light]," she said.

2D art student Jane Higgins captured the intimate mundanity of day-to-day life via still-life paintings on canvas. In her first piece, she painted her bedroom in the darkness of night. In her second she shows growing up with a side-by-side of her bathroom vanity in daylight, one still from childhood, and one

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT. Dashiell Horstman, despite not being overtly visible, hides themselves in each of their photographs. They mentioned, "I did this to amplify the feeling of unease already present with the lighting and mood."

DIGITAL ARCHIVE PHOTO: Clara Ann Bagnoli







still from the present. "I think that change in life is the gray area between light and dark," Higgins said.

As visitors walk into the gallery, they are greeted to the left by an inviting couch with a collection of video art student Griffin Schwab-Mahoney's photographs of his family, edited to look like they had been taken on a disposable camera. "My family is the most important thing to me, and my artwork reflects that," Schwab-Mahoney said. "During my dark times, my family brings me light."

While on the couch, visitors can also sit back and watch Carys Hardy's short film. The film follows a hopeless narrator during the winter months only to encounter a personified version of spring in her house. "The narrator's hope is rekindled and it is about finding light after being in the dark," Hardy said.

Siri Pattison used light directly in her pieces. Pattison's medium is paper clay, which is a product of slip clay and shredded paper. When placed in the kiln the paper burns away, leaving a membrane-like sculpture, allowing sun rays to project through her pieces onto the floor during the day. "I used [a new medium] as an exploration rather than something that had to be perfect," Pattison said. "[The pieces] reflect trying to occupy the space in between and realizing you can't live in polarity," she said.

"Between Light and Dark" will be the final show in the Drake Gallery for this year.