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Company: Finding the Eternal in the Mundane

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Antonia Barolini- Lawrence

Senior Project Artist Statement

“All my life, my heart has sought something I cannot name” ~-Sylvia Plath

Ever since childhood I have been enchanted by my peers. As a result my senior project revolves around my company at Bard. My senior year started with me quickly snapping pictures of fellow students as they went about their days. I was mostly interested in trying to capture them in intimate and lonely moments. The type of moments when someone believes they are going through life unnoticed. I was drawn to these particular moments because the nuances of a person's feelings and thoughts seemed to become clearer during these moments. I started off with small figurative studies of students eating, chatting, smoking, checking their phones, and even sleeping. Then I began to ask people I knew if I could paint portraits of them, because I wanted to challenge myself and endeavor to capture the inner universe of someone when they knew they were being seen. Through the process of painting so many different people, some I knew very well and others I had never spoken to, I became extremely fascinated with others and my own subjectivity. My deepest subconscious thoughts seemed to be revealed through the paint while I tried to uncover others thoughts and feelings. I began to experiment with the idea that maybe subconsciously I was trying to show the thought processes of my muses in the way that I painted their facial features. If the person seemed to be thinking in a more rigid manor I painted the features in a more compartmentalized style. If the subject was thinking in a more emotional way I painted the face with a sweeping flow in the brush strokes.

As the year progressed I felt myself getting better at withdrawing from conscious thought, and instead letting the movement of my body be guided solely by my intuition. When creating, I feel it is essential to let go of the human constructs which I impose upon reality, and rather throw myself into the nameless domain of feeling and intuition. In this realm my mind's vision is no longer clouded by labels and false structure. I feel reality for how chaotic it truly is. This chaos and endless movement, that has the façade of simplicity, is the platform for every type of creation. To create I need to dip into pure darkness and return to tell the tale. I reach a trance-like state when I paint, and this state I experience is similar to the state I see in people when they are enveloped by moments of loneliness. When a person is overcome by a profound feeling of being apart their thoughts begin to fragment and decay within them allowing a shimmer of the eternal to shine through their skin. To me the mysterious feeling of loneliness is not only a passionate feeling of being apart but also a seeking and yearning to be together with all that is indescribable with words- the eternal. Loneliness is an intangible pulse that threads through all life. The final product of my senior project became me striving to paint, capture, and reflect this rhythm back to the viewer. In hopes to remind us we are all connected to each other and thus never alone.







































