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## In Mediation and Expanse

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# In Mediation and Expanse

Senior Project Submitted to  
The Division of The Arts of Bard College  
By  
Sage Nelson

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York May 2024

This exhibition, 'In Mediation and Expanse,' utilizes commonly recognized symbols such as animals, nature, and the figure to explore how imagined and remembered imagery can unveil an inner world that seeks to be tangible. As I work, images surface from the subconscious mind through a process of intuitive creation and self granted freedom. While there is an immense amount of agency in the hand of an artist, I believe there is a greater force from within that points the artist to an idea they may not have considered.

In the curation of images, ambiguous narratives come to light, creating opportunities for the reflection of our memories. In the process of making sense of our experiences and knowledge, there is a system of mediation that is innate to us all. It's the voice inside your head that contemplates the value of a thought or memory and whether or not we wish to make something of it, or hold it close. The result of such contemplation is expansion; when imposed in the creative process. In these paintings I have created safe spaces for myself to move in and out of as I work and reflect, and hopefully others as they view. In every piece I am experiencing something new as I simultaneously begin to understand the experiences in my life that have led me to make such a thing.

I find the interaction between humanity and nature consistently intriguing and surprising. Beyond the more evident and upsetting aspects of these interactions, such as land development or extracting resources, there remains a means of connection that should be cherished and respected. My most memorable interactions with the world at a young age took place in wheat fields, rolling hills, or swimming in the river. It was here I first realized the opportunities of my imagination in times when I felt I needed to get away for a moment.

The symbols we are taught to utilize in order to understand the world as children, as well as the ones that we choose to cling to as we gain conscious agency with age, are everywhere. Whether through direct contact or mere subtle proximity, we are able to connect to people, places, and things through a flow of universal energy, often in a reflective manner. Everything you look at is looking back at you. The closer I look at my work, the more evident the dream-like aspect of my mind becomes.

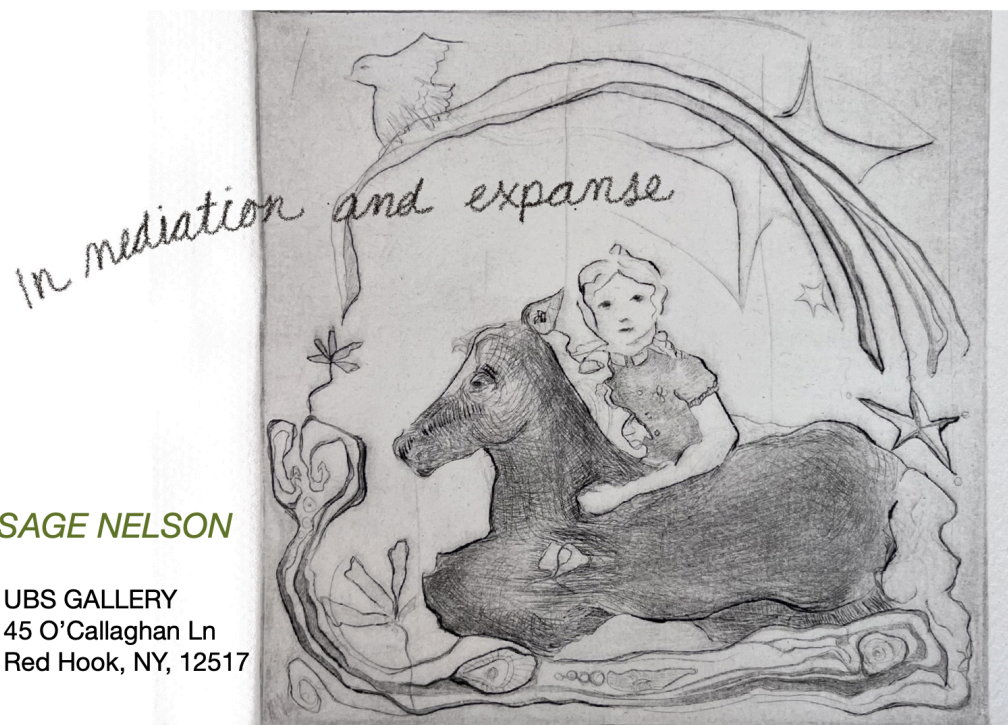
### A Quick word and acknowledgements:

I remember the dirt and grime deeply embedded beneath my fingernails after spending hours playing in the hole in the ground that would soon be my home. My father's masterpiece would take shape as an environmentally conscious, partially underground work of art. Every detail of his architecture emitted a certain energy with the meticulous craftsmanship in each room, making the structure feel so close to my heart. As the house became a home, my mother established her studio at the end of the hall. As a self-taught silversmith, she crafted jewelry to be sold in her boutique in downtown Walla Walla, Washington. I can still hear the roaring boom of pounding metal in the late afternoon as she instilled her authentic essence into every intricate bend of metal and setting of obscure, beautiful stone. My parents' artistry has evoked a strong desire in me to create in the same risk-taking manner.

To my family, for being not only my mentors but my friends as well,  
their boundless support in exploring my creativity and pursuing my passions,  
and teaching me the importance of respect and love for nature

To my dear friends for sharing their love, magic, and inspiring me everyday

And to brief encounters for the lessons, guidance, and expansion



**SAGE NELSON**

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OPENING May 4th, 2024 4:00- 7:00 PM

ON VIEW May 4th- 18th



