

This show will primarily explore the concept of nurturing individuality when autonomy is suppressed. For several years I have been creating stream-of-consciousness drawings and writings to process my emotions. My drawings depict themes of power imbalance, the epitome of which is the image of a dagger piercing liquid, a rite performed in my wedding ceremony, representing the *masculine* dominating the *feminine*. I want to turn that image on its head, and show the power of softness. I will draw upon my experience regarding the psychological and spiritual impact of my experience in an abusive marriage. I want to note that there will be no depictions of domestic or sexual violence, but there will be allusions to power struggles using non-objective forms.. I would like to take the forms in my drawings and create large, fleshed-out paintings that keep the viewer engaged with bold colors and ambiguous, but suggestive, imagery. My aim is to call attention to the outdated and arbitrary nature of "masculine" versus "feminine energies".

For example, currently, preparatory drawings feature a fluid form (symbolizing the feminine) surmounting its rigidly-shaped counterpart. Moving on, I will create a pink color field painting of a considerable scale accompanied by a poem which I wrote about the color years ago. The relation of text and the color pink comes from past personal experience. When I would feel scared or dissociated, I would meditate on the color pink, and it has become a solace. Likewise, it represents the vitality and strength of femininity. This piece will draw from Mark Rothko's massive canvases, with the intention that the viewer could sit and meditate on the pink for hours. This piece will have a low-relief sculptural element as well. I have developed a process utilizing different kinds of expanding insulation foam. My goal with the sculptural element and color choice is that the viewer may mentally rest in front of it. I will contrast the more foreboding images with messages of hope using words, as well as colors, textures, and shapes.

In total, I will be producing two new paintings, and will feature five, digitally-printed creative writing pieces as well as a 48" x 48" painting that was completed in 2017. The first painting will consist of eight wooden boards that will come together to form one modular piece. The second painting will be made using a combination of watercolor paper and foam core that I will obtain on my own. In the budget sheet, I have added wood, foam, and paint.

The drive to express these ideas came to fruition after reading "Man's Search for Meaning" by Viktor Frankl, therefore, I will also create a small poster or flier-like printout with a quote from Frankl and/or reference the facets of logotherapy in relation to the rest of the work. If accepted, I will contact Eric Snyder to reserve Gallery 210 for two weeks in November. I will contact MTSU Counseling Services and Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Center (and possibly other organizations) to obtain cards and/or printouts of available resources to place near the exit should any visitors benefit from those resources. There will be floral imagery suggestive of vulvas, but no violence will be depicted in either images or words. Furthermore, I will discuss the possibility of a content warning with my mentor before and after the work is completed.