

Student Check-In: Sam Minrath Video Transcript

Hi, my name's Sam Minrath and I'm a BA here in the Hite program. I'm actually from Louisville, and I decided to stay over a few different options of colleges just because I love the program here. I got the opportunity to meet some professors and students that are in the program, and I just connected with them on such a stronger level than any other program across the country. I received the Mary Spencer Nay Scholarship my freshman year which was a really big push for me to continue my art experience and stuff because I was kind of hesitant on whether or not I should keep going with art. The next two years I was very pleased to receive the Hite scholarships as well. It just aided me in my push to keep being an artist and to keep experimenting with different things, and I really grew as an artist, and still am.

Before I came to the program here, I was strictly 2D, and almost strictly colored pencil in my medium choice. I was against doing anything else. I hated paint, I didn't like anything sculptural, or anything like that. It was very realistic, and I was into reflective surfaces so I was just prone to that. But once I was here, being in the BA program you're forced to take different types of art classes, so when I realized there were other forms and I took a methods class, it opened my eyes to different forms of expressing myself through different mediums and stuff like that. That's my main purpose in my art is to express myself, and connect people through that part, and opening up to different horizons was such a great opportunity for me.

So my first project that I really explored different horizons of art was during that concepts and methods of art class. What I did was I took a white comforter, like a plain white one and I did a little bit of performance art with it, which was big outside of my comfort zone, but I was encouraged to experiment. I painted my body with paint and laid down on the white comforter to leave obviously a mark but it was actually red paint so it left a stain. From there, it was to represent sexual violence. Women's issues have been a pretty big, annoying theme in a lot of my art, ever since high school or before I came into this program, so I really wanted to push it forward and keep expanding on it and processing it myself and to help other people process it as well. When I finished the painting part of it, I turned it into that class and presented it. People liked it, I liked it, but I wasn't sure if I wanted it to be finished so I kind of let it just sit and settle with myself. Over the summer, I was like oh, I'm going to try another one, I really liked this class so I went into a fibers class, which was a big step for me. From my drawing and mainly 2D. From there, I was like, comforter is a fiber so maybe I can expand on it a little bit more. What I did was take an outfit, and I ripped out everything but the seams of an outfit and sewed it onto the comforter on top of that stain to make it kind of seem like more of a person instead of an abstract blot. On the leftover fabric I wrote, "Who am I now?" which kind of represents the lasting effect that this sort of sexual violence can have on a person. It doesn't explain but it gives a little bit of a thought toward someone who maybe hasn't experienced it to what it is like. After I turned it in, it really generated a lot of conversation. I was like, okay, maybe I can share this with more people, so I reached out to the PEACC center here, and I got an amazing opportunity to present this piece at Take Back The Night on campus. We set it up in a bed frame and

everything. It was a very jaw dropping, kind of silent almost peace, which was very cool to be able to have a lasting effect on not just my class and myself but also the society around us.

In my time here, I've experimented a lot and I attribute that to this program, and because of the experimentation I've grown so much as an artist. I attribute that to the program, but also the professors here. Before I came in, my art teachers and people that came back to me that were in college, were like art's so scary in college, it's so different. Here, it was kind of eye opening, it was not like that at all. I loved my professors. I wouldn't say they were like friends, because that's kind of odd, but they're almost like friends. You can come to them with anything and they're open with all of your ideas, they help you through them. If you want to learn something new that's outside of the curriculum they almost always will be like absolutely, and they'll stay after hours with you and help you through your project to get it to be what you want it to be.

After I finish my degree here, I aspire to be an art therapist. I really want to start my own therapy program, doing different types of progressional therapy. Animal therapy, music therapy, art therapy, all of the above. Art for me has been a way to express my feelings because I have a hard time, and I know a lot of people have a really hard time expressing themselves through words.