

2019-2020 Outstanding Project Award Winner Rebecca Waring-Crane



As a Studio Art major, Rebecca Waring-Crane’s master’s project included an art exhibition and written artist’s statement. Called *Stories I’m Telling Myself*, her MFA project revisited the stories she unconsciously told herself during her childhood and challenged their meaning; she did the hard work of self-exploration and inward contemplation, then expressed her findings through physical artworks for display. In her artist’s statement, she wrote:

“My art serves as a form of agency as I seek to understand and find the humanity in those stories—the humor, awkwardness, bravery, shame, kindness, grief. In retelling stories, I also tap into the quiet power that comes with the practice of looking intently and listening deeply to narratives that often go unexamined, unchallenged.”

Her pieces include a three-legged chair kept upright by a bronze human arm titled Mom; a child’s swing, the seat layered with fiberglass insulation, cardboard, and soap titled: Swing: Learning the Cost of Self-Knowing and Pleasure; and Family Portrait, a “family” of glass measuring cups that are all alike and yet so very different.

Her artwork examines the theme of family and childhood, and how our interpretation of childhood experiences color our adult lives.

“This exhibit is for the general public and speaks to viewers who relate to childhood trauma that breaks no laws, leaves no bruises, and often goes unnamed. The mood of the work is awkward, mind your step, loneliness—which is how I often felt as a child. It also implies the power of reparenting the self, and the agency of being a witness to the wounded child in each of us.”

Waring-Crane says that telling stories through art will continue to be central to her work. Her upcoming projects include communicating the experiences of those affected by the prison system. She is also gathering information for artwork about her neighbors. We look forward to learning more about her projects in the coming years.