2020-21 SUNY Pride Photographic Submissions

0012 Who Wears the Pants?
Digital Photography, 2019
Morgan Paul, College of Ceramics, Alfred University

0012 About the work
This work was one of in a series where I played with layering patterns to accentuate my androgyny. The 32 x 42-inch print is normally hung at eye level, where the viewer must confront the figure, but cannot easily identify their gender.

0012 Perspective
My time at Alfred University was probably the first time that I began seriously questioning my gender, and it was as if a part of me had finally clicked into place. As a Queer individual in an art school setting, I was trying to find ways to communicate my personal experience with gender and identity to those around me. This fed directly into my artistic practice and the works I’ve created for the past two years. While my works are self-portrait based, I believe they represent the LGBTQI community by showing that discovering yourself can be a playful and celebratory process as much as it can be a serious one. My works are heavily introspective, but I’ve also taken great joy in making them and adorning myself in the patterns I use to display my androgyny. By making work where the viewer can’t readily identify the gender of the subject, I wanted to show my personal experience and also provide a point of connection to others who feel similarly about their gender.

0021 Metamorphosis
Digital photography, 2019
Paula Villota, Fashion Institute of Technology

0021 About the work
Inspired by the "Merode Altarpiece" (An announcement tripych) by Robert Campin, Eadward Muybridge's "Girl walking towards woman holding a flower," and the 19th-century typologies, I took studio portraits and photographed the transformation process of some of New York City’s Drag Queens, in a way a butterfly goes through the cycle of "Metamorphosis."

0034 18th Century Drag
Digital Photograph, 2018
Massimo Avanzato, Fashion Institute of Technology
0035 Hector and Lance
Digital Photograph, 2020
Massimo Avanzato, Fashion Institute of Technology

0035 About the work
Portrait of a gay couple I met at New Year’s Eve party in Tucson, Arizona. Hector is studying fine art in San Diego, and his partner, Lance, is a real estate agent in San Diego.

0035 Perspective
My art has always been a means to somehow figure out all the pieces of my identity. Photography has been an outlet to not only further explore my sexuality and gender identity in private, but to then share these images as a way to be seen. SUNY and the supportive teacher’s I’ve had at FIT has allowed me the space to further examine these themes. Through my art, I hope to break the social norms of what has been and bring light to a Queer narrative and the future of the world: the future is fluid, open, and Queer!

0039 Getting into Drag
Photography, 2020
Yuwan Llano, SUNY Fredonia

0039 About the work
Getting into the artform of Drag literally by becoming the elements that it takes to create a Drag persona. Through my Drag persona of Fallon Angel, I am able to blend the worlds of different artistic mediums from makeup, fashion, photography, dance, and beyond.

0039 Perspective
In a Filipino household, art is at the core of our daily living. My surroundings have always been enriched with a deep respect for my Filipino culture through paintings on the wall, music playing in the background, movie nights, to the cuisine. I have found beauty and a fascination with pageantry, especially with the huge fanbase in the Philippines. I longed to be on the stage of Miss Universe, to experience the high hair, the makeup, the dresses, and all the glamour. It was never in my thoughts that that could actually be me. Through the art of Drag I can be that Miss Universe figure I always longed to be. My Drag persona Fallon Angel is the accumulation of my representation growing up from film, television, and theatre. My culture and pride are at the forefront of who I am as a Drag artist and I hope to break boundaries through my platform.
0040 Purple
Photography, 2019
Eric Afflerbach, SUNY New Paltz

0040 About the work
This work centers on a fear that I had in showing my naked body in front of the camera. In working this photograph, I realized that I only felt comfortable showing myself if I manipulated both the color of the photo and my body through copying and pasting my form over and over again, distorting myself slightly.

0041 Yellow
Photography, 2019
Eric Afflerbach, SUNY New Paltz

0041 Perspective
My sexuality has been a source of shame and fear ever since I realized that I was not straight. This has informed my work in how I portray myself in my work. I often make self-portraits which depict myself in a way that allows for me to take control over how I am seen, which empowers me in ways that I often haven’t felt in the past. My work therefore represents the resilience of the LGBTQI community and how we persevere by reclaiming the power of identity and self that can sometime be lost to us by intolerance and ignorance.