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Beyond Boundaries-Interacting with Unfamiliar Material

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BEYOND BOUNDARIES-INTERACTING WITH UNFAMILIAR MATERIAL

by

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for graduation with Honors in the Art, Studio

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All requirements for graduation with Honors in the
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Beyond Boundaries-Interacting with Unfamiliar Material

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Throughout my experience at the University of Iowa, as art student, I have more focused on how materials form in different visual language. During my final semester, I made a shift to Sculptural work and interested in materials. Instead of drawing on a paper, I psychologically and physically interacted with found materials. With these ideas, my overall goal for this project was to experiment with screen print that I had never done that before. Instead of having a plan to have a print, I depended on what new medium and materials would influence on me.

My focus for this project is more interaction with the process and materials. Without any instruction, I shadowed my friend taking silkscreen class. Throughout the semester, I learned how to expose the image on the screen, how to make CMYK layers to have photo-realistic image, and how to draw directly on the screen. Whenever I learned fundamental technique, I made own result that I could understand what would work on my experiment. My purpose to make a print is to investigate how I interacted with new techniques with new materials. Instead of transferring my drawn image on the screen, I looked around to find material that was discarded. I found a photo based image that was already digitalized. It was discarded that left in the class. I made a composition with a ready-made image. I made one specific color and tried on different types of papers to see how I reacted from the final image. It created an idea for the next image that I wanted to put on. I added a layer of repeated lines with contrast colors of a background. It looked okay, but at that time, I just learned how to draw directly on the screen, that I wanted to try more experiment on the print. I drew the straight lines on the screen and used dark green color that I was expecting something natural but it did not turn out well as much as I expected. I was very disappointed at my result. I was taking my time from my works. Few days later, I came back and see how those images did make sense to me. There are 6 screen prints that I could do experiment. I cut them into pieces with different size to see how those pieces made their own images. I changed compositions a lot from images and I ended up having 6 final pieces that I liked. At that time, I also found printed image that was also trashed for a while. I also cut them into some fragments and tried to match them to the pieces of prints. To find voice from two different materials and images was, at the first glance, hard for me. However, the more I played with those pieces, the more I understood the relationship between materials and the process themselves. The beginning was about learning new techniques from different medium but I ended up playing with all different materials that I both made and found from silkscreen.

Throughout the project, Not only did I learned new techniques I desired for a long time but also I saw myself to interact with them. My focus has been materials and interaction with them, so this experience was the moment that created the atmosphere that I would work on more.