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Connective Collective

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CONNECTIVE COLLECTIVE

by

Stacy Craft

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

Terry Conrad
Thesis Mentor

Spring 2019

All requirements for graduation with Honors in the
Art, Studio have been completed.

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Stacy Craft
Spring 2019
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Connective Collective is a visual manifesto. The goal of this research project is to communicate my life's point of view, showcasing ways in which I've been able to combat fears and anxieties. I wanted to create a research project that would allow me to expand my silkscreen knowledge and capabilities while sharing with the world my recipe for overcoming life struggles.

I began my process by conducting manifesto research and quickly found things to avoid such as, long winded text and condescending tones. I wanted to focus on communicating with my audience from an empathetic perspective while infusing a supportive imagery around the bodies of text. As the words came together, I began to design the layout of the text positive in Adobe Illustrator. The positive was printed on a transparent paper then used to expose the text into a silkscreen. After preparing the text, I began to sketch ideas for supportive imagery. Since the text of the manifesto focuses on connective networks, I decided to illustrate fungi and their mycelium. Remaining true to my illustrative style which appears very soft and fluid, I chose to use a black stabilo pencil on frosted mylar to create the fungi and mycelium positive. Finally, a third positive was created by carefully dripping a toner wash onto a sheet of frosted mylar then setting the toner in an acetone containment system for 5 minutes. Once I was satisfied with the way the 3 positives were exposed into the silkscreens, I began to print. Using an ivory Fabriano Rosaspina paper, I printed a variable edition of 25 prints. I started with a black ink base layer for the text, establishing alignment and orientation on the paper. My next layer was the fungi and mycelium silkscreen which was also printed in a black ink. Moving onto the toner silkscreen, I chose to liven things up a bit with metallic pigments. I used two different colors of pigment in a double split fountain. I used a purple metallic pigment on the outsides of the print and a peach metallic pigment on the center of the print. The double split fountain had a very abrupt transitions from one pigment to the next at the beginning of my print run, but after a while the pigments began to blend together beautifully creating a more subtle transition. I enjoyed the subtle transition, so I decided to print 3 layers of the double split fountain alone. Finally, I printed one last layer of metallic pigment over the black text. By mixing a small amount of black ink with an emerald metallic pigment and a mocha metallic pigment I was able to give the text some subtle highlights.

Working through the process of creating a visual manifesto was intense. I expected to struggle more with the double split fountain toner silkscreen, but that portion of the process felt most intuitive. I also expected to breeze through the writing process which I ended up struggling with for a long time. Although the process didn't go as expected, I am very happy with the results. This manifesto is much more than a research project for me. Connective Collective strongly represents my point of view and the strengthening of my core values throughout my undergraduate experience. I utilized skills I've learned in previous semesters like silk screen printing metallic pigment powder, in addition to learning new skills such as printing text. This visual manifesto belongs to an edition of 25 prints and is something I will continue to share with the world throughout my life.