

Exercises for New Ideas

A Co-authored Book of Creative Prompts

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Created by

The Portland State University CORE program's Spring 2020 Ideation class

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Designed by

Eric John Olson

Programs

PSU School of Art & Design (<https://www.pdx.edu/art-design>)
PSU CORE Program (<http://psu-core.com>)

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- 7 **Introduction**
- Prompts
- 8 **Drawing with Smell**
Adam McInroy-Edwards
- 10 **Time Capsule**
Alexandra Erwin
- 12 **Narrative Creation**
Bryerly Kurk-LaFontaine
- 14 **You Are Here**
Emma Wallace
- 16 **Poetic Diagrams**
Finn Padron
- 18 **Forever Garden**
Francie Lefebvre
- 20 **When the World Stops**
Hannah Caldwell
- 22 **Video Reference**
Isabella de la Jara
- 24 **Organization Inventory**
Isabella Rez
- 26 **Contrast Experimenting**
Jenna Thomas
- 28 **Stories as Inspiration**
Jennifer Servin-Zuniga
- 30 **Ink Drawings**
Jessica Ly
- 32 **Do Not Push**
Jessica Rae Palmer
- Gratitude Practice**
- 34 **Jonah Maris**
- Losing Control**
- 36 **Josh Mansfield**
- Randomized Music**
- 38 **Inspiration**
Kacie Kusler
- 40 **Music Memories**
Kinsey Rasch
- 42 **Monster Generator**
Lydia Fields
- 44 **Literature Attraction**
Nadia Belov

- 46 **Creating Nostalgia**
Rylie Gammell
- 48 **God/Goddess Creator**
Sade Moore
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. . .**
- 50 **Repurpose**
Samantha Groza
- 52 **Feel**
Sarah Spalding
- 54 **Foot Feelings**
Whitney Reek
- 58 **A Memory, A Story**

Introduction

Like many educators, we had a couple days to pivot (more of an about-face) and figure out how *Ideation*, a foundation class that normally uses the city as a classroom translates into a remote learning experience. We adapted (like educators everywhere) by quickly redesigning our 10 week course to focus on the student's immediate environment. We simplified by choosing one prompt per week as an invitation to explore students' creative process to generate ideas through praxis. We also planned 'in-class' time for students to work on our weekly prompt together (we did it too). One special feature of our weekly ZOOM session was the 'inspirations' segments created by the graduate TA's Eric and Brianna which featured their favorite projects/artists aligned with our prompt. How did we encourage student-directed communication about their ideas? We took a risk by using FlipGrip - a digital learning platform originally designed for K-12 students. We asked students to describe their creative process in their own words through short videos. We also meet with each student weekly for a ten-minute check-in. This turned out to be a space where students talked about how their ideas intersected with their daily lives. In the end, students applied their "take-aways" and personal interests by designing their own prompts. These prompts became this workbook. We hope you use it and get some creative exercise with it.

Brianna Ortega
Eric John Olson
M. Michelle Illuminato
Michelle Swinehart

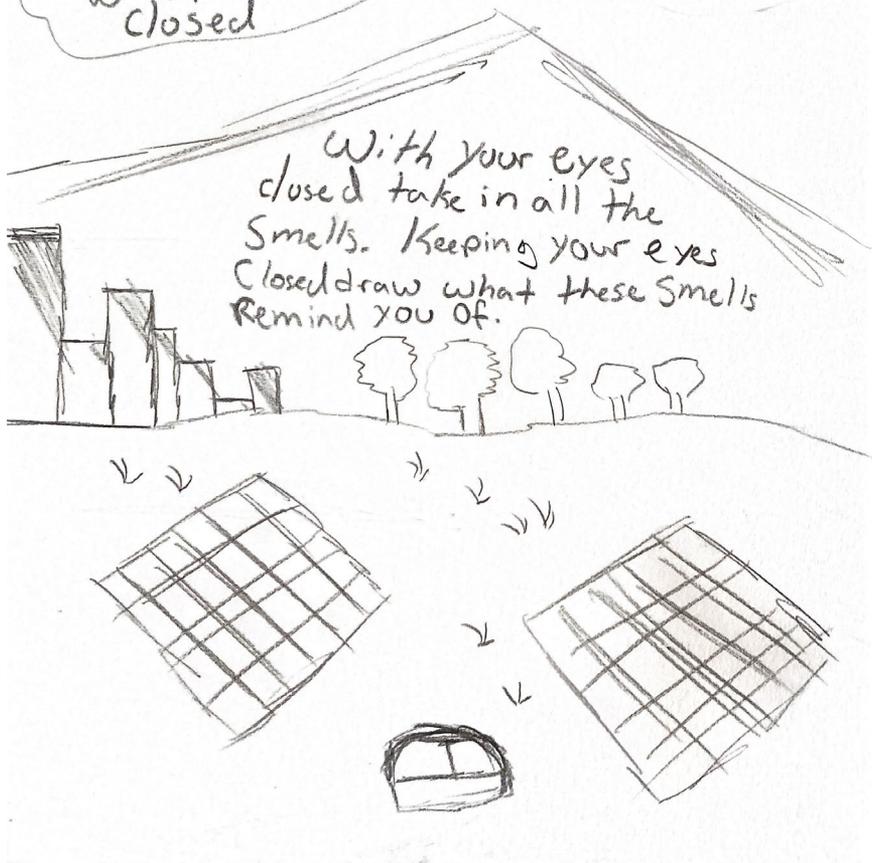
Drawing with Smell

Adam McInroy-Edwards

Grab paper and a pen/pencil and spend an hour outside with your eyes closed. With your eyes closed take in all the smells around you. While still keeping your eyes closed draw on the paper what these smells remind you of. Remember not to open your eyes while drawing.

Sit outside
for one hour
with your eyes
closed

With your eyes
closed take in all the
Smells. Keeping your eyes
closed draw what these Smells
Remind you of.



Time Capsule

Alexandra Erwin

Construct a time capsule to your future self from found objects, pictures, and writings surrounding what life is like for you at this very moment. Think of it as a moment frozen in time that you are simply capturing for yourself. Don't be afraid to dig deep into how you feel at this very moment. What objects have been important to you recently? What words and/or activities have held special meaning? Take some pictures or recover old ones that help capture your current feelings/way of life. You are making this for yourself so think about what you want to show/remind yourself of in the future. Once you feel that you have collected a sufficient amount of items and/or writings, place them all in a time capsule vessel of your choosing. This could be a box, tin, bag, etc.

When should it be opened? That's up to you. Hours? Days? Months? Years? Trust how you feel with timing and open your capsule when you want to look back at your frozen moment.



Narrative Creation

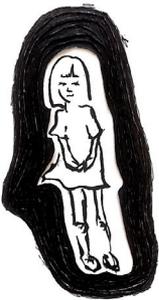
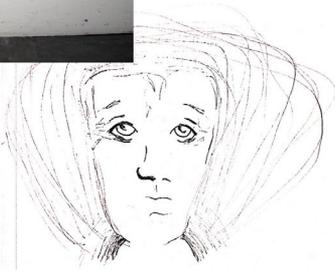
Bryerly Kurk-LaFontaine

Be someone else instead of you.

What would they say?

What would they do?

Use any medium to embrace the character or mindset of a person, place or thing. Express it's actions, emotions and personality into your artwork.



EXERCISES FOR NEW IDEAS

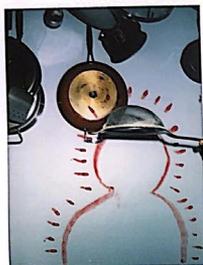
You Are Here

Emma Wallace

A prompt to de-familiarize your home.

1. Go to the kitchen and try on some things.
2. Go to the table and lay down. Rest a minute.
3. Stand on your bed. Exit the room without touching the floor.
4. Find something to watch in the mirror.
5. Find something to taste at a desk.

1. Go to the kitchen and try on some things.



YOU ARE HERE

4. Find something to watch in a mirror.



YOU ARE HERE

2. Go to the table and lay down. Rest a minute.



YOU ARE HERE



YOU ARE HERE

3. Stand on your bed. Exit the room without touching the floor directly with your body.

5. Find something to taste at a desk.



YOU ARE HERE

Poetic Diagrams

Finn Padron

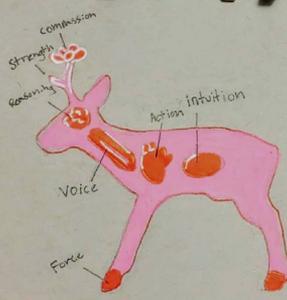
Using a man-made or natural object found in the world around you, create a diagram detailing the different aspects of your object. In that diagram, try and move away from the literal interpretations of your object and create a poetic diagram by using a figurative representation of parts of your object, labeling parts of your object figuratively, artistically interpreting your object, or a mix of all three.

Obtain an object,
man made or natural.

①



②



Interpret that object into
A Poetic/scientific diagram. ~~that~~
the poetic element can be represented
by either labeling the diagram poetically,
drawing the object through poetic interpretation,
or a mix of these.

Forever Garden

Francie Lefebvre

Go outside and pick some petals, leaves, or stems. These should preferably be picked on a sunny day so that they are not wet or damp from any rain.

Once you have your preferred assortment, place them flat on a paper towel. Fold the paper towel over the flowers. As an extra, optional step, you can place the paper towel on top of parchment paper and fold that parchment paper over the paper towel. Set the paper towel with your flowers under heavy books and let them sit for 7-10 days. Once 7-10 days are over check on your flowers. If they have no moisture and are papery thin, you have succeeded.

Now, you have a *Forever Garden*! You can frame these in clear glass, create a collage, mod podge to a jar, make jewelry, etc. or keep them as is!



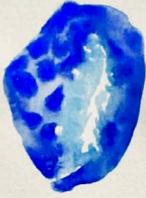
When the World Stops

Hannah Caldwell

Have you ever had a moment in time where every single thing in that moment felt right?

1. Choose a moment - associate it with colors, noises, smells, & sounds.
2. Close your eyes and be in that moment. List all of the things that stand out to you. What made this moment so special?
3. Create any or all things from this list. Use any medium you prefer.

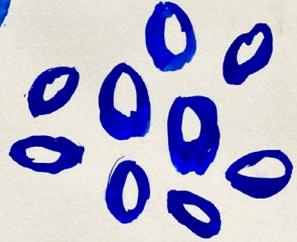
A Collage of when time stopped



Jellyfish on the beach.



Half of a papaya



shells



The view

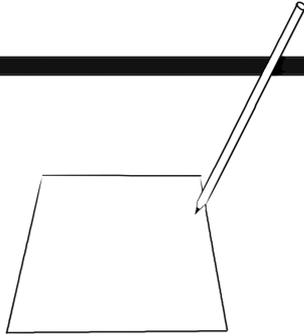
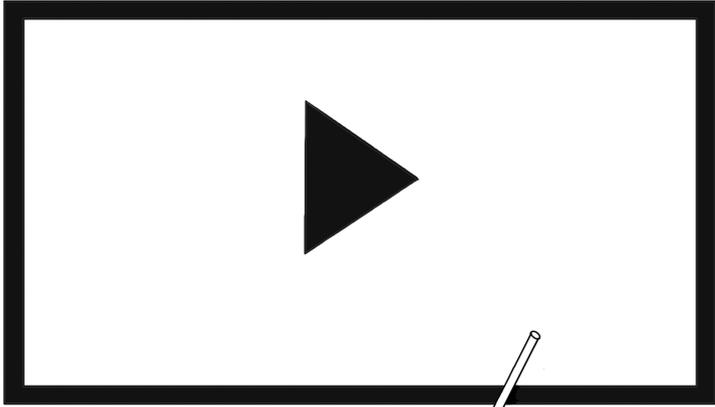


The colors

Video Reference

Isabella de la Jara

Pick some sort of video (movie, TV show, Youtube video, etc...) watch or skip around it until you find a shot that you find striking, then draw that shot.



Organization Inventory

Isabella Rez

Find a cluttered area of your house (such as a junk drawer or closet).

Take an inventory of objects that you find.

You can choose what objects to record, whether it is based on objects of importance, similar objects, or everything in there.

After you take your inventory make a little booklet of it, use pictures, drawings or something else to record it.

Sewing Box Inventory.



Two Bobbins.



One Seam Ripper.

One Pair of Scissors.



One Tiny Chalk Piece.



Two Dog Buttons.



One Small Piece of Elastic.



One Safety Pin.

Contrast Experimenting

Jenna Thomas

1. Pick out two colors in your media of choice. Color 1 should be a variation of your favorite color. Color 2 should be your *least* favorite color.
2. Draw an object or concept you **hate** (food, pet peeve, location, etc.) using your **favorite** color. Take 10 minutes for this.
3. Draw an object or concept you **adore** (food, movie, aesthetic, object, person, etc.) using your **least favorite** color. Take 10 minutes for this.
4. How do these contrasts make you feel? Does your perception of the concept/object you drew change based on the color used? In the opposite color of the two from what you drew with, journal on/in/ around each drawing.

Step 1: Pick out your favorite and least favorite color.



Step 2: draw something you hate using your favorite

Step 3: something you love with your least favorite



x, Jen

Step 4: Journal!

Stories as Inspiration

Jennifer Servin-Zuniga

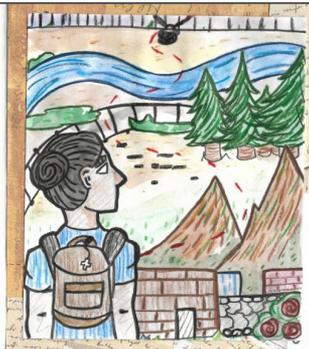
Step 1: Ask someone you know this could be a friend, family, mentor, ...etc to tell you a story or a memory. If you aren't able to ask someone in person then a phone call, facetime, zoom, email, or a letter is also an option.

Step 2: Listen, give the person your full attention! If you would like to document the audio, then you can use a phone or a tape recorder but nothing that will divert your attention from the speaker.

Step 3: Create! These are your choices:

- *Option 1:* Recreate a scene from the story the way you believe it would look like.
- *Option 2:* Create something else completely different inspired by the story.

You may choose any type of medium and you can use more than one.



Ink Drawings

Jessica Ly

Draw 5 nearby objects in ink (pen, fineliner, brush pen, marker, any kind of ink will do) as accurately as possible without making a sketch.



Do Not Push

Jessica Rae Palmer

A Mini Sculpture Prompt With Everyday Objects, for
an Everyday Skill Set

Find:

Cardboard

Scissors

Button

Ahere for button

Writing tool

Cut cardboard

Adhere button to cardboard

Write: DO NOT PUSH

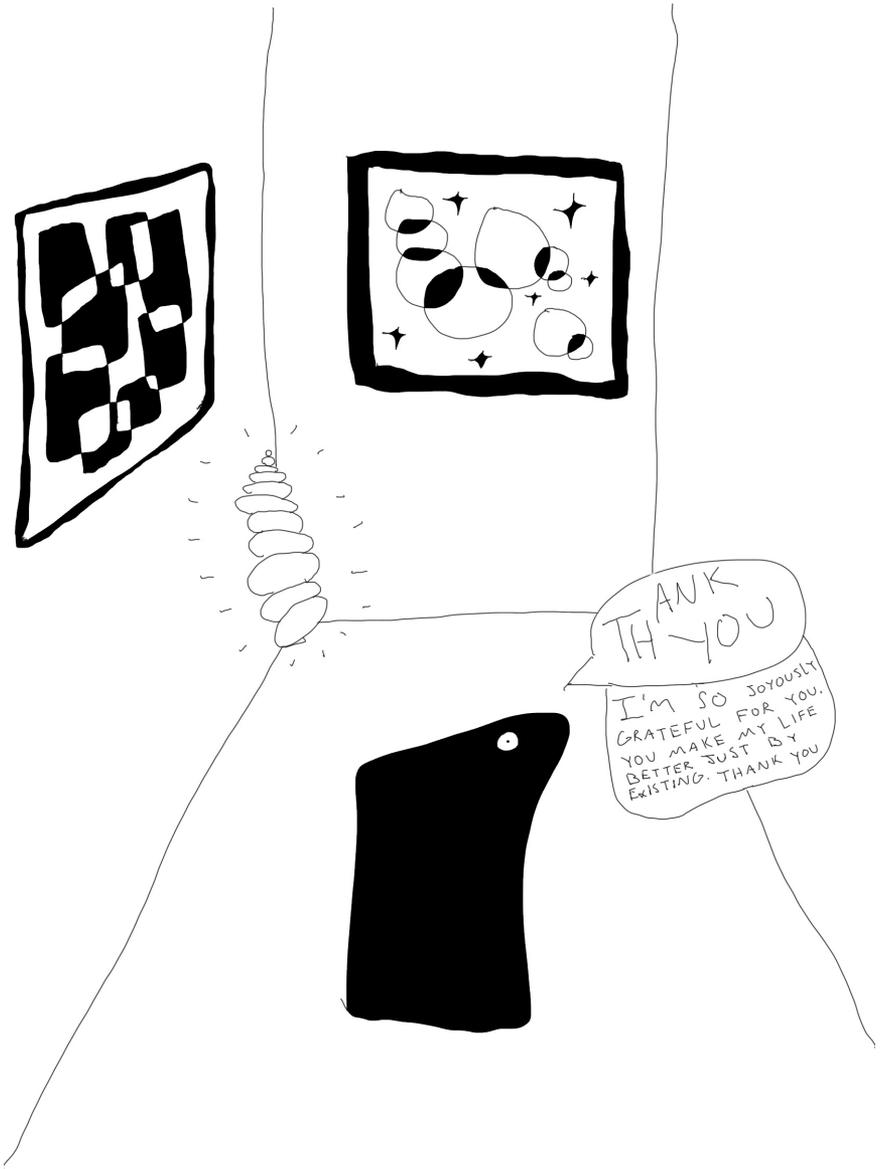
Artist Statement: There is a thin line between everything in life. It takes us to the space of what we know, believe, feel, think, our comfort zone. Right to the edge of the other side, to what we don't know. In the space around the thin line we have the opportunity to perceive in a new way. If we are to magnify that space we can take a small step into space past the line we are familiar with into the unknown space. This is where we come to play together with others on big, hard, complicated ideas, where we meet in between and split our separate ways. I believe art is the most effective way to communicate our differences into harmony. Do Not Push is an invitation into this space towards exploring liberty.



Gratitude Practice

Jonah Maris

Walk around your house slowly and mindfully, kindly reminding your surroundings of your gratitude for them. Think or speak your thankful reassurances to everything that presents itself to you, whether in your mind or in your physical space. Don't leave anything out, be grateful for everything and truly express this gratitude and appreciation. Include yourself and the physical beings in this practice too, tell your dog, your dad, your brother, your mom, your turtle and whoever else you can think of how amazingly grateful you are for them. Give this practice space to go on for however long it needs to.

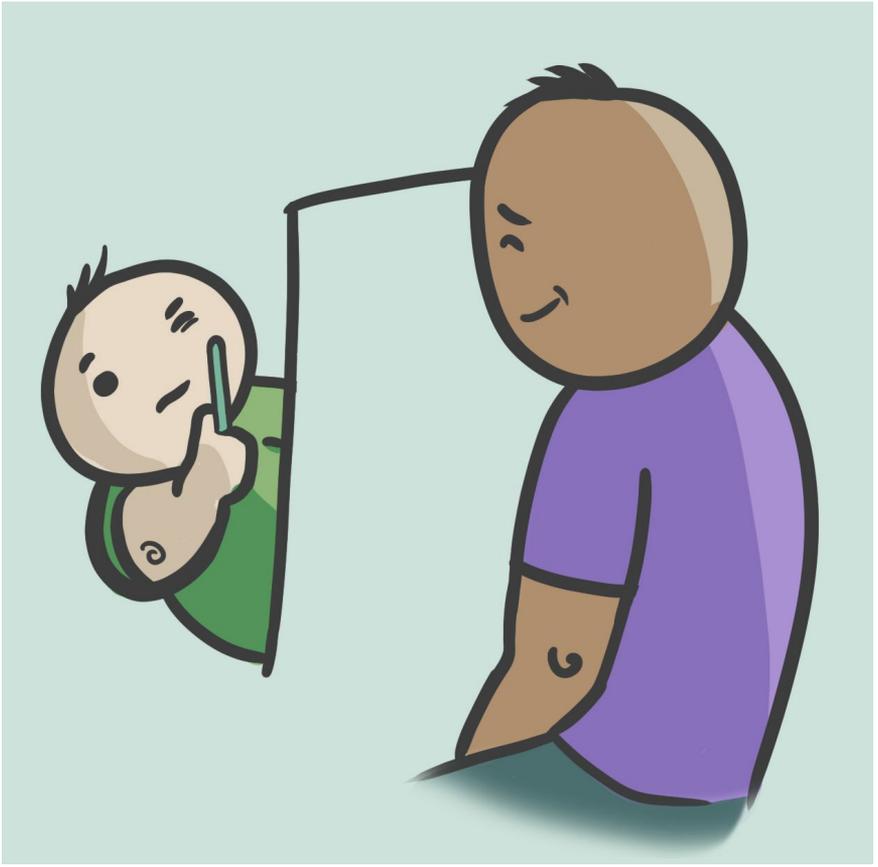


Losing Control

Josh Mansfield

Have someone else (a friend, family member, partner, complete stranger, etc.) use you as a model for a quick work of art. Ask them to spend at least five minutes on their piece.

Allow them to choose the medium and make any other artistic decision they want. You are to relinquish all artistic control over to them. While they make their work, think of and write down other ways you can relinquish control of the artistic process in the future to create unique pieces.



Randomized Music Inspiration

Kacie Kusler

Using a music library of your choice, shuffle a random playlist or assortment of songs. Listen to the first song that comes up. Create something in relation to what the song brings up for you. Interpret your memories attached to the song, the curiosity to the lyrics, or to the ideas + visions the song creates in your head by drawing, painting, collage- or writing a poem or journal entry.



Randomized Music Inspiration:

using a music library of your choice, shuffle a random playlist or assortment of songs.

Listen to the first song that comes up.

create something in relation to what the song brings up for you.

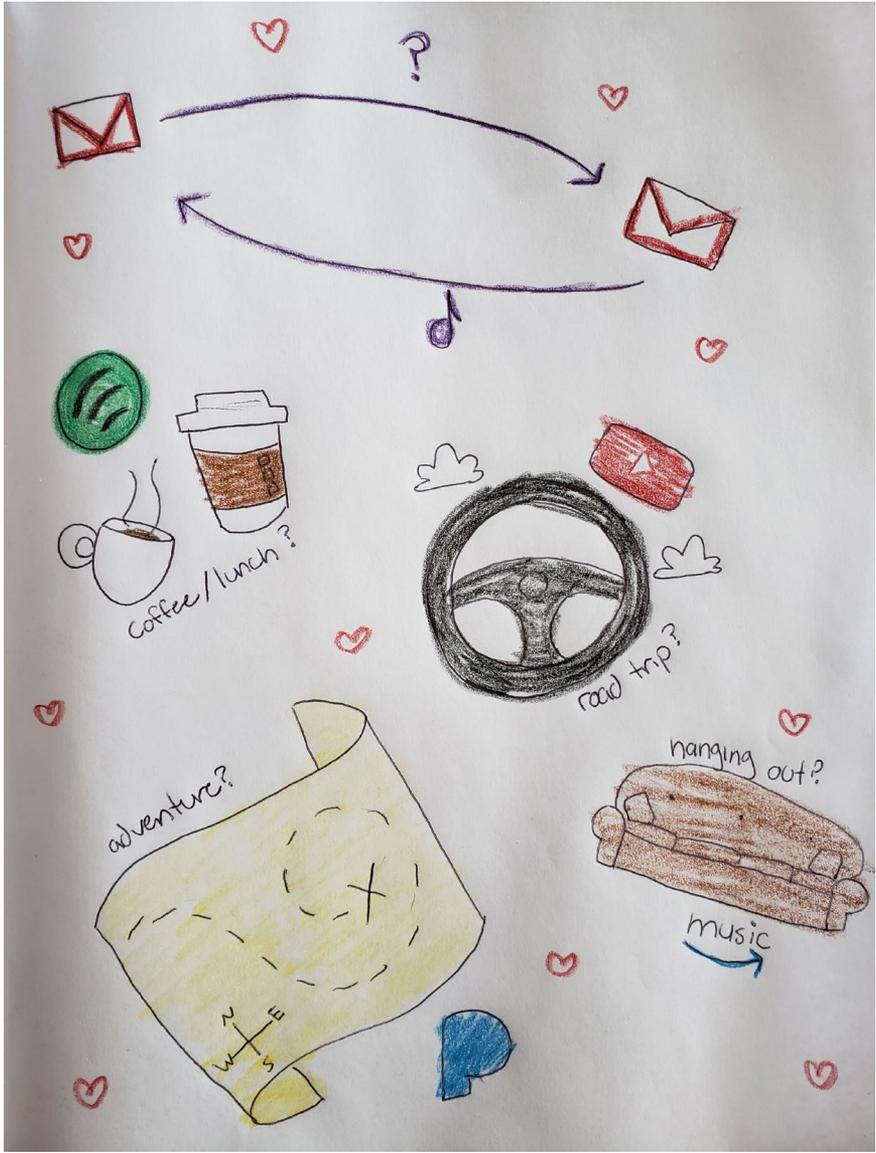
Interpret your memories attached to the song, the curiosity of the lyrics - or to the ideas + visions the song creates in your head by drawing, painting, collage - or writing a poem or a journal entry .



Music Memories

Kinsey Rasch

Firstly, get in-touch with someone you are close to, this could be a friend or a family member as it is up to you! Find out their favorite song and listen to it, really get a feeling for the vibe of the song even if it's a song you wouldn't normally listen to. Then, think of a memory you have with this person and create a work based off of that memory and the song combined. Have fun and be sure to show them your work when it's finished!



Monster Generator

Lydia Fields

Step 1: FEARS

Create a list of things you fear the most.

This can be as personal or silly as you want (i.e. snakes, clowns, chihuahuas, balloons, death). Are there any phobias that intrigue you? Find information about the phobias and the reasons people fear it.

Step 2: HORROR MOVIES

Make a list of horror movies that genuinely scared you.

What was it that scared you the most in each movie? Were the “monsters” supernatural, creatures, or humans? What characteristics made those creatures scary? Was it the design that is scary, what it did to the victims, or the creature’s story? How did the monster attack its victims? Psychological? Slasher? Possession? Abduction?

Step 3: FOLKLORE

Look up different cultures and their folklores that have been passed down for generations.

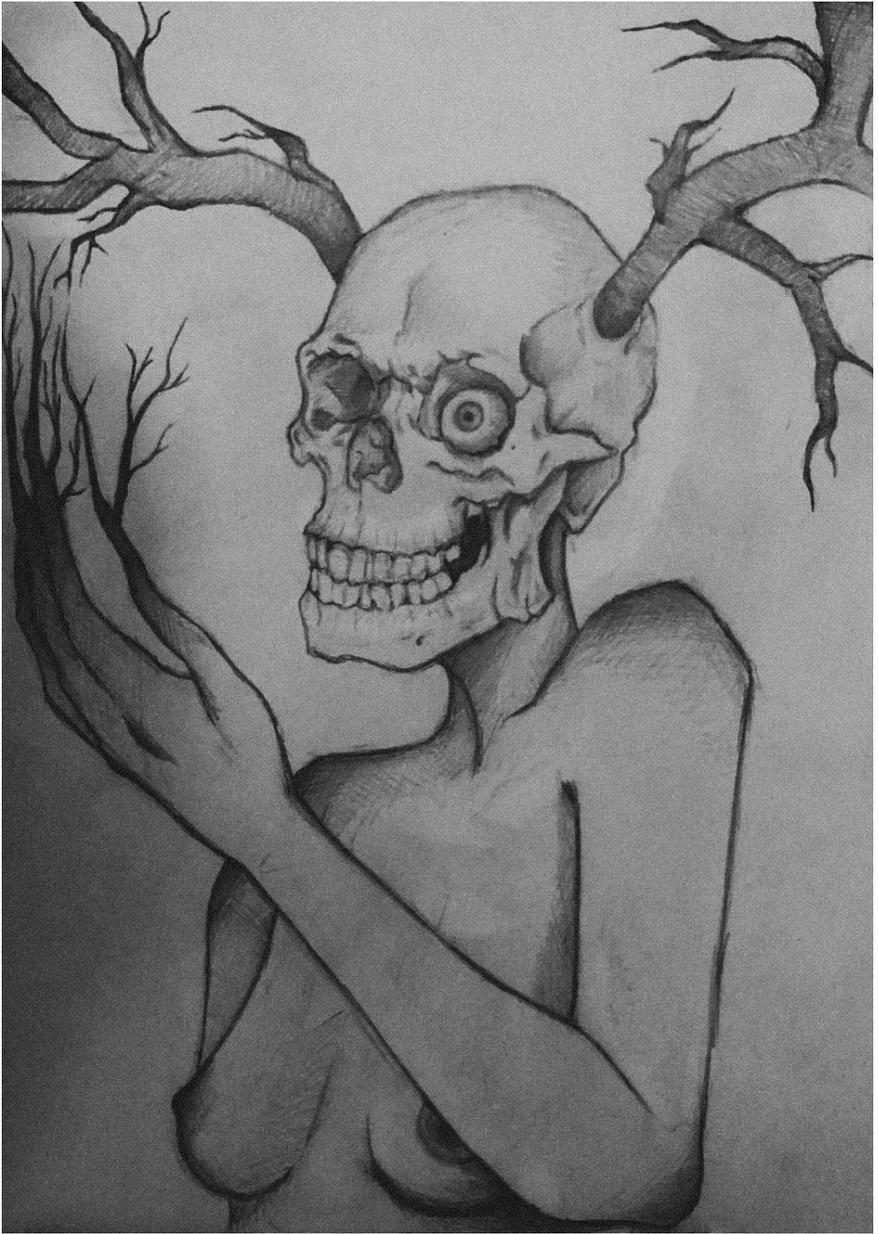
What was it that people fear most about them? What did these creatures look like? How were they described? If you researched multiple cultures, what similarities or differences did the folklores have?

Step 4: CREATE

Look back at the lists and answers you came up with and pick your favorites. Use your research to create your own monster

Decide how you want to bring your monster to life

Drawing, Painting, Writing, Collage, Film, Sculpture, Photography. Use any creative process you want!



Literature Attraction

Nadia Belov

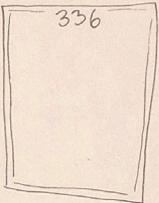
Pick your favorite of the printed books in your possession or that you have access too. Set your book on it's spine and let it fall open to whichever page it decides. On the top of a blank piece of paper, write the page number your book has fallen open to. Return to your book and scan the page for the following: the first word that stands out to you, three connecting words, a word that makes you think of someone you love, a word you like for no reason and a word that feels like home. Below the page number you previously wrote down, arrange your eight words in a way that is appealing to you. Read your poem out loud. The page number is the title. Draw something to illustrate your poem.

Pick your favorite book



let it fall open to whichever page it desires

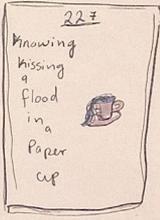
3. title a blank piece of paper with the page number



4. Return to your book and scan the page for the following:

- The first word you see
- three connecting words
- a word that makes you think of someone you love
- a word you like for no reason
- a word that feels like home

in Cup Kissing Flood
 Paper a knowing a



5. Below the page number you have already written down, arrange your eight chosen words in a way that is appealing to you

6. Read your poem out loud



7. Draw something to illustrate your poem

out loud

Creating Nostalgia

Rylie Gammell

Think of a person, place, or thing that reminds you of your purest memory of home. What basic elements in these memories hold the most meaning and create the most nostalgia? Make a visual representation of these thoughts and feelings that you can use to summon that feeling of home wherever you are.

creating nostalgia

1. think of a person, place, or thing that reminds you of home...

2. hold on to the feeling you get!

3. Create a visual representation that helps hold onto your feeling!

SOME IDEAS:



MINIATURE VERSION OF YOUR FAVORITE bedroom



Hanging moms FAV flowers on my wall

God/Goddess Creator

Sade Moore

Step 1: Think of something that you love, something that you believe in, or something that you value. This can be something profound, like love or death, or something small, like pizza!

Step 2: Make a list of things that represent the topic you chose in step one. The longer the better. Here are some questions to ask yourself if you get stuck.

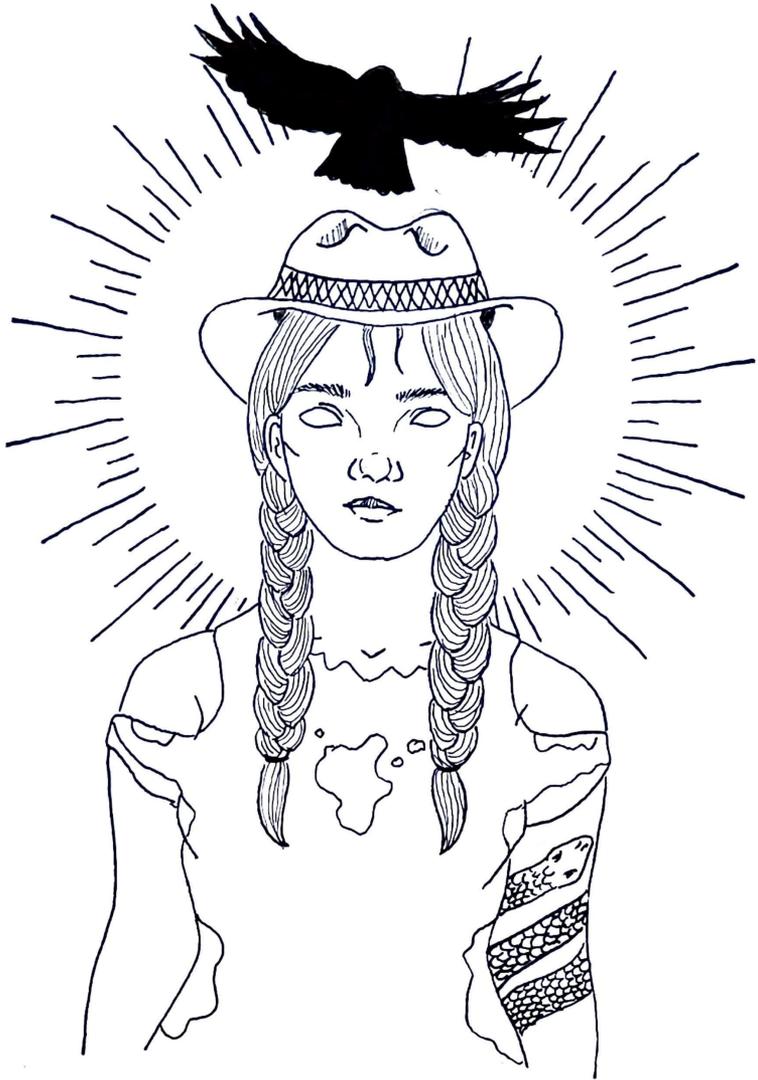
- Is there an animal that represents your topic?
- Is there a food or plant that represents your topic? (For example, Hera is a Greek fertility goddess and she is associated with pomegranates.)

Step 3: Create your deity in any form you like. Here are some ideas of what you can do.

- Are you a drawer? Draw them!
- Are you a writer? Write their creation story!
- Make a collage of the list you created in step two.

Do any of these, or make your own way of presenting your deity. Don't forget to give them an awesome name!

Halot



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. . .

Repurpose

Samantha Groza

Go around your house and look for things you aren't fond of or would like to get rid of. Once you have collected your items think of ways to alter them so they create value for you. Use different mediums to achieve this.



Feel

Sarah Spalding

Close your eyes and listen to or sing a song that reminds you of your childhood. Think about the people and time it reminds you of. Did a parent or friend used to sing this to you? Did you listen to it when you were happy or sad?

Keeping your eyes closed, let your body and mind feel anything and everything that comes up. What are you feeling? Sadness? Happiness? Angst? Nostalgia? Write down or create an art piece that expresses how you feel.



Foot Feelings

Whitney Reek

1. Start by noticing the sensations you feel in your feet throughout your everyday activities. What textures do you notice? How do your feet feel when you are anxious or happy or sad? How do they feel standing on a tall ladder versus in your bed?
2. Think of an activity that allows you to feel something that you normally don't feel with your feet (a texture, sensation, new environment, ect.). Do your activity and focus on feeling that unusual sensation.
3. Finally, use your feet to aid you in the creation of a piece of art that represents the new texture, sensation, or environment that you experienced during your activity.



IDEATION
Spring 2020

Instruction
STAMPS

Use this stamp



to tell someone you care.

ISABELLA REZ

DRAW A LANDSCAPE



AROUND THIS STAMP

JENNA THOMAS

Say only nice things
about yourself

ISABELLA DE LA JARA

ON MY WAY



TO SOMEWHERE

Go for a walk
with no destination
Take routes you
have never been
before. Wear
this stamp on
your body.

JOSHUA MANSFIELD

use
your
tears
to
wet
this
stamp



SAMANTHA GROZA

SHARE WITH FRIENDS



FINN PADRON

Would someone
notice if you
put



a
Banana slug
on the sole of
their shoe?

WHITNEY REEK

Send to catto hater



LYDIA FIELDS

TAKE YOUR RIGHT



JESSICA PALMER



ADAM MCINROY-EDWARDS



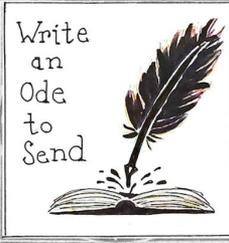
JENNIFER SERVIN-ZUNIGA



pet your doggo.

JESSICA LY





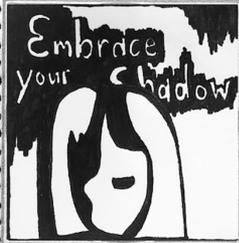
Write
an
Ode
to
Send

SADE MOORE



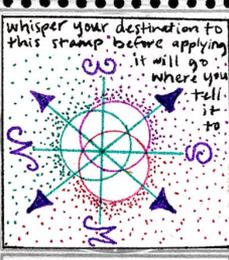
LICK THE BACK &
STICK IT TO
YOUR
FOREHEAD

SARAH SPALDING



Embrace
your shadow

BRYERLY KURK-LAFONTAINE



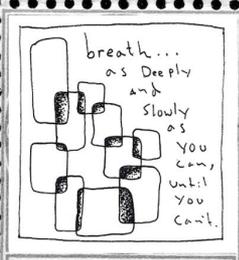
Whisper your destination to
this stamp before applying
it will go
where you
tell
it to

EMMA WALLACE



Take
~ a ~
Breath

ALLY ERWIN



breath...
as Deeply
and
Slowly
as
You
can,
until
You
can't.

JONAH MARIS



INSTRUCTIONS
1. SIT IN A DARK PLACE:
(A CLOSET, A CLOTH OVER
THE EYES, A PARK AT NIGHT)
2. NOTICE WHAT COMES
UP INSIDE WITH YOU
3. LET IT INTO THE DARK
4. BECOME FRIENDS WITH
IT

KASIE KUSLER

KASIE KUSLER



Pick a flower
Put
her
in
Some
Water

NADIA BELOW



GO OUTSIDE AND
DONT GO BACK INSIDE
UNTIL...

YOU MAKE FRIENDS
WITH A BUG.

FRANCES LEFEBVRE



place in
happy
place

KINSEY RASCH



THE
CIRCLE

HANNAH CALDWELL

A Memory, A Story

We asked students to reflect and share stories about something memorable from the Ideation class that added to their knowledge or creative process, below are the responses.

“Over the term I think I learned a lot about myself through ideation and how I come up with ideas. All of the prompts and homework assignments that we have done helped me learn about myself as a designer.”

Adam McInroy-Edwards: I am an aspiring designer who loves working on projects.

“Early on in the term we did a project on letters and the concept of writing and sending them. Well for this prompt I ended up writing letters to the plethora of plants in my home. But before I finished I was social distance talking to my really good friend and her parents (my neighbors) and the letter project came up. I cautiously explained to them how I was writing letters to my plants as a semi-deconstruction of who can receive a letter while wholeheartedly expecting them to brush it off as strange. But surprisingly they liked my idea and the project as a whole. This led to a further conversation about ideation as a whole and how important it is. In the end it was a really nice conversation and it was nice for my weird idea to be taken seriously.”

Alexandra Erwin, Ally, is a film major - graphic design minor who aspires to work as an Art Director for Film and TV.)

“This was one of the most difficult yet rewarding periods of my life. I felt like hopping from boat to boat in the middle of the ocean, trying to make it back to land. It was hard, but the art kept me going. Waking up with a purpose to hear, see and connect with the world has driven me to carry on every day.”

Bryerly Kurk-Lafontaine is a psychology major, photographer and avid dreamer.

“At one point I was inspired to deconstruct a photo I was particularly proud of and transform it into a multimedia piece of art. As someone who considers herself an artist, I’m terribly awkward around different mediums. In the past, I have been overwhelmed with insecurity while attempting to make visual art with anything other than a camera. I realized this is because I’ve rarely allowed myself to be a beginner in anything, opting instead to hold onto the ridiculous notion that if I’m not immediately good at something on my first attempt then I obviously don’t have what it takes to do it. This is nonsense, of course. I hadn’t been this irrational about learning the camera (which is likely why I’ve been able to grow my skill with it) but put a paintbrush in my hand, or a sewing needle, or scissors and suddenly I would become completely unrealistic about my own artistic expectations. In hindsight, this was a protective mechanism. This irrational excuse allowed me to avoid the uncomfortable risk of being bad at something. I realized my fear of failing had been calling my artistic shots, and that was something I needed to face if I was going to take my art seriously.

In this case, taking my art seriously meant being okay with ruining it.

Admittedly it’s not my best work. But like a proud parent displaying their child’s drawing, my less-than-perfect-but-still-so-meaningful piece of art now hangs in my office – a daily reminder that I have embraced my artistic process in all of its messy growth stages.”

Emma Wallace is an artist in Portland, Oregon, who loves coffee, the fantasy/sci-fi genre and the thrill of developing photos in a darkroom.

“During our most recent prompt-building project, I walked into our backyard, where we’ve been spending a large portion of our time during this quarantine and picked some clovers for drawing. It was sunny outside and for a moment I laid down in the grass, looking at the clovers and thinking about art. I stared at the blue sky rather than at a screen for a moment and relaxed. Nature is always very inspiring for me and my art, and this moment in the sunshine was especially lovely.”

Finn Pardon: I am an illustrator and sculptor interested in nature and costuming. Most recently interested in masks and miniaturization.

“During our creating a sound map project I started to really notice how much was going on around me all the time. This added to my creative process in a way of opening my eyes up to how much that I have around me (that often goes without notice) that I can use as inspiration or as a resource for future projects. It made me appreciate and use the little things like my sister’s singing and dancing loudly a lot more.”

Francie Lefebvre: Lately I’ve been super interested in textile arts and cacti!

“It seems like everything in my life has been fast-paced for the last four years of college. Classes are only ten weeks long, meetings come and go quickly. Technology keeps us going fast and doesn’t allow us to exercise our patience as much. This class has been an opportunity to stop everything and think for myself. I haven’t had a moment to just be in a long time and this class gave me permission to do exactly that. I was forced to sit back and look around at my environment - to actually see, feel, smell, and listen. I haven’t done that in a long time and it gave me the opportunity to find inspiration in the little things just as much as it did in the big things.”

Hannah Caldwell: I am not just a palindrome - I am constantly backwards and forwards, right and left, diagonal, vertical, and horizontal all at the same time.

“For the longest time whenever I got some sort of idea for an art project I would end up sitting on it forever. I would get attached to the idea itself and become too afraid to actually put it on paper. I would let the fear of it not turning out exactly the way I wanted stop me from actually doing anything. Finally, after having so many ideas never actually come into fruition, this term I have gotten a lot better about not getting too attached to any one idea and just making it real as quickly as possible. If it doesn’t turn out perfect who cares? I’ve got a million more things that I could also do.”

Isabella de la Jara: I’m just trying to find my way in the world.

“This term was definitely strange, considering the remote learning circumstances. I think that the most memorable aspect of it for me was the way that this class helped me look at my home, a place that is super familiar to me, as something new and somewhat unfamiliar. The prompts encouraged me to explore my house as if it were a new location to me, which not only gave me a new perspective of my familiar environment, but also helped me keep me entertained and interested while quarantined.”

Isabella Rez: I’m Isabella Rez, an Art Practice minor. I enjoy working with photography, although I also enjoy exploring all other types of art.

“This term in ideation, we looked a lot into using different senses in our exploration of ideas for art. This wasn’t something I was used to or had tried, so it was interesting to step into a different mindset in the ideation process. My own art doesn’t delve much into the realm of sound and taste and smell, but I enjoyed using some of the skills learned in our first exploration to include new visuals and interesting details in my art. Being forced to sit and notice things we may not have before allowed me to think of details I could slip into my art visually which would add nuance and style to it as well as play with emotion and color. I appreciated this aspect of using our senses a lot in the class and feel I’ll continue to use it in my ideation process for future art.”

Jenna Thomas: I am a nineteen year old illustrative artist and scattered musician, and I love people, animals, and nature more than I believe I’m capable of loving myself.

“This term was interesting and something I never anticipated experiencing during my first year in university. There were moments of stress and burn out, trying to figure out online school for the first time. While also trying to stay informed, safe, and positive about what’s happening in the world around us. Even with all of this, there were also happy moments, art has been one of my main outlets during quarantine. I was able to develop my skills further through the many prompts that we did using our senses, but I was also able to strengthen connections with people. These prompts helped me realize where my inspiration comes from and it made me realize that I don’t need any fancy tools to create. I can simply design something

with the tools that I have and the inspiration that I have around me. The prompt that I created was inspired by stories and my mom, we have been taking walks in the afternoons and telling each other stories. It's mostly my mother telling the stories and me being the listener, but during those moments it made me realize how important that act of listening is and using your sense of hearing. How simply hearing can bring inspiration to you from songs to stories being told by someone. I was lucky to be able to take Ideation during a time like this though unexpected, it was a great outlet and a tool in helping me develop my skills and motivation.”

Jennifer Servin-Zuniga: Hello, my name is Jen and I'm a first-year student here at PSU, who enjoys doing art and finding inspiration through the many things around me.

“In the new age of social distancing, I was forced to create and socialize entirely from home. One thing that kept me going was the release of Animal Crossing New Horizons. I turned on my Switch every day to check on my animal friends, and I was transported to a peaceful and happy, pandemic-free world. In my Animal Crossing world, it got me thinking about using this world to recreate the experiences of everyday life I once had. By recreating these experiences with my animal friends, it gave me new ideas about what I could create in my own personal projects.”

Jessica Ly is a realist artist who secretly wants to draw fan art.

“Looking back over spring term in Ideation, I feel inspired. Especially now, it is prevalent to maintain a strong connection with art and our passions. I am grateful to have learned the importance of documenting my work and teasing out the process by not just focusing on the results. I did not realize the act of creation is as valuable as the result. Examining where ideas come from and how to inspire myself to see things in new ways to gain depth and new perspective was probably my biggest takeaway. Now that class is over, I will continue to be falling down the rabbit hole of Yoko Ono's work and Fluxus.”

Jessica Rae Palmer: I was born in Portland and raised in Oregon, I have 3 children, a cat, a giant white koi fish, and a coca-cola addiction I am not proud of.

“The memory I’d like to share during this unusual term and my experience with ideation is one of expansion, and new ways of thinking. I came into the class with no expectations whatsoever, I had no clue what a class based around ideas could teach me but I was excited nonetheless. A few weeks in to zoom calls and a seemingly endless spout of ideas and inspiration coming from the four creatives whom led the class, I can recall a thought I had during one of the lectures; it started with the idea, that we (humans) are collectors, we collect ideas, memories, thoughts, artifacts etc. And as collectors (and artists) we rearrange or organize the things we collect and make new compositions with them. Realizing this felt like a blockade was lifted from my mind, I suddenly felt so much more explorative, like my brain suddenly became 100 times more permeable to the plethora of experiences I was subjected to. I felt like an explorer of the world around me and the world inside me, an explorer of my thoughts, of the places I come across, of the people I meet and what they have to teach; collecting bits and pieces along my way and putting them all in my magic bag to be reflected on, and placed thoughtfully into the grand composition known as life. The way I interact with the environment around me has changed massively since then, I feel the incessant urge to be absolutely present, and to openly absorb whatever I’m presented with each day, collecting, reflecting, and exploring myself and my reactions.”

Jonah Maris: I am jonah maris, a human being just like you :-)

“I’ve always been a solo artist. Aside from references and inspiration, my art has never been open to outside input. I was apprehensive and even a little uncomfortable sharing my work through Flipgrid. But as the term went on and I became a little more open to sharing, I started to see the potential this kind of collaboration could provide and it inspired me to think about how my own art could be a more collaborative experience.”

Josh Mansfield is a veteran, artist, and total nerd.

“This semester in ideation, I felt a shift in my ability to approach projects and creative ideas. In retrospect, taking the time to internalize the prompts and figure out what I wanted to learn from them has been especially helpful to understanding my own process. I remember a moment from the first prompt, going through my

house and collecting things that didn't have a story, that I felt the first observance of change: going into a creative project with the intention of exploring, rather than just making something. That is really what I took out of the class— enjoying the process and letting that experience be just as meaningful as the outcome.”

Kacie Kusler is a student, painter, and a lover of all things.

“Due to the recent pandemic I, like many others, was not allowed to return to my campus dorm room after going to visit my family for spring break. Being forced back into the last place I wanted to be really hit my creativity down to nothing. As an art major and creative person this just pushed me into a depression. Thanks to Ideation I was given all sorts of weird artistic prompts and I was slowly able to regain a sense of creativity that helped me manage to survive this weird time. Thankfully I get to return to campus in June and will be able to go back to a place where I always felt so much creativity everywhere.”

Kinsey Rasch is an Art Practice major at Portland State who loves to paint and appreciates dogs more than anything else.

“Art making during 2020 has really been different. I struggled a lot with staying motivated to create and have had constant art block for a while but this class taught me new ways of ideating. Never in my life would I ever think to incorporate my other sense to produce ideas. It really helped me view life around me in a different perspective. For majority of my life I had always been the only artistic individual I knew and didn't grow up with people interested in art. I was never introduced to new ways to thinking or creating until I started college. For a long time I kinda just thought people just go with the flow and create whatever pops up in their head. I somewhat knew that wasn't the case but wasn't sure what artist did either. Using my senses as part of a creative process was definitely one of my favorite aspects that I learned. There were so many different sounds and smells that are happening around us that we never notice until we take a pause in life. Taking a deep breath and forgetting about what is happening in the world for a moment to focus on what is currently surrounding me really opens your mind to new ideas. It was like I meditating for a short moment.”

Lydia Fields: I'm a fun-loving clown who's obsessed with cats and Taco Bell.

"This time in life has taught me how to really, really see the people in front of me and the space I reside in with a new found honesty, welcome and appreciation. One of my favorite things to do during quarantine has been to climb up on and sit on my roof. I have found peace in observing things, the sky, the baby squirrels living in that tree, my grumpy neighbors, my mom gardening, cars passing by. I have been given the time to sit still. Something I have always rejected with vengeance. By sitting still and observing I became more at peace within my body and world. Through this process my art has become stronger as I have begun to sit still long enough to think hard before I begin to work."

Nadia Belov is a snail lover, collector of words, and color fanatic.

"I'd first like to say that this class has been such a ray of sunshine in a very confusing and dark time, so thanks to everyone for that. My favorite memory in the class was the prompt where we studied an artist and made a piece that was inspired by them. My dad taught me how to make a canvas frame from some wood I found in his barn, and I learned how to stretch fabric over it with a staple gun. That's a skill that I'll use over and over again in the future, and it was such a fun time to bond and create with my dad on such a pretty day."

Rylie Gammell: Hi, I'm Rylie. I study art history and hope to become a professor one day.

"In week 5 of this term, my class had to choose a question that we wished to answer, select a form of research that we are not very familiar with the attempt to answer this question, and create a product based on what we found. I was doing work for another class when it came to me. I was reading about Renaissance Florence, and how people of that time had a collective sort of "taste" for art and beauty, especially when it came to city planning. This got me thinking about all the different definitions of "Beauty," So I challenged myself to answer, "What is the most beautiful thing in the world?" I conducted a survey, which I had never done before, and asked people through social media to write what they thought was the most beautiful thing in the world. I got many repeat responses, like

“love” and “nature.” I also got unique responses, like “endearing encounters that leave indelible impressions.” Out of nowhere, I get a message from a friend that I haven’t talked to for a year. She tells me: “Hey, Sade. I just wanted you to know that I took your survey and I am very grateful because you gave me a space to think about happy and beautiful things when I have been finding that very hard recently. Thank you.” Right now in our world, we are isolated and bombarded with disheartening news, and it can be difficult to remind oneself about the things that are good. I did not think that a small art class project would receive that kind of response, and it reminded me of the impact that art has on people. I am grateful for my friend and I am grateful for all of the beautiful things in the world.”

Sade Moore: My name is Sade Moore and I love art, art history, and reading graphic novels.

“I’m an accounting major, but I have always had a passion for the arts. I was lucky to grow up in a household equipped with different mediums readily available to me. Paints, markers, clay, pastels, charcoal, fabric, you name it; I have my mother to thank for that. To pursue this passion, I decided to add an Arts Practice Minor to my degree. Ideation is the first course I have taken and I am glad it was the first milestone on this journey. Although this term was unconventional, I found it every bit as enriching. I appreciated the weekly one on one meetings I had with either Michelle or Brianna. They really helped me expand my thought process and question different ways on how to evolve my ideas to make them better. I did think it was difficult talking about myself and work during our weekly video posts, but we discussed where I could improve and after some reflection, I realized I should be more confident in my work and who I am. I really appreciated the time spent in this class and the connections I made. It has recharged me after being burnt out from my accounting courses. I’m excited for the next steps in my journey!”

Samantha Groza: My name is Samantha and I like using different types of mediums to express myself, but I am most fond of sewing and stippling.

“This term has helped me to slow down. I have allowed my mind to open and have overcome fears about my creativity. It’s okay to be vulnerable. It’s okay to show a little piece of your soul while creating. That’s how you get the good stuff. The activities in this class have helped me to listen and observe in new ways. I’m excited to keep learning and opening up more parts of me that I didn’t know I had.”

Sarah Spalding: I’m figuring myself out one day at a time.

“During the first week of the semester I was feeling overwhelmed with taking classes online, being quarantined in a small apartment with anxious roommates, and some other difficult situations that I had been dealing with for a few months. But when we got our first prompt for Ideation, it was a chance to sit down and just peacefully observe my surroundings. The calm observation process reminded me a lot grounding techniques used for mindfulness and techniques used for people with dissociation. It felt really nice to be able to use class time to work on that process, since it can be hard to make time for when you are feeling overwhelmed by school. This semester re-peaked my interest in using art as a way to re-ground, calm down, and take in the world.”

Whitney Reek: I am Whitney, an art minor and psychology major, that is interested in art therapy.

