

BFA PRE-ART CONSERVATION

Gallery Guide

May 23 - June 16, 2024



Vicki Myhren Gallery

Danielle Anne-Marie Elgarat

Choosing to love art was not what I intended it to be. Art is complex, it tells stories and secrets, it breaks your heart and puts it back together all in one simple brush stroke. Over the years I uncovered more and more about who I am as someone that creates art. I don't fully consider myself as a full-time artist because my passion for art is also related to art conservation.

Every painting I've done and every conversation I've had with someone I love encouraged me to uncover more and find the balance between my love for creating art and my love of art conservation. I paint to explore more about who I am and why I should love or be afraid, to understand why I'm here and not somewhere else, to appreciate and hate, and to just feel it all.

This project is a series of large paintings that explore my connection to the art world. These paintings include subjects such as my personal thoughts and stories in relation to why I entered the art world, and where it is currently taking me. These paintings tell personal stories about my relationship with it as an art student, granddaughter of an artist, a future art conservator, and a person whose passion for art defines them.

This project integrates both oil paint and encaustics as its main mediums. A repeated subject while working with encaustics for the first few times was the artworks of my grandfather, Elie Elgarat. He was an artist and my mentor when I first entered the art world. I found myself revisiting the times I spent looking at his paintings while he explained to me the meaning of color and texture when creating art.

Emma Lynn Lehman

Emma Lynn Lehman is a Pre-Art Conservation student with a minor in Chemistry. She has enjoyed creating art from a young age. Through the years, she also discovered her love for chemistry and strove to find something that would combine the two. Art conservation brought these two passions together, and she loves the idea of being able to keep pieces of art looking the same so that future generations can enjoy them.

Art conservation involves fixing distracting areas on a piece so that the artist's intent is preserved. Sometimes conservation simply involves preservation—making sure that the piece is stable. However, the process can often be labor intensive, for example, fixing a hole or filling in lost elements. The conservation process requires a good understanding of how chemicals react with each other as well as the technical skills that come with making art so that the fixes are not more distracting than before.

For conservation students, it is important to work in a variety of mediums and with a variety of subjects and techniques in order to be able to apply their skills to every piece they come in contact with. Emma Lynn chose a variety of works in different media that are both abstract and representational.

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The BFA program in Art Pre-Conservation is among the more rigorous programs at DU. A highly demanding and specialized field, art conservation calls for an impressively broad skill base. Students master the practices of Art History, Studio Art, and Chemistry, combining these skills into the alchemy of art conservation. It is a rare and special student who is able to navigate this course of study. Students learn the principles, ethics, and practices of art conservation. The program culminates in an Internship and a hand-on conservation project in which the student conserves a particular work of art. This has ranged from paintings (in various media) to ceramics to stained-glass.