

9 **ARTS**

Mitchell Famulare

Thursday, October 22, 2020

famularm@union.edu

**Virtual student docents make contemporary art accessible**

**By Mitchell Famulare**  
Managing, Arts Editor

On October 15, Mallory Schultz, Union College's Art Collections & Exhibitions Fellow, conducted the Mandeville Gallery's seasonal student docent talks virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The student docent series has been a vital tool for the gallery to make current art exhibitions accessible to the public.

By allowing students to weigh in on specific works of art, viewers alike are able to contribute to continuous conversations that are provoked by transformative and contemporary pieces. Docents included Maymunah Ahmed '23, Ryan Hayes '23, Adenike Hickson '22, Mallory Nelson '22, and Samuel Perry '23. Students explored the works of Jane Swaveley and Juan Hinojosa, which are currently on display in the Mandeville Gallery and Schaffer Library respectively.

Mallory Nelson broke down Swaveley's work by exposing the barriers that sometimes isolate modern and contemporary art from the public. More likely than not, many museum visitors feel inadequate in contributing to the discussions revolving around art that distances itself from the masters of past centuries. Nelson

talked of the origin of abstraction as "a rebellion against the art that was romanticizing the same concepts over and over again." Nelson, in her description of Swaveley's works, emphasized how Swaveley stresses that there is "no right answer when interpreting her work." What results is a joyous incapability of pinpointing meaning and an embrace of the vast valleys and mountains of the human imagination. Nelson discussed how the realities Swaveley constructs are "mysterious and grand."

Maymunah Ahmed elaborated how Swaveley uses color in such a way that conveys a natural and sometimes dark landscape.

Ryan Hayes discussed how Swaveley's color work evoked a wild sense of personality, alluding to the possibility of a bear-like image within her work.

Samuel Perry compared Swaveley's work to a book cover illustrator, emphasizing Swaveley's abstract form of storytelling.

Adenike Hickson explored the work of Queens-based artist Juan Hinojosa which is currently on display on the walls of Schaffer Library until June 2021. She described how Hinojosa constructs most of his work with "garbage" and scraps that he finds in the menagerie of cities he finds himself in.

By exploring American consumerism and pop cul-



Courtesy of Emma Lee

**STUDENT ART OF THE WEEK: Emma Lee '21, "The Collapse," Digital Media, 2020**

**Ambient Autumn**

- Arts Editor Mitchell Famulare

- |    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 1  | <b>blue sky and yellow sunflower</b> - Susumu Yokota       | 4:05 |
| 2  | <b>Illusion of Time</b> - Daniel Avery, Alessandro Cortini | 3:44 |
| 3  | <b>Obelisk</b> - Arca                                      | 2:53 |
| 4  | <b>Fingerbib</b> - Aphex Twin                              | 3:20 |
| 5  | <b>New Romantic</b> - Andy Stott                           | 3:31 |
| 6  | <b>4EVA</b> - Lapalux, Talvi                               | 4:15 |
| 7  | <b>I Need You</b> - Octo Octa                              | 3:23 |
| 8  | <b>Lush</b> - Four Tet                                     | 5:11 |
| 9  | <b>Night</b> - Kelly Lee Owens                             | 3:21 |
| 10 | <b>High Alice</b> - Jenny Hval                             | 3:24 |

**"WHAT RESULTS IS A JOYOUS INCAPABILITY OF PINPOINTING MEANING AND AN EMBRACE OF THE VAST VALLEYS AND MOUNTAINS OF THE HUMAN IMAGINATION"**