

like an open wound



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February 2-25, 2024
Saturdays & Sundays 12-5pm, or by appointment

Opening reception Friday, February 2, 6-10pm

Bell Projects presents – **like an open wound** – a solo exhibition of new work by **Madi Brunetti**. This exhibition opens Friday, February 2 and is on view through February 25, 2024. Please join us for an **opening reception on February 2nd from 6pm until 10pm**.

Artist Statement: I cut myself for the first time when I was twelve. I remember deciding that day at school, I'd had enough, I was being bullied and my self-hatred grew like a mangled weed in my chest. I hurt so bad, the mere thought of me was sickening, there were a thousand locusts swarming in my head, threatening to leak out. The walk home was cold, shutting myself in the upstairs bathroom, cracking the cheap red plastic of a dusty old pencil sharpener. And when the blade dug in and the blood spurted out I knew I couldn't go back. It felt powerful to ruin myself. I opened Pandora's Box. The truth of me spilled into the sink.

like an open wound is a meditation on the cycle of self-harm; the build up, the act, the comedown, and the suffocating shame spiral. Rinse, repeat, release. Roll down my sleeve and I'm new again like a moth bursting from its pupa, leaving behind the squelching, squirming helplessness of its caterpillar stage. But people are not insects, our transformation is perpetual, one minute I'm flitting in warm moonlight and the next I'm the worm, crawling towards the last green leaf in my tiny universe; winter is coming. I cut because I couldn't cope, because it was comforting to know that nobody could hurt me like I could hurt me.

The blade steals something from you, every time it split my skin a piece of me left, slipping down the drain, no amount of band aids, and "this is the last time I promise" could shove it back inside. This work is a documentation of that loss, of damage, of grotesque transformation. It aims to hypnotize with disgust, to confront you with the ugly truth of vices; their pretty, empty promises. The blood is on my hands, the blood is mine, and there is no escaping me. There is no happy ending, only sharp edges, smears of red, and the faint buzzing threatening to swallow me.

Madi Brunetti is an aspiring mixed media artist from Denver, Colorado. She works primarily with oil paint, hand-embroidery, and even insects! Madi leans into contradiction, distorting and zooming in on the figure in unexpected ways to communicate struggles with the self and the body. Her work has been a part of several art shows exhibited at the History Colorado Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Most recently her work was featured in The Portrait Gallery, a group exhibition at the Dairy Arts Center in Boulder, CO.

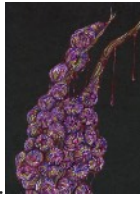
After receiving her BA in Studio Art from Fort Lewis College in December 2021 Madi completed a 6-month residency at The Art Gym, a shared studio space and gallery. She hopes to continue her education to become a college Professor of Art with a focus on blending her passion for insects, painting, drawing, and embroidery.



1.

i burn (2023)

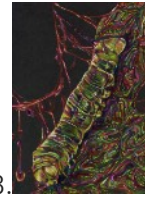
Oil, thread, and insects on canvas
48 x 36"
\$2000



2.

ova (2023)

Colored pencil on paper
12 x 9"
\$950



3.

instar 1 (2023)

Colored pencil on paper
12 x 9"
\$950



4.

down the drain (2023)

Oil, thread, and insects on canvas
48 x 48"
\$2800



5.

instar 2 (2023)

Colored pencil on paper
9 x 12"
\$950



6.

becoming clean (2023)

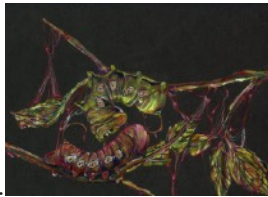
Oil, thread, and insects on canvas
48 x 48"
\$2800



7.

instar 3 (2023)

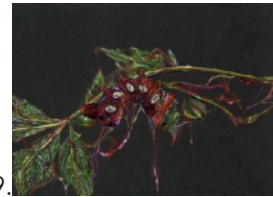
Colored pencil on paper
12 x 9"
\$950



8.

instar 4 (2023)

Colored pencil on paper
9 x 12"
\$950



9.

instar 5 (2023)

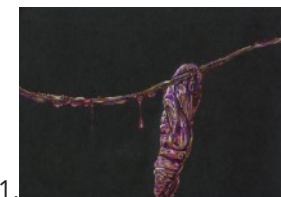
Colored pencil on paper
9 x 12"
\$950



10.

rinse and repeat (2024)

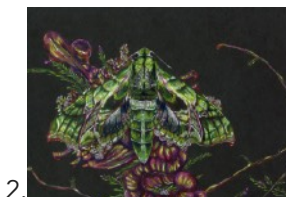
Oil, thread, and insects on canvas
48 x 36"
\$2000



11.

pupate (2023)

Colored pencil on paper
9 x 12"
\$950



12.

eumorpha pandorus (2023)

Colored pencil on paper
9 x 12"
\$950



13.

erase me (2023)

Oil, thread, and insects on canvas
48 x 48"
\$2800



14.

mortem (the cycle continues)

(2023)
Colored pencil on paper
12 x 9"
\$950