

II. Description of Research

The human heart is far more than a blood pumping apparatus. It is the source of life's vitality, and the institute of feeling, thought, and even memory. The heart shape, , is necessary to generate reason in an observer. Images provoke imagination and feelings, and if effective enough, they will integrate into archetypes once identified and embraced. Assertions of ideograms are especially vital to religions such as ancient Egyptians, Aztecs, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and more. Many religions use both the imagery and the existence of the physical heart to represent emotional and spiritual qualities.

The iconological symbol of the heart that we have today originated and developed in the late Middle Ages. Renaissance artists established the now widely used "heart shape" while the intertwining of religious virtuosities and romantic love developed "heart metaphors". The heart shape symbol we have now, is known as a Valentine's heart. St. Valentine had actually very little to do with this shape developing as a symbol. Rather the heart shape developed over hundreds of years, and was inevitably established by Christian artists to express devotion to Christ. It became a prominent symbol that has continued to be reputable in Western culture to this day. This is largely due to the fact that romantic love became a mainstream cultural practice.

Although we now have a more improved understanding of cardiac anatomy and physiology, the scalloped shape has persisted, despite not being a great depiction of the heart's physical characteristics. It is through an intricate collaboration of art, religion, and cultural rituals that we in Western society still hold on to this shape as a symbol. The enduring nature of the symbol relates to its tendencies to be naturally dualistic. The spiritual connotation of the heart is to serve as an empty vessel to be filled with love; romantic and spiritual. The heart shows that there is a duality that lives inside all of us and coincidentally serves as a safe haven for faith to dwell. Logic resides in the mind while faith resides in the heart. Today's modern problem with this is that faith is widely being abolished in the West, leaving half our hearts in constant yearning. If our society continues to live solely on logic and neglects our faith and duties, then we are left with a generation of half-hearted humans.





In order to fill a whole gallery for my Senior Exhibition, I intend on making pieces that encompass the walls and occupy the floor space. I would like a wide range of small pedestal pieces and large floor pieces, while my wall pieces will include 3D elements as well. I wish to use a variety of mediums and techniques in order to truly capture the internal verity I am trying to convey. My budget includes coverage of materials necessary for me to create at least three works of art that relate to my concept this summer. My research on the heart symbol and its various metaphors will provide me with an expansive amount of ideas on how I should portray the assorted conditions of the human heart. Allegories such as the romantic, wounded, broken, inflamed, and winged hearts are just a few ideas I would like to reference in my own body of work.

III. Timeline

- June 2, 2015: Order and purchase tools and materials from research grant money.
- June 5 -20, 2015: Attend John H. Pratt's "Woodcut: An Exploratory Approach" class at Penland School of Crafts while doing a work study.
- June 19, 2015: Complete a woodblock print that reflects my concept as part of a cohesive show.
- July 11, 2015: Complete an additional sculpture that reflects my concept as part of a cohesive show.
- July 31, 2015: Complete an additional sculpture that reflect the discoveries in my research.
- July 31, 2015: Begin creating a timeline for fall semester 2015. Plan my senior B.F.A exhibition for the S. Tucker Cooke Gallery, in Owen Hall.
- August 7, 2015: Have a 10-15 page research paper completed.

November 2015: Present research at UNC Asheville symposium.

*I plan to submit my paper for publication to the UNC Asheville Journal.

IV. Budget

1. Stipend.....	\$1500.00
2. Cost of wood.....	\$350.00
3. Anchor steel stamp from PMC Supplies.....	\$25.00
4. Disc Cutter With 2 Punches For Large Heart Shapes.....	\$200.00
5. A pint of patina solutions in green.....	\$25.00
6. A quart of liver of sulfur.....	\$45.00
7. 3 Mirrors, 1 standard, 1 concave and 1 safety.....	\$150.00
8. 2 sheets of 3' x 24" Aluminum Sheet Metal.....	\$55.00
9. acrylic paint in assorted colors.....	\$50.00
10. Cost of materials and studio fee at Penland.....	\$100.00

Total Requested.....\$2500.00

*I have accepted the Abby Watkins Bernon Full Work Study Scholarship to attend Penland this summer.

* I have been awarded the Sylva Bellue Memorial Wood Scholarship for Fall semester 2015 at UNC Asheville.

V. Resources

1. Stokstad, Marilyn and Michael W. Cothren. *Art History, 5th Edition*. Pearson Education, Inc., 2014, pages
2. Godwin, Gail. *Heart: A Personal Journey through its myths and meanings*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.
3. Vinken, P.J. *The Shape of the Heart: A contribution to the Iconology of the Heart*. The Netherlands, Elsevier, 1999.
4. Kehoe, Alice B. "The Sacred Heart: A Case for Stimulus Diffusion." *American Ethnologist*. Vol.6. No. 4. (1997): 763-771. Web Article.
5. <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/art-between-wars/latin-american-modernism1/a/kahlo-the-two-fridas-las-dos-fridas>
6. http://articles.latimes.com/1993-02-02/entertainment/ca-1031_1_bleeding-heart
7. <http://wtfarthistory.com/post/17657560414/i-found-my-heart-at-lacma>