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Sacred Heart

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Loyola Marymount University
University Honors
Program

Sacred Heart

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction
of the requirements of the University Honors Program
of Loyola Marymount University

by

Ashley Knight

May 19, 2024

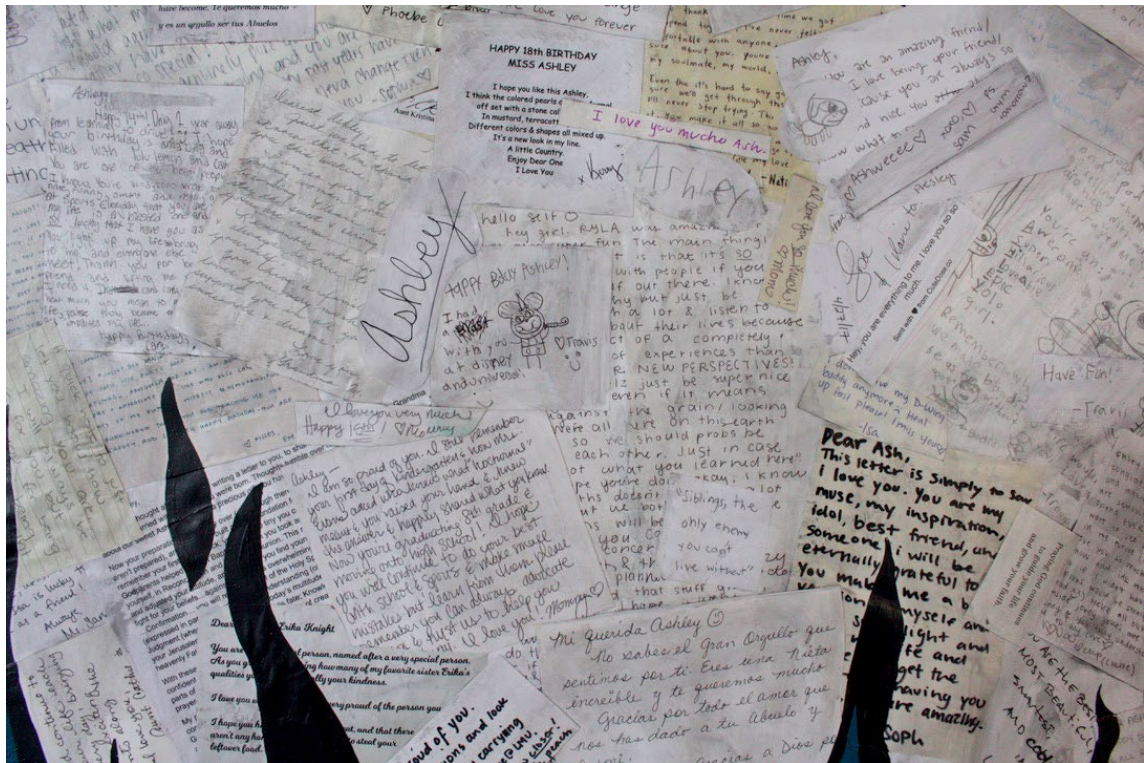
Advisor: Masaru Suzuki

Supervisor: Saeri Dobson

Abstract

This work explores the interplay between love, memory, and mortality through three distinct but interwoven pieces: *Sacred Heart*, *Godsent*, and *Satan's Greetings*. Each piece is centered around personal and collective experiences, utilizing various mediums. These works explore my overflowing feelings of love and gratitude meeting my existentialism and fear of death. Together, these works offer a reflection on the dualities of existence, drawing from personal history, cultural traditions, and a general sense of existentialism to articulate my journey through love, loss, and the human condition.

Project Images



Above: Sacred Heart



Above: Godsent and Satan's Greetings



Above: All pieces together

Project Descriptions

Sacred Heart, 2024.

Acrylic on canvas.

This piece is a metaphor for my overflowing feelings of love and gratitude meeting my existentialism and fear of death. From a young age I understood that memories with the people in my life are precious; when I was thirteen, I started keeping every letter, birthday card, and note I was ever given. This piece is a mosaic of moments in my life: messages encouraging me throughout my journey getting confirmed into the Catholic faith, love letters from my ex-girlfriends, birthday cards from my childhood friends, messages from my family, notes from strangers, and so on. My heart, a kaleidoscope of everyone I've ever known, is suspended in between lightness and darkness, heaven and hell, life and death.

Godsent, 2024.

Sculpture with candles, crystals, shell, and photographs.

This work is an ode seeing light in darkness, beginnings in ends, and life in death. I was raised Catholic, and my dad's side of the family is Mexican, so altars have always been a part of my life. This piece is inspired by my grandma's altars throughout my childhood. I remember early on in my life, I was at my grandma's house for a party; all my relatives from all over California and Mexico were there, and in the center of the living room stood an altar with photos of our

loved ones who passed and a big white chocolate cake. This altar represents the joy with which I live, while knowing that everything and everyone dies.

Satan's Greetings, 2024.

Print on cardstock.

These greeting cards reflect the cards in my painting. I received many cards throughout my life, all of them optimistic. However, many events in life that require communication are not happy ones; I have always wondered why there aren't any greeting cards for these hard moments. I made these brutally honest cards to reflect the sad, painful, and difficult parts of being human and having relationships with others.