

THE CLARION

By students, for students



Mia Hubbard
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Our Grim inheritance
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Portraits Of Peace
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FREE



INSIDE THE ISSUE



Photo provided by: Diane Nguyen

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Email: clarion.central@gmail.com
Room: 6-314
Phone: 937-512-2958

Staff

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Ismael David Mujahid

ONLINE EDITOR

Nathan Dunn

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Guppy Neff

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Mason Burgess

Sakshi Patel

INTERN

Esperance Amuri

SALES/MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

Melissa Wambui

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR AND PHOTOGRAPHER

JD Atayi

REPORTER

Jessie Ngowoh

MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST

Andrew Barnes

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

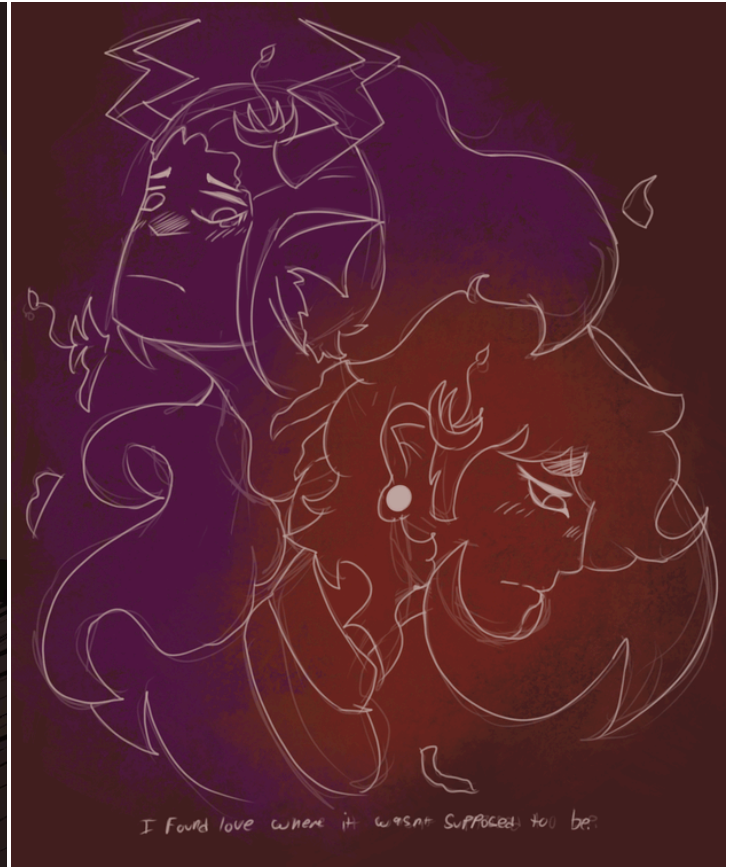
Katie Quintuna

ADVISOR

Jessica Graue



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A rare moment of happiness. Photo provided by: Ismael David Mujahid

Being my last issue as Executive Editor of The Clarion, this was supposed to be a celebration. I'd planned a whole retrospective of my tenure replete with a nice collage of photos. Graduation looms and the key to more financial opportunities; it's what these years of hard work have been about.

To follow that plan now would be senseless. Because none of my team feels like celebrating. Instead, we feel sad, terrified, and extremely disappointed. In many ways we feel betrayed by our fellow Americans who chose ignorance and lies over their country. Our foreign colleagues fear visa restrictions, our LGBTQ+ coworkers fear annihilation. I look to the women in my life and don't know what to tell them.

I've led this team through hourly cuts, disappearances, and familial deaths. As a journalist with 10 years' experience I've covered wars and elections, been stalked and harassed, even threatened. This is the lowest point. It is the worst thing imaginable to learn that so much of what you believed in was a lie.

It's hard to explain what it feels like to lose your country, to walk outside and not recognize it anymore.

Among my fears are what this will do to race relations, women's reproductive freedom, and the many LGBTQ+ folks who are terrified. It's hard to put into words how scared some people are, how fearful women in this country have become, how yet another generation of minorities feel dejected. When I think of how this will impact the East and Latin America I feel sick to my stomach. Not to mention the large numbers of LGBTQ+ youths suffering right now.

If this country was ever ours, it certainly does not feel so now. How else are we to feel to see this nation we love so much embrace fascism? We keep asking ourselves why and I don't know if there is an answer. But I do know the love and goodness in our own hearts. No matter how tough things get, let's lean into that. We can't allow the hate of others to make us like them. We can't allow their mistakes, their ill will to make us follow in their footsteps. Yes, fascism lives. But goodness hasn't gone anywhere. Hate may grip their hearts, but I refuse to let it have mine.

The Past

I know it's hard to be positive right now but we do have a lot to be proud of. I've worked with some truly great people here. To list them all would take forever but they know who they are and they know I appreciate them.

I'd be remiss not to thank all the immigrants that trusted me to tell their stories. Whether they came from Ukraine or Haiti, Rwanda or Brazil. Thank you.

Incredibly, we were also able to cover countless success stories from Dayton and beyond over the past 11 months. I'm talking about award-winning creatives, international best-sellers, the cream of the crop. It meant so much that people I admire, people I aspire to be like, were willing to share their time and knowledge with me. Thank you for taking a chance on the editor of a college paper and trusting me to do right by your stories. I want to give a special shoutout to the incredible sci-fi community. Time and again, when I reached out, you all answered.

If anything, I'd like my time here to be remembered for the measure of stability I brought to the role and for the great stories we were able to write in my time. We showed the public that Dayton is not a dying city, but a place that is vibrant and full of life. Where others shied away from covering issues of importance to minorities, we embraced those opportunities. Culture was celebrated, differences accepted and recognized, and a truly international dimension was brought to a paper from the middle of Ohio.

We gave a great account of ourselves. I'm proud of this publication and this team. Most of all, I'm proud of our readers.

The Future

I love Dayton. I've lived here since March 5, 2020, and it is a place with real potential. My mother is buried here, one of my poems adorns a wall in Edgemont; believe me when I say a piece of my heart will always be in this city. But it hurts too much to look at the people around me and wonder which of them sees me as some lumbering 'N-word'. It wouldn't be right to give up on this great city. But it wouldn't be such a bad thing to take a little break.

I want to spare a moment for my fellow Muslim creatives and activists. Many of us went out there and tried to make our votes count. We dealt with people from our own communities who rejected the idea that a woman should be president. We weathered a storm of truly horrific comments, slurs, and conspiracy theories.

Our love for our brothers and sisters in humanity, our dedication to peace- that drove us then and continues to drive us now. The press at large will not acknowledge that, it is more convenient for them to depict Muslims as monsters. But at the very least we can recognize each other and those in the trenches with us.

Its ok to feel sad. But its not ok to feel hopeless. Its not ok to give up.

Looking Ahead

Funniest thing about Sinclair, is I actually began taking classes here because I didn't want to work in journalism again. I thought, I'm done with all that, let me pursue my real dream and write fiction. But sometimes you just get reeled back in and here I am!

Truth be told, I'm excited to continue perfecting my craft, continue improving my work. Journalism in America isn't the idealistic fantasy I hoped it would be. But I like to think I'm ok at it and can continue to do good. Most importantly, however, is that on the Fiction side I continue to go from strength to strength.

I can share that I'll be appearing in the upcoming military sci-fi anthology "JR. Handley Presents: Contested Landings Vol.2". It was a real honor to be selected and I thoroughly enjoyed working with Mr. Handley and his team.

I should be happy given I have another book near completion, another almost completely revised, and my poetry collection out in the wild. But it's hard to feel anything right now. Good vibes and healing will come with time.

But I digress. Thank you for reading The Clarion. Whether you picked it up for the first time today or have been doing so for a while, I appreciate you. It was an honor and if this is my last journalism gig then I'm glad it came here.

I ask that you forgive my faults, remember I only did my best, and please continue supporting The Clarion.

Follow me on Instagram at thelitnomad009. If you want to see my other work keep in mind my pen name is Ismail Soldan. Email me and I'll be more than happy to share some stuff with you.

Wishing Every Single One of You Love and Peace,
Ismael David Mujahid



A wonderful farewell present. "Guts" by Mason Burgess.

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Black Is...



Mia Morton Hubbard

Illustrated by
Vladimir Cebu, LL.B.

Teacher of eight years encourages students with her writing Photo Credit: Mia Hubbard

Mia Hubbard

An author worth knowing

By Esperance Amuri, Intern

In an insightful interview with *The Clarion*, Mia Morton Hubbard, a communication professor at Sinclair Community College and now a children's book author, discusses her latest book, "Black Is...", and her journey to bring this book to life.

"I am a grandmother, a wife, and a procurer of helping people gain self-esteem. I love that I can see something in somebody and help them see it for themselves," said Hubbard.

Hubbard has been a teacher at Sinclair Community College for eight years, and one of the most rewarding things to her, especially when teaching public speaking courses, is seeing the change her students go through when they start her class. In the end, they realize that their lives could change positively.

"My kids are what inspired me to write this children's book; I have five children who grew up in a predominantly white school system, and because of that, I could tell that their self-esteem in that environment was low. And sometimes I reflect on it, and I am just like, we should not have done that, but they did have a great education; they still had to deal with the emotional level that came with that every day," said Hubbard.

Despite knowing how some teachers looked at Black students, Hubbard did not realize how the environment and school impacted them until she volunteered for six years at the elementary school that her children attended and when they told her about it in later years.

Her presence at her children's schools greatly impacted how the teachers treated them because they knew she would be there. It made the kids feel good because she was there, but since their skin color stood out, she often had to tell them it was beautiful and that everybody was different. People notice the difference on the outside, but what stands out is what is on the inside.

Hubbard's new children's book, "Black is...", was written twenty years ago. Surprisingly, she put it on the back shelf because of the feedback she received from those with whom she shared her book draft.

"One of the reasons for having a book like this is to help my students, help the community, and help the world to realize that black is beautiful. And whether or not you are a person of color, it offers this increase of good self-esteem, a window for you to see the fascinating amazingness of diversity," said Hubbard.

Hubbard hopes that children, parents, and all readers will embrace self-acceptance, recognize their unique power, and understand that skin color is an unchangeable, essential part of who they are.

After the first encounter that Hubbard had when she shared her book draft with others during the writing process, she received discouraging feedback; this time around, she decided to only share it with her children and grandchildren. However, she did not hesitate to discuss the book with others before it was published.

“The challenging part about writing for children is you have to make sure that you have the right language, meaning that 0 to 7 years old can process a certain amount of words, so that was challenging to make sure that I had the right wording to grab that audience,” said Hubbard.

Hubbard balanced entertainment and education in her book by presenting the kids on each page differently. The vibrant illustrations in “Black Is...” portray children of various backgrounds, making it easy for young readers to see themselves represented while being educated by the words on each page.

“One of my favorite pages is where it talks about ‘Black is the night and all the stars...’ and it reminded me of when I was a kid and me, my cousins, and my sisters would run outside and would look at the night sky and look at the stars and collect fireflies, and just run, and just have fun,” said Hubbard.

Her book supports children’s language development or communication skills by helping them communicate who they are, enhance their word choices in explaining who they are, and think about their identity.

“I have watched my grandchildren read the book and how much they just love that the little boy in the book is doing everything they do. One of my other favorites is my publisher and it was essential to represent Black families, showing both a mom and dad,” said Hubbard.

Hubbard also realized that even adults could benefit from this book, especially adults from the African diaspora. Since their ancestors were brought to the United States, low self-esteem seems to have been something that most adults of color inherited from this horrific history. The degradation of it all runs throughout the family, and turning the tide of this history is hard, so this book can help boost their self-esteem.

She also mentions that through this book, both adults of color and those who are not can see through the window of diversity that black is amazing and that what diversity can do is powerful. That is also what she hopes parents will get from the book.

“Yes, I use my book in class to illustrate concepts like identity and self-esteem. I also share the Clarks’ doll test documentary, which shows how children, even children of color, often favor the white doll over the black one,” Hubbard shared. “It’s heartbreaking but essential to discuss so my students see the deep impact of representation.”

Hubbard also said that writing for children has influenced how she instructs her students. She always advises her students to say positive things to the children around them since her students may not know if that is the first time that child is hearing someone praise or speak positively to them.

“My advice for those who want to write children’s books is to write about what you love because it makes it easier when it comes to creating. Write daily, open that notes app, and try to do that. And yes, I see myself writing more books, and I also see myself writing where I can bridge that communication aspect and help kids articulate who they are,” said Hubbard.

Through her book “Black is...”, Hubbard has shown parents and children the power and beauty of variety. Her route shows her passion as an instructor and her desire to instill self-esteem in each young person. Hubbard hopes to improve communication and storytelling in her work by helping children and parents express themselves. According to Hubbard, “Black is...” demonstrates the transformational power of self-recognition in storytelling, inspiring future generations.



A teacher with a story. Photo Credit: Mia Hubbard

Our Grim Inheritance

The legacy of anti-Latino hate that continues to haunt the U.S.

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

“Wetback”, “dirty Puerto Rican”- those are just a few of the vile terms Latinos like myself have seen make a comeback in recent weeks. Being an American of color has never been easy but these days that difficulty has definitely gone up a notch.

I almost did not have the heart to finish this article. There is a point in each of the interviews I conducted for it that made it nigh impossible. In conversation with PT Library Technical Assistant Rayna Alvarado, it was the pain such poison caused her family that made it hard. In conversation with Professor Derek Petrey, it was the hint of optimism in my voice and hearing a man I look up to say he’s sorry.

Doubtless there are those on campus celebrating, delighted of the oppression and pain about to be unleashed on this country. Those people are blissfully unaware that it is exactly their embrace of neofascism that will break the America they claim to love. But there are at least a few people mourning the triumph of fascism with us. I owed it to them to finish the job.

Alvarado, at first glance, is not what most people consider a Latino. But that is only because most people know little of what that identifier means, what it entails. That it encompasses a vast swathe of cultures, skin colors, languages, and landmasses. Its partly that ignorance that has proven so toxic to Alvarado’s family.



The Alvarado family, including Rayna. Those wondering should know she is no longer a baby.
Photo provided by Rayna Alvarado.

“I really didn’t pay attention to those comments from a world perspective but definitely felt it within my family. My Mom is white and my dad is an immigrant as well as his cousins and my grandparents. Those kinds of prejudicial comments and feelings were a big reason my Mom stopped talking to her parents. It really impacted me because I never had a relationship with them,” Alvarado said.

As a result, the loss of her grandparents would be felt more acutely. Not because she knew them but because she would never get that chance. Her father’s experience as an immigration would impact her life in other ways too.

“It’s hard when you live here to keep the culture of the country your family immigrated from alive. That was a challenge for me. Not speaking Spanish at home, not celebrating the same holidays. My dad always wanted to celebrate American holidays. I think he felt that prejudice and wanted to protect us from the experience he had. Finding work was also always difficult for him, which impacted us financially.”

In this day and age, references to Latinos ‘polluting America’ are as common as they must have been a century ago. Many don’t realize the real pain this causes.

“Thinking about someone not seeing them as a person, them not being valued by others, is painful. When you love and care about someone and feel they’re being degraded, it’s hard to watch. I see them and know I’m a part of them and am proud of our heritage. It’s tough, mainly because I love my parents and don’t want to see them struggle. Especially when it’s a matter of race because that is something outside your control.”

The depiction of immigrants as hyper violent invaders is particularly troubling. Rhetoric reminiscent of the Huns and Goths are being employed.

“I want people to know that we are all really different and that’s what makes all that rallying and violence difficult. They have this mentality that all Hispanics, all Latinos, all Mexicans are this one thing and its always just ‘other’. So I think that’s something that makes me really uncomfortable, when people don’t realize that we are people too.”

Alvarado hopes people realize what ‘othering’ does to someone after a long time. Whatever goodness we see in ourselves and our communities, we should see in others, she told me.

“He doesn’t really have friends or enjoy the things he could. Its sad to hear him talk about being young, going out and dancing, fixing cars with his friends, and knowing he really doesn’t have that since moving here. He’s also spent a lot of his life traveling which has affected his connection with is family. I don’t necessarily contribute all of that to racism but I do feel it has had a large impact on his lack of trust in people.”

The best way to combat stereotypes and ignorance, Alvarado feels, is to get involved. Hang out with your neighbors and members of your local community, attend cookouts and cultural events when you can. While some might see them as small, these actions do have a large impact.

“People can feel when you aren’t saying hi to them, people can notice and feel when you only interact with certain neighbors on the black. Just engaging more in friendly communication with each other and if there are any local organizations that you know supporting Hispanics whether they are restaurants or food-trucks make sure you engage with them.,” she said.

The search for understanding.

With Professor Petrey, Chair of Humanities, Government, & Modern Languages, I sought to gain some insight into where this hate comes from. Why do so many people in this country hate us so much?

“Let’s be honest, we have a history in this country where we claim to have liberated all these lands from the Spanish but then didn’t treat the Filipinos kindly when it came time to do that. A lot of the language we’re hearing was used about the Filipinos back in the 19th century and the same things were said about southern Europeans when they came here, especially if they were Catholic and darker skinned. White, protestant Anglo-Saxon values were a strong part of the original colonies. You have this culture that assumed whiteness was the default and anything that differed from that was to be subjugated.”

Puerto Ricans have long had the right to citizenship, performed extraordinary heroics during World War I, and yet continue to be spoken of like they come from a different planet.

“Its not new, said Petrey about the rhetoric. “Its shocking that we still do it but there are politicians that want poor white people to feel marginalized. If you want them to believe you, they will try to make you feel better than other poor people who aren’t white and often use race to divide people who have a lot more in common than they know,” Petrey explained.

As racism has proven to be an effective political tactic so often in America’s past, its no wonder it has reared its ugly head again and again. Until people wake up, things won’t change.

“I think it divides between communities and within communities. There are people that will say, instead of saying we need to reform the immigration system, they’ll say I came in the country the right way, as opposed to the wrong way. This is very much predicated on the nation you are from. Puerto Ricans have an automatic right to citizenship and to put them in the same class as people who have to apply in a different way, that sometimes pits Puerto Ricans against Mexicans as a way of controlling those populations.

It keeps ‘patriotic’ Puerto Ricans serving in the armed forces, alongside soldiers who see them as little better than dirt. Additionally, it keeps people distracted from the real cause of their economic woes.

“These stereotypes and tactics come from our colonial history. When you have a certain amount of economic problems people focus on immigrants as a way of getting power as opposed to the people that are really responsible for the economic problems,” he said.

“These aren’t easy conversations. But look at the energy the Founding Fathers put into our power structure and government. I really do think a lot of those ideals make this country great,” Petrey reflected. “The way our constitution is designed, that we did have Founding Fathers that wanted to pursue these loftier ideals, that is something to give us hope.”

Americans must remember, Petrey explained, that its those ideals that attract people to the country in the first place.

“To me, when an immigrant chooses to spend a large part of their life here, it’s the biggest compliment someone can pay to your country. I know people that can do things here that they can’t do anywhere else.,” he said. “I just wish we lived up to the values that immigrants come and look for when they come here.”

The rhetoric used to defame Latinos isn’t new. Its important to remember its been done before, here and abroad, that the consequences of such behavior has already been seen throughout history. As Petrey detailed, the people making these arguments don’t have solutions for the economy, healthcare, or inflation.

“These arguments are not new, they are not real, and they come from a sad part of our history. If someone is trying to make you feel better about a trait of yours that have no control over, why should you feel proud of that? I’m not proud of my brown eyes or my curly hair. I’m proud of my degrees, the friends I’ve made, the places I’ve travelled too. I feel like we should look at people’s accomplishments and performance and not some inborn qualities. That’s when we start to get past all these isms,” he said. “

Perrey, true to the spirit of humanitarianism that has helped define his character, ended on a note of empathy.

“I want people to know that if you are from one of these countries and you feel attacked, I want you to know that as a white citizen of the United States, I see you, I respect you, and I recognize you. And I’m sorry that people somehow find this funny, helpful, or useful for their own ends to say these things.”

The chaos that is bred as a result, extends beyond elections. Its toll is heavy and as we have seen throughout the darkest parts of American history, gives reign to the worst impulses of humanity.

“Violent language helps dehumanize people and when you dehumanize people you make violent action more possible.,” said Petrey.

A PREVIEW OF THE END OF THE WORLD

AMERICAN INEQUALITIES,

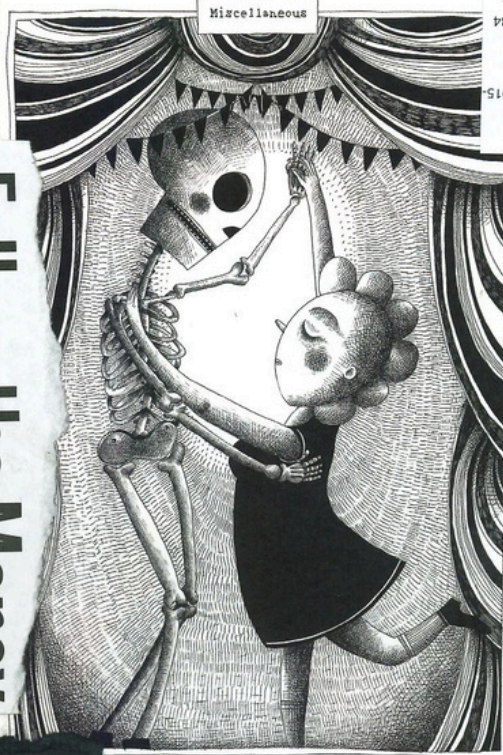
President Trump's unpredictable style is causing existential anxiety

GETTING ON WITH IT



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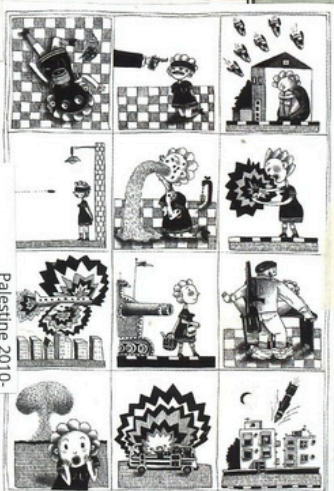
- Pakistan 2003, 2006-
- Nicaragua 1980s
- Libya 1986, 2011-
- Lebanon 1983, 1984
- Kuwait 1991
- Korea 1950-53
- Iran 1987
- Iraq 1991-2003, 2015-
- Grenada 1983
- Laos 1964-73

THE ROLE OF HISTORY HAS CHANGED.



we are everywhere

- Indonesia 1958
- Guatemala 1954, 1960, 1967-69
- Korea 1950-53
- El Salvador 1980s
- Cuba 1959-1961
- Congo 1964
- China 1945-46
- Cambodia 1969-70
- Bosnia 1994, 1995
- Afghanistan 1998, 2001-

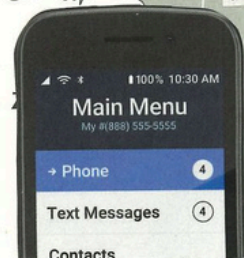


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The Life and Death

WAR LOVES YOU BACK.

- Somalia 1993, 2007-08, 2010-
- Sudan 1998
- Syria 2014-
- Vietnam 1961-73
- Yemen 2002, 2009-
- Yugoslavia 1999

- Palestine 2010-
- Panama 1989
- Peru 1965

Poetry with The Clarion!

“Love!!!” by EC

To me, love means patience

So be patient with me when I am trying to understand my feelings and emotions.

Be patient with me when I run away from you not because I do not love you but because I think I will fall harder and you will run away from me.

Be patient with me when all I can think about is how you will one day think I am unimportant or doubt that every action you take out of your genuine heart and not because you want to have my body.

Be patient when I prioritize myself and my goals over you because I was raised to value things over people.

Be patient with me when I can't believe any compliments you give and I think negatively of myself. I am trying my best to think otherwise.

Be patient with me as I work on myself with God by my side to become the woman He made me to be.

Be patient with me knowing that through it all, I love you.



Malfunction by Katie Quintuna

There are days where I can't function with just the sight of your rare grey hazel eyes, if only they were to forever look into mine. I go in a daze looking into them and stupidly think we could have it all.

The disappointment in my face never seems to fade away when I long for someone who will never look at me the same way. You're just programmed to say all the right things, it must be from the family you grew up in. It explains everything, how you're perfect in every way, how you light up every room with your charm and face. I malfunction at the worst times and that's why I don't date....but you're different from everyone else", I know that's a common phrase thrown around.

I malfunction and I am defective....try and save me, erase the data I've accumulated from the last breakdown but it will turn out ineffective.

“Dream” by Jessie Ngowoh

My vision was blurry
I picked up my phone
it was 3am in the morning
when the winds blew without direction
causing the freshly scented new blinds
to cover my face from the light
the rain was loud
falling with rage
causing the air to smell like dead leaves
through my window
I blinked twice and imagined myself being
cuddled up in my blanket which lay so far
the art of laziness weighed me down
i felt my lips start to shiver and my feet turn
cold
But my heart beat kept slowing down
and I felt a sharp pain with every sound
suddenly a figure stepped in about 5 feet tall
light skinned and crazy hair...
it was my mom, she came to check on me
opened up the warm smooth blanket
spread it like a carpet all over my almost cold
body
thank you Mom I whispered
as I closed my eyes back into the land of
dreams.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER 2024 ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING GRADUATES!

Heartfelt congratulations on your graduation from nursing school!

Each of you has chosen a path where every day brings the opportunity to make a profound difference in people's lives. You will be a source of comfort, strength, and healing for those in need. The commitment and compassion you carry will be your most powerful tools, guiding you to impact countless lives. Wishing you all a fulfilling journey ahead as you step into this noble profession.

AND, TO OUR FIRST BSN GRADUATES!

We are thrilled to congratulate **Melaney Caylor, RN, Kristen Siler, RN, and Kristen Bacon, RN** on achieving their Bachelor of Science in Nursing! As the first graduates of Sinclair's RN-BSN completion program, they are true pioneers, embodying vision, resilience, and empathy. These exceptional professionals have set the foundation for future graduates who will join them in reimagining healthcare with compassion and integrity.

FROM,

THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY AND STAFF OF SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S NURSING DEPARTMENT



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On behalf of Sinclair's President's Office and the Sinclair Foundation, congratulations on graduating from Sinclair College! Your hard work and dedication are made evident by your accomplishments.



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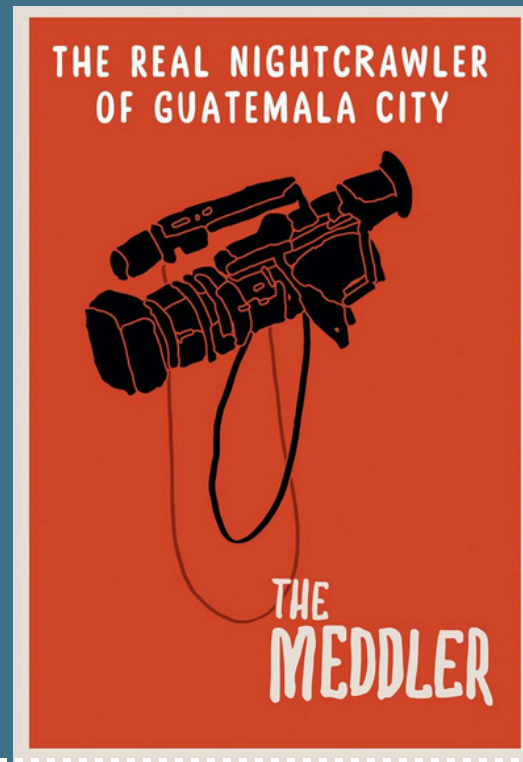
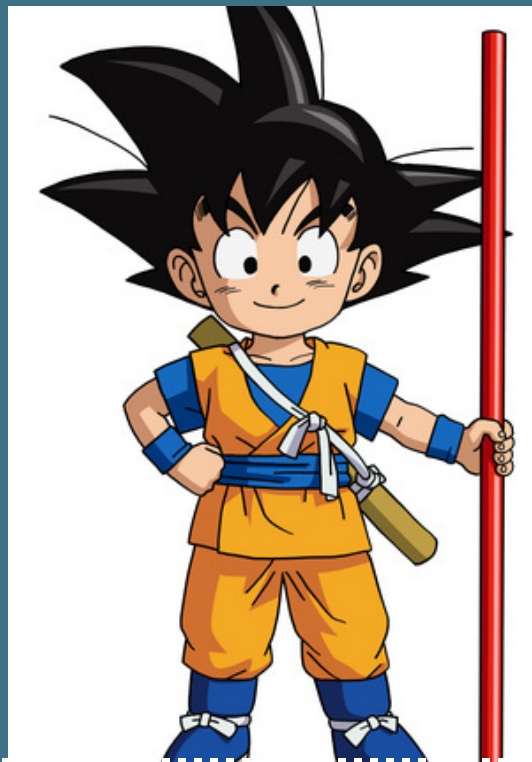
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#THE CLARION [REVIEWS]



Dragon Ball Daima

A farewell gift from one of pop culture's most important creatives

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

For decades, Akira Toriyama and his magnum opus Dragon Ball was the standard when it came to manga and anime. Many of us remember it fondly, whether we watched it on Toonami, SpaceToon, or TV Tokyo. The phenomenon that sprang from Toriyama's pen continues to enthral. Dragon Ball Daima is just the latest example of that.

It's impossible to talk about Daima without mentioning the circumstances surrounding its development. Being a project Toriyama himself was working on at the time of his death, it represents so much more than another anime. The Dragon Ball IP has seen plenty of those. For fans, Daima is a farewell gift from the creative that enriched so many of our lives. The real question isn't whether it's worth watching. Given Toriyama's legacy it's at the very least worth checking out. But is it any good?

Three episodes in (at the time of writing) and the answer is a definitive yes. Daima manages to capture some key things missing from Dragon Ball Super. First and foremost is the humor sprinkled throughout. Secondly, the real sense of adventure that for so long took a backseat to massive intergalactic battles in other adaptations. But most intriguing of all is that magical, childlike feeling you get as Goku finds himself in yet another hilarious predicament.

So much about Daima reminded me of the original Dragon Ball manga, in the best way possible. Goku is back to being the consummate martial artists. He also feels a lot more 'himself' than he did in Super.

Like a true Toriyama tale, the jokes land and are in good taste. Several times episode 3 had me laughing out loud. I also enjoyed seeing the action scenes focus more on martial arts instead of massive beam attacks.

If anything, Daima proves that Toriyama and his team were masters of their craft. The idea of making Goku and his friends a kid again has been done before (GT) but here its not just a gimmick. It perfectly mirrors the experience of viewers like me. Like Goku we've been through the ringer, but with help from Shenron and the Dragon balls, we once again are recapturing our childlike sense of wonder and adventure.



Photo Credit: Toei Animation

Like A Dragon

Making the move to the silver screen

By Andrew Barnes, Multimedia Specialist

The yakuza series has entered the silver screen on Amazon Prime. This new venture brings exciting new possibilities for the franchise by reaching an audience that might not have been into the gameplay of the main series. Unfortunately, however, I believe it falls short of this purpose. I believe that it changes too much to be a good adaptation and is only a passable drama.

Not all the series is bad, however. A large part of what I enjoyed was the casting. The casting can make or break a show, and I am glad to say that this show has made amazing choices in their actors. Two amazing choices that knocked it out of the park were Munetaka Aoki as Goro Majima and Kento Kaku as Akira Nishkiyama. Aoki perfectly emulates Majima's erratic and unnerving energy in his acting, specifically being more subdued than one would expect due to his scenes taking place before he fully committed to his "Mad Dog" persona.

Kaku also brings Nishkiyama to life. In the game the series is based on there are two eras to Nishkiyama. The first was before Kiryu went to prison, here Nishkiyama was a pitiable and slightly pathetic figure, always stuck in Kiryu's shadow. After Kiryu returned from prison however he found a Nishkiyama that was changed by the ten years they were apart. He was a cold and severe tactician that cared only about obtaining more power. It must have been a tall order to properly convey these two extremely different personalities, but Kaku was able to beautifully fuse the two personalities, and I look forward to seeing him as the villain going forward.

Another concept I enjoyed was their choice of structure of the show. They split the show into two stories, one in 2005 like the original game and another taking place in 1995. This split makes you feel more involved in the history of the characters. This gives the audience a better understanding of why these characters do what they do in comparison to the short flashbacks of the game.

Unfortunately, I also have some complaints. The first of which is also the casting. Specifically, I think Kazama Kiryu and Taiga Saejima had actors that didn't fit the characters. My problem with both actors is the same, they're not physically big enough. In the games both Kiryu and Saejima are infamous for their large and imposing presence but in the live action Kiryu is about as big as anyone else in the main cast. Saejima is better because he is physically stocky enough to exude the aura of strength that's required but he stands at about a head shorter than the other actors.

The other changes to the plot structure also serve as a detriment to the series nature as an adaptation. Firstly, is Kiryu's character, in the games Kiryu fully embodied the essence of a dragon. He was a calm and noble protector of those around him, even at a detriment to himself. In contrast to this Kiryu in the live action had to be forced to return to Kamurocho to engage in the plot and seemed generally uninterested in what was going on around him. My biggest complaint however is the handling of Haruka Sawamura. As any player of the yakuza games knows, Haruka is the beating heart of the yakuza series.

Kiryu is too stoic to properly carry a game on his own so Haruka serves as a great foil to the dragon of Dojima. Within Haruka also exists a strength of character and will rivaling that of Kiryu's, we meet Haruka moments after she's almost murdered in the game and she immediately demands that they save a puppy they find starving on the road (to which Kiryu obliges). In contrast we don't see much of anything of Haruka but I'm not optimistic because she seems to be just a regular spoiled kid that'll spend most of her scenes covering from the criminal underworld she's going to have to dive through.

To sum up all of my thoughts here I believe that while there are certain redeeming factors to the series, the changes make it too different for old fans to latch onto and not enough for new fans to get into.



Video game come to the screen. Photo Credit: Prime Studios

Legion by Dan Abnett

A sci-fi master in a league of his own

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

At this point in his career, Dan Abnett has proven he can twist practically a premise into a must-read tale. It's no surprise that anything he writes is a guaranteed winner with fans of science fiction and fantasy. If that were all he achieved with *Legion* it would still rank among the best the *Hours Heresy* has to offer. But just like one of his trademark twists, this novel turns out to be so much more than meets the eye.

To truly appreciate how incredible *Legion* is a little perspective is required. It is equal parts sci-fi action-thriller and investigative yarn, with a dash of grimdark noir. If that combination sounds unwieldy that's because it is or would be in the hands of a less experienced author. Thankfully, the man that wrote *Eisenhorn* is in tip-top form here.

Legion opens with a jarring interrogation scene that is as tense as it is intriguing. We then meet the Geno Five-Two Chiliad on Nurthe, in the middle of a pacification campaign against the strange and hardy Nurthene. High-tech military discipline clashes with desert-born tactics and strange happenings. In the midst of it all is a conspiracy to draw out the secretive Alpha Legion, as a literal Cabal of age-old aliens attempts save the universe.

Abnett's trade ark character work makes the men and women of the Geno come alive. Their traditions, thoughts, and mottos feel as real as if they'd been ripped from our world. Practically everyone that appears in the book is given plenty of depth. That is as true for minor functionaries as it is for generals.

It's partly that dedication to developing his characters that makes every one of Abnett's twists cut that much deeper. The intrigue and espionage keep you on your toes.

One technique used by Abnett is repetition. Just as he circles back to the opening scene later in the book, so does he repeat phrases. Like a magician performing sleight of hand, context and circumstance add value to those callbacks. It helps that the prose has a rhythmic quality, like every word is deliberate.

Despite being the seventh novel in the massive *Horus Heresy* series, *Legion* is highly approachable. It opens a narrative thread that does not immediately tie into other books in the series. Still, the more you know about 40k and the *Heresy* the better you'll be able to enjoy *Legion*. That fact is among *Legion*'s few flaws.

Every once in a while, a few paragraphs would read like filler. But those moments are few and far between as well as dwarfed by lots of excellent prose.

In *Legion*, Abnett showcases the madness and confusion of war; a universe on the brink; and the people caught in the chaos. He pulls no punches here. This isn't *Saving Private Ryan* meets *Smiley's People* in space. It's grimdark sci-fi at its heart-pumping best.

Like science fiction and action thrillers? Then look no further to find your next big reason. You'll thank us later.



FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
3:30-5 p.m. in Room 2-334

Speakers:

Mark Humbert, Ph.D.
Jaclyn Tyler, M.A.

Special Guest:

Kara E. A. Marciani, Psy.D.; ABPP



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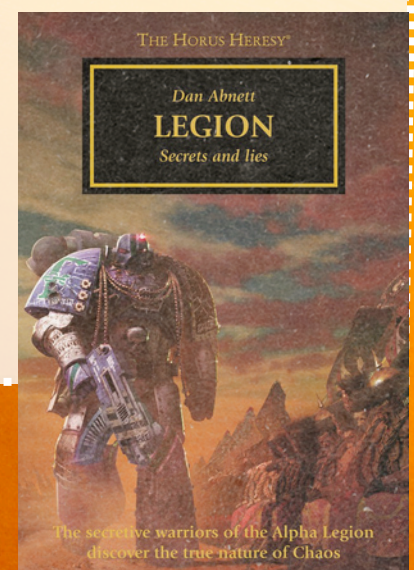


Photo Credit: Black Library

The Meddler

Guatemala City's nightcrawler

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

German Cabrera is not your average filmmaker/videographer. Where others are inspired by the genres and dreams of their childhood, the Guatemalan is driven by one thing only: a desire to fightback against the violence threatening to swallow his country. And he does so with the few tools at his disposal: a camcorder, vehicle, and near suicidal desire to record the situation on the streets of Guatemala City.

"The Meddler: The Real Nightcrawler of Guatemala City" tells his story, shadowing Cabrera for part of the late 2010s. At the time, his hometown was among the most dangerous cities in the world. Worse was that for all the murders committed few were solved. That is where reporters, journalists, and videographers like Cabrera step in.

Filmmakers Daniel Leclair and Alex Roberts take us into the heart of Guatemala during some of its darkest times in recent memory. Through their lens we see Cabrera's routine: by day he works as a mechanic and spends time with his family. But at night he's patrolling the city, following ambulances, using whatever means he can to find the next body. We see news channels use his footage, which he gives them for free, content that it is being used at all.

The constant pursuit of dead bodies takes a toll on his relationship and in the middle of filming he breaks up with the mother of his four sons. Like an addiction, he simply can't leave the streets of Guatemala City alone.

What the documentary's filmmakers capture is a man determined, obsessed even, with recording the often-unpunished crimes that plagued his country. Cabrera himself opens up about the violence he himself faced from his estranged father; in ways we see it connected to his commitment not to see the same things ruin his children's lives. If that were all "The Meddler" was about then it would be compulsory viewing for any media, journalism, or film student.

But around the midpoint of this 52-minute documentary a twist is thrown in. Cabrera's father, who has been working as a laborer in Nicaragua, is arrested for molesting a woman. Convinced of his innocence, Cabrera heads out to see what he can do about it. Its heart-wrenching seeing him struggle to help a man he obviously still has conflicted feelings for. The realities of prison life hit home when viewers learn his father is being raped and beaten in a 12-man cell crammed with 40 people.

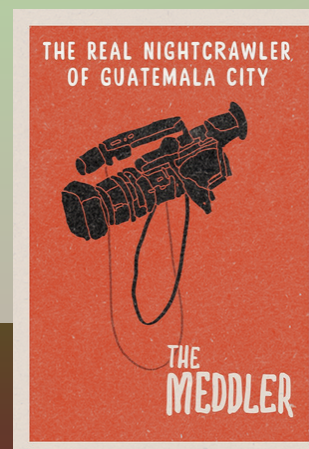
And when he's first to turn back after a week at the Nicaragua-Honduras border you feel his pain.

Time skips are used, and we catch up with Cabrera a year later. Feeling powerless to stop the murders of Guatemalan bus drivers he decided to offer his help to law enforcement. What follows is some of the most harrowing footage in the documentary: accompanied by a Detective Castillo, Cabrera wears a wire and tries to get bus drivers to reveal who is extorting them. The tension ramps up, arrests follow, footage of law enforcement in action is spliced with images of Cabrera's homelife. You can't help but fear that the other shoe is about to drop and when it does, its powerful stuff.

Cabrera's work to put an end to the extortion ring comes to a crashing halt after the dismembered body is found in plastic bags on his driveway. Fearing for his life, he makes plans to leave for the countryside. But even then, he vows to come back.

I was so fascinated by Cabrera I just had to look him up as soon as the credits rolled. Thankfully, he is still alive judging by some of his most recent work. He's still out there recording the truth about his beloved Guatemala, long may that continue.

The world owes a debt to videographers, journalists, and reporters like Cabrera who put their lives on the line to record the truth. Backed by vibrant, often mesmerizing cinematography "The Meddler" is a welcome addition to the Latin American canon of must-watch documentaries.



How To Make Butter Chicken

By Sakshi Patel, Graphic Designer

Butter Chicken, also known as "Murgh Makhani," is one of India's most beloved dishes, celebrated worldwide for its rich, creamy sauce and perfectly spiced flavor. Originating in Delhi, this recipe has become a favorite comfort food that balances warmth and subtle spices in every bite. Whether you're a seasoned chef or a home cook trying Indian cuisine, this recipe will guide you through creating a dish that's both authentic and deeply satisfying.

Ingredients

For Marinating the Chicken:

First Marination:

2 Whole Chickens (halved), 2 tsp Lemon juice, Salt, 2 tsp Ginger-Garlic paste

Second Marination:

2 tbsp Mustard oil, 1 ¼ cup Hung curd, 2 tbsp Chili powder, ½ tsp Gram flour, 1 tsp Black pepper, 1 tbsp Ginger-Garlic paste, Salt

For Gravy:

2 tbsp Ghee, 2 Bay leaves, ½-inch Cinnamon, 3 Onions (chopped), 6 Tomatoes (chopped), 1 tbsp Oil, ½ tsp Turmeric, 2 tbsp Chili powder, 1 tbsp Coriander powder, Salt, 1 cup Water, 1 cup Beaten curd, 3 Green cardamoms, 10-12 Cashews

For Finishing:

2 tbsp Ghee, Marinated chicken, Prepared gravy, 1 cup Water, 2 tbsp Honey, 3-4 tbsp Butter, ¼ cup Fresh cream, 1 tbsp Fenugreek leaves (crushed), Fresh cream and coriander (for garnish)

Instructions

-Mix chicken with lemon juice, salt, and ginger-garlic paste. Rest for 15-20 mins.

-Combine mustard oil, curd, spices, and salt. Coat chicken and set aside.

Gravy Preparation:

Sauté bay leaves, cinnamon, and onions in ghee until golden. Add tomatoes, spices, water, curd, cardamoms, and cashews. Simmer, blend into a paste.

Cook Chicken:

Grill marinated chicken in ghee until partially cooked.

Combine and Finish:

In a pan, add gravy, water, salt, honey, and butter. Bring to boil, add chicken, fresh cream, and cook until blended. Stir in fenugreek.

Optional Smoky Flavor:

Place a hot coal in a bowl with butter in the pot, cover for 2-3 minutes.

Serve:

Garnish with cream, fenugreek, and coriander. Serve hot with naan or rice.



A delicious dinner in the Patel household.
Photo Credit: Binal Patel



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Portraits of Peace

Spreading love through art

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

We live in dark times, and it can seem like the idea of peace is drifting further and further away. But thanks to a design studio, the world has an example of what they can do to promote peace no matter how bad things are about to become.

Unveiled at an exhibition on Sep. 4 in Dayton’s International Peace Museum, Peace Post is design studio Selman’s effort to immortalize the work of peace advocates around the world. It features nearly 200 portraits, each from a different country, in an inspired project that included the work of dozens of artists over an eight-year period.

Project organizer and studio founder Johnny Selman is no stranger to massive projects. But where Peace Post dwarfed some of his other endeavors in scale, past experience helped the New Yorker match it with passion. Thank God for it too: Peace Post’s message and themes are more needed now than ever before.

“I have three daughters that are under eleven years old and my eldest woke up and started crying when she found out,” Selman told me the day the 2024 Election results were officially announced.

“Now’s the time to prepare for a lot of uphill battles for the next couple years,” Chris Schroeder, Accounts Manager at the studio, added.

And if those battles are to be won society will need more people like them. The pair go back to their undergrad years at JMU. Selman, a Fine Art major, would continue his education at the Academy of Art Institute in San Francisco. There, a thesis project would put him on the map.

“The project was called BBCx365, and I was going to design a poster every day for a year based on current global events. It got a good amount of global press and created a platform for me to work in New York with the New York Times, Google’s Creative Lab, and brand consultancy. It set the stage for me to make my own company,” Selman said.

The studio was founded 12 years ago, and Schroeder was soon brought in. One of the first projects they planned was Peace Post, initially, as a means for their designers to do meaningful work while also supporting their clients.

“The BBC project opened my eyes to a lot of what was going on in the world. It forces you to develop a certain level of empathy and to learn to work quickly and smartly. I was trying to think how to do something like that for an entire studio. We started with a proof of concept, and it remained largely a studio project for a while,” Selman stated.

But it would take a lot more than a concept to get the project off the ground. Its scale would soon prove to be much larger than they expected.

“It came down to how is it going to work exactly, who qualifies to be one of the advocates, how do we decide what countries are included. We wanted to make it as holistic as possible and represent as many areas and nations as we could,” Schroeder added.

To make the process as smooth as possible they settled on following the UN charter of nations. They then had to find 198 advocates to represent each independent state, no small feat as it would turn out.

“As a team we had to investigate what made a good advocate. We started with the big peace prizes such as the Gandhi and Nobel. Soon, we learned that a lot of smaller nations weren’t being represented, a lot of good work was being done under the radar. We had to look things up, find local coverage on peace or environmental advocates from those areas. What was nice about that is we ended up with a nice mixture of people from the past and present,” Schroeder said.



Photo Credit: Selman

Photo Credit: Selman

Peace Peace Peace Pe

A quick glance through the vibrant artwork of their team is illustrative. Some of the advocates featured are easy to recognize like Mother Theresa and Ai Weiwei. But others will be new for many of us, an intriguing way to encourage viewers to look into their incredible stories. As impressive was the amount of work that went into each image.

“Originally, we did the art in-house, we had about a dozen designers here. We would do research on the country, their artistic styles, advocacy background, and then deliver it to the artist. That let them find their own inspiration from the country and the advocate’s story,” Selman explained.

They soon began thinking of dream collaborations. On reaching out to their artists of choice, Selman and his team were stunned by how receptive they were.

“Near the halfway point we began looking for more outside illustrators, specifically ones from the countries that the advocates were from. Initially, we as designers in Brooklyn were learning about other countries, their artistic styles and creating art inspired by that. That’s one way to do it. But the other way is to hire an artist from that country, steeped in that culture, and then have them make something truly authentic,” Selman added.

They started out with a plan to make one a week and four-year timeline to completion. As Schroeder explained, it would instead take them eight years due to a need to maintain work balance. He admits, however, that it was extra time the team used wisely. The results alone make every year of work worth it.

“Talking about peace, supporting it, and championing peace makers is an undeniably positive thing. Especially today and I think that is one thing that resonates with people. It’s awe-inspiring to see in its totality what nearly 200 portraits of peace advocates look like. Each of them has honest, sometimes raw material incorporated into their portrait,” Selman said.

Selman has seen firsthand the power of Peace Post to inspire. He’s watched his daughter share the project with others and knows just how important that enthusiasm will be in the years ahead.

“That’s the thing. It inspires people that are 11 years old, and they get it. That’s what keeps me optimistic today of all days,” Selman said.

Creative outlets like Peace Post, Schroeder says, will also be key. The service they do in keeping democracies alive are vital.

“Art, media, and culture are so important because they are conversation points. They are doors into different perspectives. It’s important to keep doing those things, that they are not censored so that people can be exposed to new ideas, perspectives, and individuals especially in the case of marginalized groups,” said Schroeder.

Peace Post is a great example of the kind of work we will have to do in the coming months, years, maybe even decades. The drive and passion Selman Studio has shown as well as their professionalism in keeping our interview despite our circumstances, should be polestars for the rest of us.

“The scale of the project was huge but its inspiring to realize that it barely scratched the surface of the people out there doing amazing things, fighting for rights on all fronts. That’s something we can learn from this: go out, support people, or be the person if you have to. We’re all in for a lot of fights here. It may seem ironic to talk about peace that way, but we are talking about people fighting for the rights that will allow them to live in peace,” Schroeder said.

The International Peace Museum
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Opening September 06

Reception 5-8pm

Portraits of peace from every country in the world.
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Photo Credit: Selman

From Saigon with love

The artistic talent bringing South Vietnamese flavor to downtown Dayton

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

Diane Nguyen has always stood out from the crowd. For years it was her Vietnamese heritage that was the cause of stares and many racist remarks. But now it's her artwork that is causing a stir. Folks walking past the Skyway Gallery were recently given a taste of what the talented painter can do. And Nguyen, true to her indomitable spirit, is nowhere near done yet.

The art education major is in her second year at Sinclair. When she completes her studies, Nguyen will be leaving quite a legacy behind her. For now, she's content with giving art enthusiasts in Dayton a taste of her family's Vietnamese legacy.

"My art is heavily influenced by my roots. For example, in high-school people would make comments about my eyes and make gestures. So, there was a piece I made that incorporates that, a South Vietnamese flag, and an American one that is blurry," Nguyen recalls.

Nguyen, a first-gen college student, has been delighted by how her work has evolved since coming to Sinclair. The difference, she believes, is like night and day.

"I think my art in general has changed. If you go back and see my 2D foundations art I think its ok, nothing special. But I think it's slowly evolving into something a lot better. I am a perfectionist though so I've got to make things perfect if you will," Nguyen said.

College has put her in close contact with Sinclair's stalwart professors. As a result, Nguyen's work has steadily evolved. She credits feedback from her professors and their guidance as being key to her development.

"It's great having people to approach and get feedback from. I like asking other people for their opinion and learning how they might do something differently. Then I kind of add my own twist on it if you will. It's a bit mixed," said Nguyen.

With that hard work came acclaim and recognition. Ever humble, she still blushes when thinking about winning the Fine Arts Major Scholarship. Humble almost to a fault, Nguyen blushes with surprise just discussing her reaction to the announcement.

"I was not expecting it and was really surprised they'd picked me. I don't want to be 'Negative Nancy' but I felt other people's work was so much better than mine. That's unfortunately what I'm really good at: comparing," she said.

Photo provided by Dian Nguyen.



One thing she credits is how much her courses at Sinclair have challenged her to improve. Nude portraits, 3-dimensional painting, and much more have pushed her to think outside the box. Her work has only gotten better for it. Even the process from concept to the page has grown by leaps and bounds.

“Sometimes I’ll start with a rough sketch or I’ll brainstorm a bunch of ideas on notes. I’ve got a lot of ideas, so I have to keep notes. I’ll keep a note of those ideas somewhere, on my phone maybe, and then just take it from there,” Nguyen stated.

She may call herself “basic” for being inspired by social media artists but her masterful strokes are anything but. In spite of her shyness, the painter’s growth proves she has more than earned the incessant acclaim. It’s apparent in her strokes and bold choice of subject matter that is transforming Nguyen’s canvases.

“In Vietnam my parents were both educators. So, they always used to say how great it would be if I was a teacher one day. They would say you should be a math teacher, you’re really good at math. I would say no, I hate math, I’m sticking with art. But they did influence my desire to be an educator.”

“My parents encouraged me to be a math teacher because there are more job opportunities. Truth be told I don’t know how many high-schools are going to need yet another art teacher. But I’d just rather pursue something I like and if nothing happens, I can always change my major,” Nguyen said.

Outside education, Nguyen would like her work to be displayed again. In a rare show of pride, she lights up at the idea of being exhibited in the Dayton Art Institute.

Sinclair’s open environment has helped the first-generation student. Downtown, she’s free of the racism that marked her high-school years and is happy not be judged because of her looks.

“I feel everyone here is fairly open-minded. It’s a lot better than high-school, where I was that one in a million Asian in class. I don’t get those racist remarks and gestures here. Taking the step to college, I was like wow, this is so nice,” Nguyen said.

A member of the University of Dayton’s Sinclair Academy, she’ll be heading there soon to complete a BA in art education. And afterwards, if her talent is anything to go by, the sky is the limit for where she’ll take the spunk and positivity of her art next.



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