

Proposal Title – Through the Hands: A Study of the Evolution of a Woman’s Image as Portrayed by Female Artists Through the Renaissance, the Baroque and the Rococo.

Program of Study – Masters of Fine Arts: Studio Arts

Presentation Type – PowerPoint

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Category –Creative and Artistic

Abstract example: This painting series and consequent research focuses on the topic of how female artists portrayed other important women of their time and how this practice evolved through the Renaissance, the Baroque and the Rococo. I chose important female artists of the to represent their time periods: Sofonisba Anguissola (Italy, 1532- 1625) for the Renaissance, Artemisia Gentileschi (Italy, 1593- 1653) for the Baroque and Adelaide Labille-Guiard (France, 1749- 1803) for the Rococo, in order to illustrate possible moral decline that might have lead to the extreme feminism we are experiencing today. Respectively, I chose one painting from each of the artists as a source of study: Anguissola’s *Ana de Mendoza*, Gentileschi’s *Self-Portrait as a Lute Player* and Labille-Guiard’s *Madame Roland* to further explore the mentioned topic. This project focuses on the subjects’ hands, as it is the quickest way to identify an action. Each of these actions, whether holding a flower, playing an instrument, or writing a letter, have special meaning, according to Cesare Ripa’s *Iconologia*, and speak about the subject’s power, nobility and status. Since the focus of the visual body of work are the hands, a monochromatic theme mimicking the strongest color in each of the original artists’ composition was employed, further accenting the mood that the original artists might have intended. This project focuses on

providing visual proof that as time passed by, a woman's portrayal of another woman, or of themselves, as is the case with Gentileschi, went from being dainty and delicate, to being a powerful showcase of skills that could rival that of men. Although these female artists revisited past trends and sometimes still portrayed other females as merely delicate, as time progressed, it became easier to portray them in the same light as men were often portrayed: full of power and self-sufficiency.