

**Title:** Aluminum Wildflowers

**Program of Study :** Bachelor of Fine

**Presentation Type :** Juried Art

**Subtype:** Creative and Artistic ( 3D Category Proposal)

**Mentor(s) and Mentor Email :** Professor Tod Smith (tasmith2@liberty.edu)

**Student name:** Sydney Erickson (sjerickson@liberty.edu)

**Research Problem Statement:**

My research problem for this project was creating an organic sculpture inspired by the beautiful nature of my home in Alaska by means of recycling non-degradable garbage. For this project, I had to sift through different kinds of non-degradable objects in order to find a malleable material that I could not only mold into organic shapes but use to reflect the vibrant colors found in nature.

**Communication Objective:**

My communication objective was to reflect the beauty displayed in the nature that surrounds my home in the state of Alaska using objects that can pollute it, such as garbage. I have been blessed to live in the state of Alaska, but I sometimes take the little beauties and blessings for granted. The Bible says that God reveals Himself to us through His creation. Therefore, I wanted my project to reflect simple but extraordinary everyday moments regarding the nature I live in and

that I sometimes forget to thank God for, such as the wild Flowers. Although small and delicate, Alaska wildflowers manage to grow year after year despite harsh winter and extreme temperatures. They grow in the tiny crevices on the sides of rocky mountains and cover the ground with brilliant color. I have always been captivated by the wildflowers that grow around my home and therefore I decided that I wanted them to be the subject of my art project.

### **Visual Solution:**

Once I had finished the focal point of my project, which were the flowers, I found that the color from the cans was not showing as vibrant as I had hoped. I created a visual solution by painting the base of my project black and then gluing intricate cut pieces of the reflective side of the aluminum cans side by side, similar to a mosaic style. I found that placing the silver reflective side of the cans on the base reflected the color of the flower heads and created a better visual contrast.

### **How it was produced:**

As I was sorting through different kinds of garbage for my project I found that not only did aluminum soda cans provide me with a variety of different colors I could use to represent flowers, but also it provided me with a unique material to bend and mold petals and leaves out of. I created each flower by cutting individual petals out of aluminum, molding them to the desired shape, and then glued them together to form a flower head. I then used glue to attach each head to a metal wire stem connected to a wooden base. The stems are surrounded by organic matter, such as wood and rocks. I then surrounded the remaining base of my sculpture

with a mosaic-like pattern made from the silver side of the aluminum can to represent the rocky terrines in which Alaska wildflowers grow.