

Mikki Nunn
Final Project Statement
Drawing 4
Professor Thomas

For my final project I decided to make a four-part piece- not necessarily a series, as the four images make up a larger whole. This drawing focused on an old story of the Lapu-Lapu, a fish also known as the Giant Grouper, which also has many other names in Tagalog depending on the dialect. This project also fulfilled my “beyond the art store” requirement, in which I chose a somewhat difficult material to work with. Utilizing multiple different mediums in the four works I created, I was able to achieve some nice visible layering as well as textural effects.

Split into four different images, this piece was inspired by a story I heard as a child that was told to me by my Nanay. It was the old tale of the Lapu-Lapu, and other variations of the story can be found by some quick research on Google. Essentially, it goes that the Lapu-Lapu lurks underneath ocean piers and bridges. It's a large (roughly seven yards) grouper that has been horribly misshapen and mutated due to it being fished, experimented on, and tossed back in over and over. Over time, the fish grew angry at humans for poking and prodding at it and making it disfigured. It was said that the fish was so large it could swallow a child whole, it had large sharp teeth and toxic skin, and if you ran off from your parents to play underneath the pier then the lapu-lapu would eat you. In reality though, the giant grouper is actually a very important species to coral reefs, and the story was brought about to keep children from playing with them and ruining the ecosystem (and also partially so kids wouldn't stray too far from their parents).

The process of creating these drawings entailed many layers and a lot of patience. I began with watering down acrylic paints as well as the hair dye. The colors of dye that I chose happened to be very transparent, so it took many layers. I did a mostly flat wash with either the acrylic or dye (depending on color) and basically built the painting up similar to a watercolor painting, only adding more values and not making anything lighter until the very end when I used some white acrylic for highlights. Once the painting process was done, I went over to detail with oil pastels and a little bit of colored pencil. I chose to use very bright colors light neon yellow, green, purple, some teal, and electric blue to represent more of the beautiful side to the fish but still rendering the drawings to show how it's represented in the story.