

The overall premise of this body of work is misrepresented or forgotten legends that strike a balance: destruction, ruin, and death on one side, protection, happiness, and progress on the other. Instead of laying all of the projects that convey the destructive or negative side on one side and the projects with positive meanings on the other, I also further divided them, balancing each with a project from the same culture that have the opposite meaning. Some projects are their own balance, perhaps due to their ambiguous meanings or aspects. Since I decided that my concept would be something that was both limiting as well as freeing, as seen, I did not limit myself as much in other areas. This allowed me to instead focus on the visual communication of the concept without planning too much in advance. The way that I communicate my chosen concept in words has changed quite a bit, to fit what I was communicating with each work. This was a very freeing way of creating a concept, and has allowed to me to get into touch with what my art is saying without worrying about what I thought it should have said. I start my projects in black and white, adding colors as I find that I need them to communicate ideas, principles, and messages. Therefore there is a common element, the relative lack of color, in all except for the green men, where I saw that it was necessary to create them with different color schemes, shades of green for *Spring* and Red, orange, and yellow for *Autumn*. These colors match the limited use of color in *Balanced Future*, which had many of the same colors, though in a much more limited capacity, tying them both to the rest of my works, which only have a black and white color scheme, with colors being used sparingly, if at all, for emphasis. Eliminating this reliance to color creates an emphasis on the details that are present, as well as necessitating shading and other details to define them. The two main mediums, paper and clay, allows for a better focus on the specific message of each project, making each unique even if they are all based on the same concept, showing some of the variety that exists in the universe.



Amy Willers

## *Gashadokuro*

Paper, ink

18 inches x 24 inches (45.72 cm x 60.96 cm)

October 2016

From Japanese myth, this monster is said to be created from the bones of those who have starved to death. As such, it is much larger than any normal human skeleton. It was said to cause ringing in the ears of those nearby, and would eat any who did not get away from it in time, adding their bones to its own body or that of another. This myth is a Japanese version of a myth that is about destruction and death.

Character Count: 412

Amy Willers

December 2016

*Spring*

Watercolor paint, paper, ink

10 in x 10.5 in (25.4 cm x 26.67 cm)

The Green man is thought to be the symbol of the cyclical nature of the relationship between man and nature. This piece is the representation of Rebirth and growth, through the representation of spring beginnings and growth.

Character Count: 225



Amy Willers

December 2016

## *Autumn*

Watercolor paint, ink, paper

9.75in x 10.5in(24.77cm x 26.67cm)

The Green man is thought to be the symbol of the cyclical nature of the relationship between man and nature. This piece is the representation of ruin and endings. The nature of Autumn as a season is to be beautiful, yet a sign of the end of a year and the season of growth.

Character Count: 274





Amy Willers

*Two-Spirited*

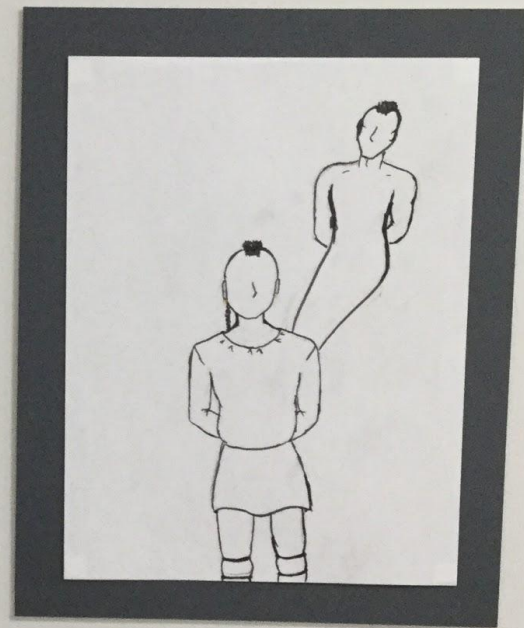
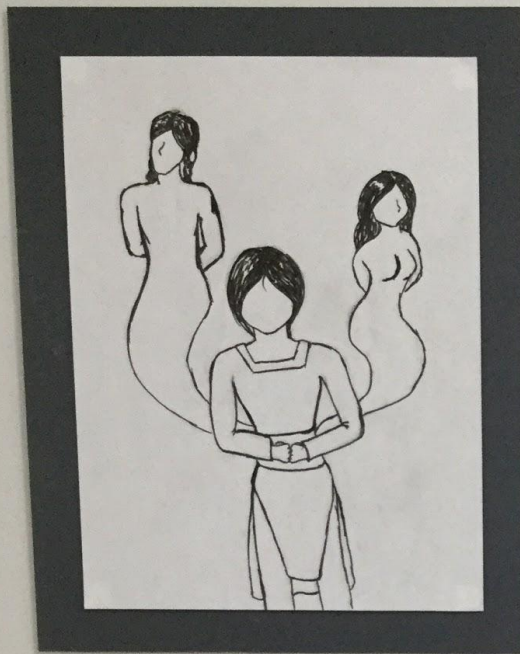
Ink on Paper

11  $\frac{7}{8}$  in x 8  $\frac{7}{8}$  in (30.16 cm x 22.54 cm)

January 2017

This is the depiction of a person who would have a different gender from the one that was assigned at birth from the viewpoint of Native American Myth, a person with two spirits within them, given to them by the gods. They were respected and accepted because of this belief, allowed to live as they saw fit, and consulted for advice because they had two-spirits. This is offset by the person with one spirit.

Character Count: **362**



Amy Willers

*Pocket-sized guardian-Japanese Fox*

Clay and under glaze

2 inches x 4 inches x 1 inch (5.08 cm x 10.16 cm x 2.54 cm)

February 2017

This project is about protective symbols, specifically of Japanese shrines, which balances with the Gashadokuro, a creature of destruction and destitution also from Japanese traditional legend.

Character Count: 194



Amy Willers

*Pocket-sized  
Guardian-Egyptian Cat*

Clay and underglaze

February 2017

For this, I was inspired by the Goddess Bast, who, like many gods and goddesses, had many aspects. The main reason that there were so many statues of her is that she is the goddess of motherhood and protector of households from disease and evil spirits. This miniature is meant to be a protection, though it is balanced by the aspect of terrible avenger that was also part of Bast's aspects.

Character Count:391





Amy Willers

February 2017

## *Balanced Future*

Clay and underglaze

This is meant to be a comment on the future, and how though there may be many different emotions and events in your life, at the center of everything is balance. If there are a lot of sad or bad events in your life at the moment, there will also be happy and good moments in life as well. The future is uncertain, but there will always be a balance struck.

Character Count: 357





Exhibition photo 1



Exhibition photo 2

