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UM alum Tyler Krasowski showcases doodles, drawings and more at Missoula Art Museum

Lauren Reinhart / Montana Kaimin
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Tyler Joseph Krasowski with his wall of sketches at the Missoula Art Museum.

Maddie McCuddy / Montana Kaimin

Even though Tyler Krasowski earned his reputation for printmaking, he always comes back to creating with the pencil. From doodles to sketches to prints, he believes even the most unfiltered creative expressions become something.

His solo exhibition “Everything Becomes Something,” now on display at the Missoula Art Museum, is a culmination of Krasowski’s range of artistry — from doodles to collages to full-blown prints.

“If I can move anyone, grab anyone’s attention — if you can invoke any emotion, it’s a win,” Krasowski said. “[I want to] put out a positive message. If I wasn’t doing this, I would probably be in jail or in the woods or something.”

Krasowski grew up in the Chicago area and arrived at the University of Montana where he learned about his passion for printmaking. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He went on to become a printmaking assistant for renowned artist Tony Fitzpatrick, but came back to Missoula in 2017 to continue his art career.

His newest exhibit is composed of drawings, prints and other works on canvas, lined notebook paper, manilla envelopes and scrap paper. There are prints of landscapes, flora, fauna and collages of doodles of anything that comes to Krasowski’s mind. Nude women and men, mythical creatures from stories, lists and more random doodles make a collection of art that is both bizarre and intriguing.

He draws inspiration from Dutch masters like Albrecht Dürer and Pieter Bruegel the Elder, often studying their draftsmanship — their ability to draw well.

Although he prefers to use a pencil, Krasowski has started to experiment with other tools like marker air sprayers. These are essentially spray paint cans that paint certain canvases with a crayola marker. Each piece takes a different amount of time depending on its size and detail.

“Sometimes it takes three months or a few days [to make a print],” Krasowski said. “It is madness.”

Krasowski’s work not only varies in the mediums and the tools he uses, but also in themes. While some of the work is more racy, depicting nude figures, it also takes viewers on a journey of tranquility. One piece, titled “Night Moves,” which is over 3 feet tall and drawn entirely in colored pencil, is an image that depicts colorful strands against a dark backdrop.

While relatively simple, the closer someone looks, the more complex it becomes, both in serenity and chaos.

“[The printmaking process] is meditative,” Krasowski said.

He also incorporates logos into certain pieces as a sort of “reimagined” piece of art. One is a poster from the heavy metal band Death. It’s an ‘80s logo placed over a comic strip with a horse-drawn wagon. In other pieces, he incorporates certain mementos from his childhood.

After doing art for most of his life, he hasn’t settled on any one medium or style, and he doesn’t think he wants to.

“[I’m] still figuring out target audiences,” Krasowski said. “I just want to do what I like.”

Lauren Reinhart