

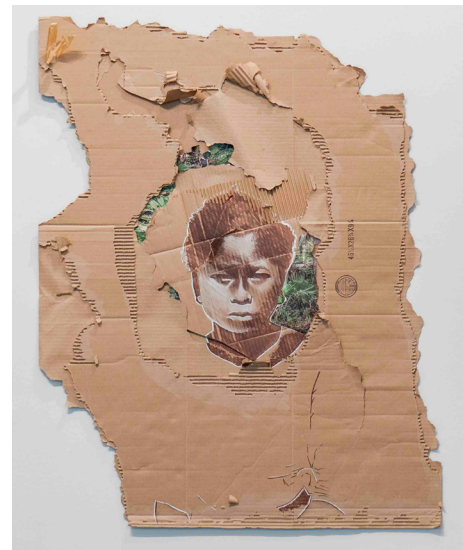
ALAN ATKINS

2024 Marshall Dulaney Pitcher Award Winner

The Wonsook Kim School of Art is pleased to present the 2024 Marshall Dulaney Pitcher Award to MFA student Alan Atkins. This award honors outstanding students in the visual arts who demonstrate exceptional artistic talent, dedicated studio practice, and academic excellence.

Artist Statement

Alan Atkins received his BFA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and will receive his MFA from Illinois State University this year. Through depicting people from various **diasporas** in his drawings, prints, and animations, Atkins strives to challenge perceptions of race, history, and culture. Influenced by the DIY nature of punk art and the urgency of protest art, Atkins utilizes materials such as Sharpies, fabric markers, collage, and cardboard.



Alan Atkins, *Untitled (Aeta: Indigenous to the Philippines)*, 2023. Cardboard collage and charcoal drawing. Photo credit: Jade Nguyen.

The following activities are aligned with National Visual Arts Standards.

RESPONDING: Use the following prompts to analyze Atkins' [work](#).

- Look closely at the **subject matter**, **textures**, and other surface details in Atkins' cardboard **relief** drawings. Describe what you see.
- How does the artwork make you feel?
- What questions do the artworks prompt you to consider?
- Why do you think Atkins chose to work with cardboard? How does it relate to the **subject matter** in his work?

CONNECTING: Use the following prompts to guide students in creating cardboard relief collages.

- Brainstorm important people, places, things, or experiences within your life or your community to focus on in your artwork.
- Sketch a variety of ideas for your design.
 - Consider what **subject matter** you will include that relates to your chosen topic.
 - Decide which areas will be in **relief**, or raised.
 - Select a design or combine ideas to use in your artwork.
- Like *Untitled (Aeta: Indigenous to the Philippines)*, cut or tear a piece of cardboard into a shape that relates to your chosen topic and design idea(s).
 - Draw your design onto the surface of your cardboard.
 - Cut and glue additional layers of cardboard onto areas of your design that you want to be raised above the base surface.
 - Create **texture** by tearing or removing the top layer(s) of cardboard to reveal the corrugated lines below. Consider leaving some of the torn cardboard attached to your work to add depth and additional **texture**.
 - Use charcoal, white chalk, Sharpies, or paint markers to add details to the surface of the cardboard.
 - Adhere images related to your chosen topic within your cardboard **relief**.

CREATING: Prompt students to share their in-process artwork with a classmate and make revisions based on peer feedback.

VOCABULARY

- **Diaspora:** a term that refers to people who have left their homeland by choice or force
- **Medium:** refers to the type of art (such as drawing, animation, or printmaking), as well as the materials an artwork is made from (such as charcoal, cardboard, or a digital file)¹
- **Relief:** refers to a raised surface on a two-dimensional background
- **Subject matter:** refers to what is depicted in an artwork—such as people, places, or things
- **Texture:** refers to the way a surface feels (*real texture*) or appears to feel (*implied texture*)

¹Tate (n.d.). *Art Term: Medium*. <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/m/medium>.