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Cameron Patricia Downey connects to their past by creating novel art

Sylvia Stewart, Staff Writer

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Bethany J Davenport

Cameron Patricia Downey was happy to answer questions on her artistic process at SBCC artist talk on Wednesday Sept. 13 at City College. Downey shared her story and inspirations before the opening of her new exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Santa Barbara, Califonia.

fourth grade in Minneapolis, the town they're from. "Everyone asked me to sign their folders," Downey said.

Cameron Patricia Downey has been a distinctive, anti-disciplinary artist from the beginning of

By seventeen, Downey had an addiction to bubble letters and doodling. This was the beginning of Downey's artistic interests. They created an individualistic senior year look book, holding pages filled with creativity.

"I enjoy repeating things, like items," Downey said.



Minneapolis, with help from artists Caroline Kent and Nate Young. Downey is currently teaching contemporary art to teens attending Juxtaposition. The artist graduated from Columbia with a double concentration in visual art and

Downey got their first and foundational arts education as a teenager at Juxtaposition Arts in

environmental science. They now live as an anti-disciplinary artist focusing on structure, film, and photography. On Sep. 13, Downey presented an art talk at City College where they shared their inspirations,

The following weekend, Downey had a showing at the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, called "Orchid Blues".

This show touches on concepts of world-building and survival artistry by way of Black,

methods, and advice as an anti-disciplinary artist to students of Santa Barbara.

fantastical, and precarious spaces and forms. The showing is from Sep. 14 to Dec. 23, 2023.

In 2016, Downey began using household items, seeking to create pieces through

futuristic lenses. Using baseball bats, yard chairs, and pillows, the artist was able to construct individual pieces that represent something new.

Downey's method intends to provoke a nostalgic and mythical feeling. Colors have a deeper meaning; black and white symbolize the artist's home life. Downey takes objects, senses, and

of the small details of everyday life.

"Everything you do is just rebuilding the last thing," they said.

clothing to grasp a memory of the past. In April, Downey presented a solo show in Minneapolis called "Lord Split Me Open." The show was held at Hair and Nails, a gallery they have been working with since 2019.

past through structure. The materials Downey used were simply old mattresses, a big leather couch and any other trash that they could transform. This piece was made to build remembrance and history out

"Could I form my way back to memory," Downey said, in hopes of reconnecting with their

The leather couch was sawed down the center and stuck to a wall at a ninety degree angle. In between the remains of the couch, a photograph of Downey's grandmother which creates a stained glass shadow on the wall behind it.

"Photography is a

mystery that is full of

them, the photograph

The artist was born in

themself a part of the

"Tumblr Generation". It

1996 and considers

was Tumblr that

introduced them to

photography and

fashion. A group of

Downey and their

video with

friends created a horror

experimental clothing.

"Material can speak for

friends taught Downey

to take more risks. In

September of 2022,

"Hymn of Dust" was

released. This film

well as artists like

Cooper Felien, Ize

features Downey as

itself," Downey said.

Collaborating with

discipline," Downey

said. According to

speaks for itself.



Commers, and Miles Jamison.

The film takes place in a toxic wasteland, depicting Downey's pessimistic hymn and the peculiar youth of Minneapolis. The clothing was experimental, making the scene more

"No thing is too small," Downey says towards the end of their art talk, highlighting how important it is to change things if something doesn't feel right. They believe that making something your own is what makes an artist anti-disciplinary. No one has the power to control everything that happens, which is why individualism is so important in contemporary

In 2018, Downey had the opportunity to dress models for a fashion walk. Downey visualizes

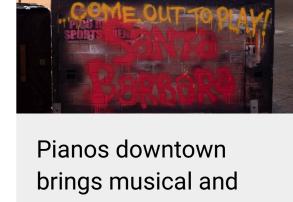
all they're pieces, especially clothing. Because of their previous modeling, they have

art. "You take a picture, and you can't control what happens," Downey said. **Cameron Patricia Downey** Hair and Nails Juxtaposition Arts

tumblr

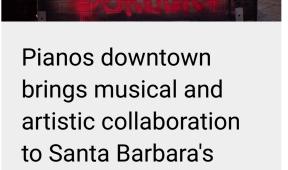
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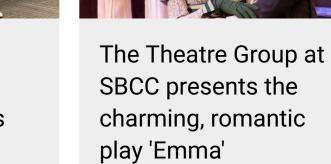
dramatic and horrifying.

experience in detail and visualization.





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The show must go on! "Emma" cast changes



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school year by putting

on an open mic

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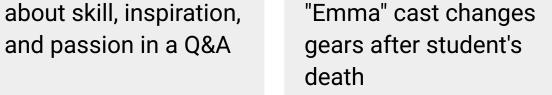












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