

Alli Dillard Interdisciplinary Studies Proposal: Poetry & Press

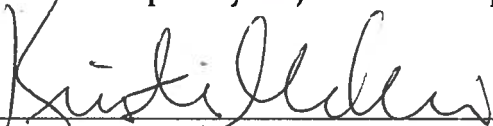
I wish to pursue the study of Art and of Creative Writing, because I am equally interested in both disciplines. While a double major would allow me to do this, I believe that through an interdisciplinary study I will be able to create work that is more specific to my interest in the combination of art & text. Rob Ryan, Leanne Shapton, Tracey Emin, and Miranda July are the contemporary artists that I love most. They each embrace the idea of text within art through paper cutting, sewing, printmaking, or installations. In my own work, I find that image and writing complement each other, and carry equal importance within pieces. I am interested in the idea that although the purpose of language is to express thought, how can image assist this process of expression? Also, how does the look of text on a page (through font, handwriting, legibility, spacing, etc.) effect one's reading of it? Because I do love these areas of study most when they are combined, an interdisciplinary study will be most beneficial for me. I feel I cannot place writing on a higher level than art, or art above writing. To have one within the other, or have one complement the other creates a more involved experience for the artist and viewer/reader. And in the spirit of the Hendrix motto "unto the whole person," I propose my combination creative writing and art major: Poetry & Press.

I came to Hendrix as a transfer student from the Memphis College of Art for the opportunity to learn from a wider range of disciplines. Many of the writing classes I have taken at Hendrix will go toward Poetry & Press, as well as next semester's Creative Writing Non-Fiction course, next year's Hybrids course, and the Senior Thesis class. I am currently in Beginning Painting and Printmaking: Mixed Media, and will continue to take painting and printmaking courses next year. Another benefit to combining the double major is that I will have more time to take classes in other fields of study, such as philosophy. Last semester I took Aesthetics & Contemporary Art, which helped me think more clearly and carefully about *why* I enjoy the things I like, and next semester I will be a part of the Topics course on the Ethics of Children's Literature, which interests me because I hope to someday write and illustrate children's books. I think that to surround myself with not only artworks and poems, but also ideas from literary scholars and philosophers, I will develop a better sense of my own understanding of what art is, and what my role is in making it. Depending on whether or not one is offered, I hope to take an ENGL poetry class as well.

I have been in conversation with Dr. McKim and Dr. Jaeger since last fall, regarding major requirements and possible senior capstone options. Now that I have gotten to know Melissa Gill through printmaking, she has agreed to assist me with bookmaking techniques. She is also in contact with artists who own letterpresses, which I could potentially use to print my own texts on a series of broadsides for my senior capstone. I will participate in Dr. Jaeger's thesis class, but create a visual final project with the poems I write, rather than a traditional manuscript. Below are the course requirements for this major.

ARTS 200 Beginning Painting
ARTS 490 Topics: Printmaking Mixed Media
ARTS 320 Printmaking: Etching
ARTS 300 Intermediate Painting
ARTS 400 Advanced Painting
ENGC 303 Creative Writing: Poetry
ENGC 403 Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry
ENGC 390 Sp. Topic: Creative Writing: Non-Fiction
ENGC 490 Sp. Topic: Creative Writing: Hybrids
ENGC 497 Senior Thesis
ENGL 280 Literary Analysis
ENGL 385 Experimental British Fiction
PHIL 389 Aesthetics & Contemporary Art
PHIL 490 Topics: Ethics & Children's Literature

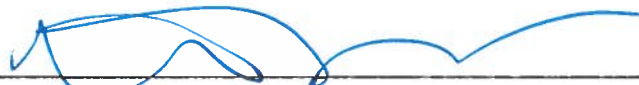
This interdisciplinary major has been approved by:



Dr. Kristi McKim, chair advisor

14 November 2012

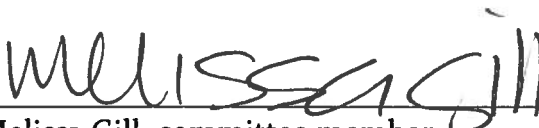
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Dr. Ty Jaeger, committee member

11/16/12

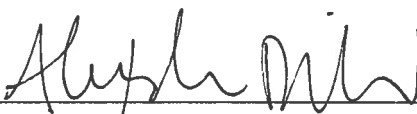
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Melissa Gill, committee member

11/20/12

Date



Alexandra Dillard, student

NOVEMBER 14 2012

Date