

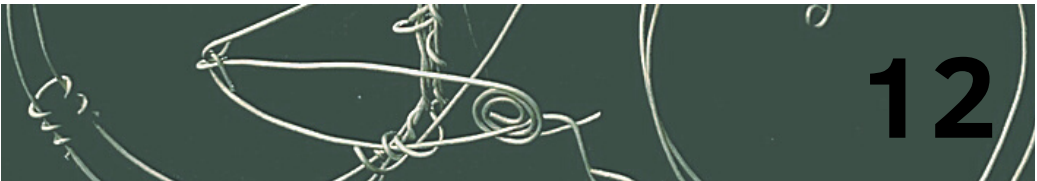
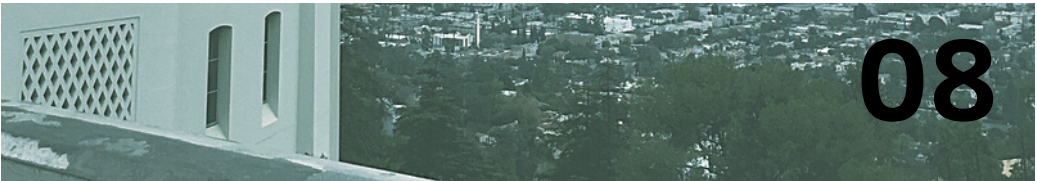
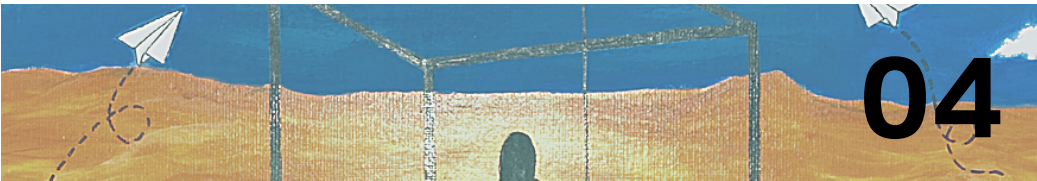
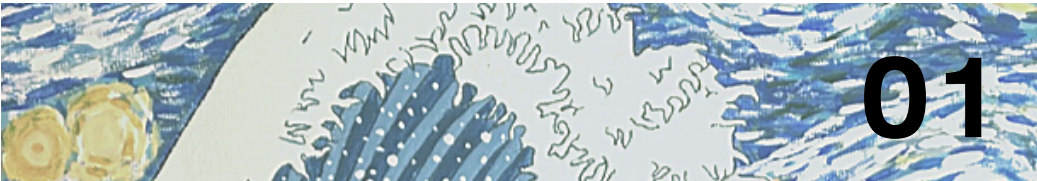
NADA AFFAN

Master of Planning Admissions Portfolio

2021

University of Calgary

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In this painting, I created my own story by combining 4 famous paintings into 1: *The Starry Night*, *The Scream*, *The Persistence of Memory*, and *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*.

This painting tells the story of the anxiety, stress, and troubling times an individual may experience as a result of life's unpredictable circumstances. Amidst all this turmoil, the starry night sky represents finding hope in times of darkness, and the melting clock serves as a reminder to slow down and not allow time and the pressures of life to overpower and control you.



Amalgamation

2020. Acrylic and ink on canvas

16 x 12 inches

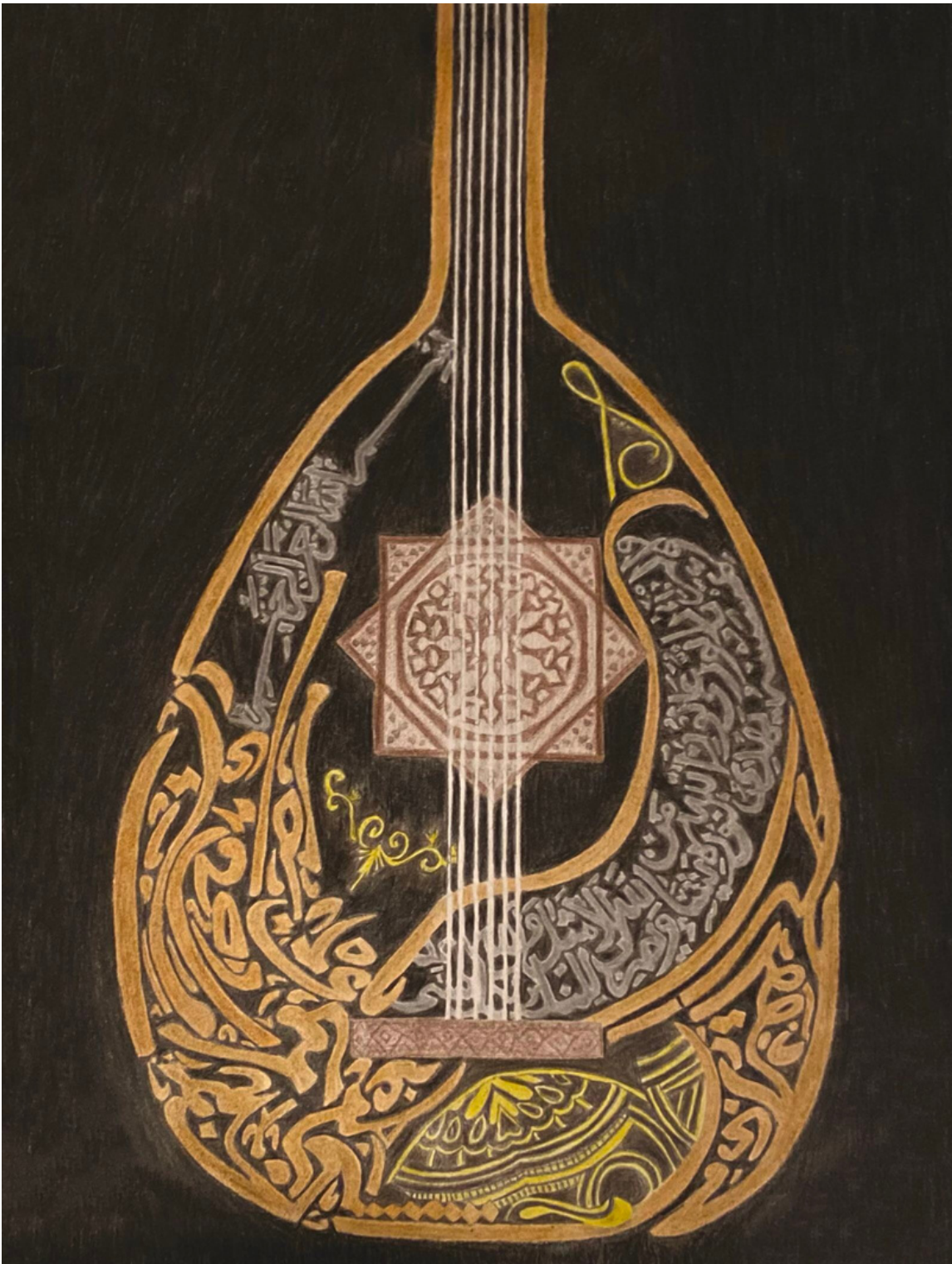


The Oud, or عود in Arabic, is a pear-shaped instrument that was and is still widely used in traditional Arabic music. The Oud has a long and rich history in the Middle East, and is an integral instrument in Lebanese culture and music.



As a Lebanese myself, the Oud is of high value to myself and my family. My Oud (in the photos) was originally manufactured in Lebanon. I enjoy playing it during my free time, and it reminds me of my family in Lebanon. We used to occasionally gather under a tree and listen as a family member played the Oud. The Oud reminds me of my roots and where I come from.

My Oud
2019. Digital Photography



This piece was inspired by my Oud and my love for Arabic calligraphy.

I decided to merge these two important aspects of my identity into a single art piece, representing the elegance of Arab culture.

The sound hole and bridge designs on this piece were inspired by the sound hole and bridge designs on my Oud. I was also inspired by my favourite Arabic calligraphy artist, Sami Gharbi, to create the calligraphy designs on this piece.

Oud Calligraphy

2019. Coloured pencils on paper

8.5 x 11 inches

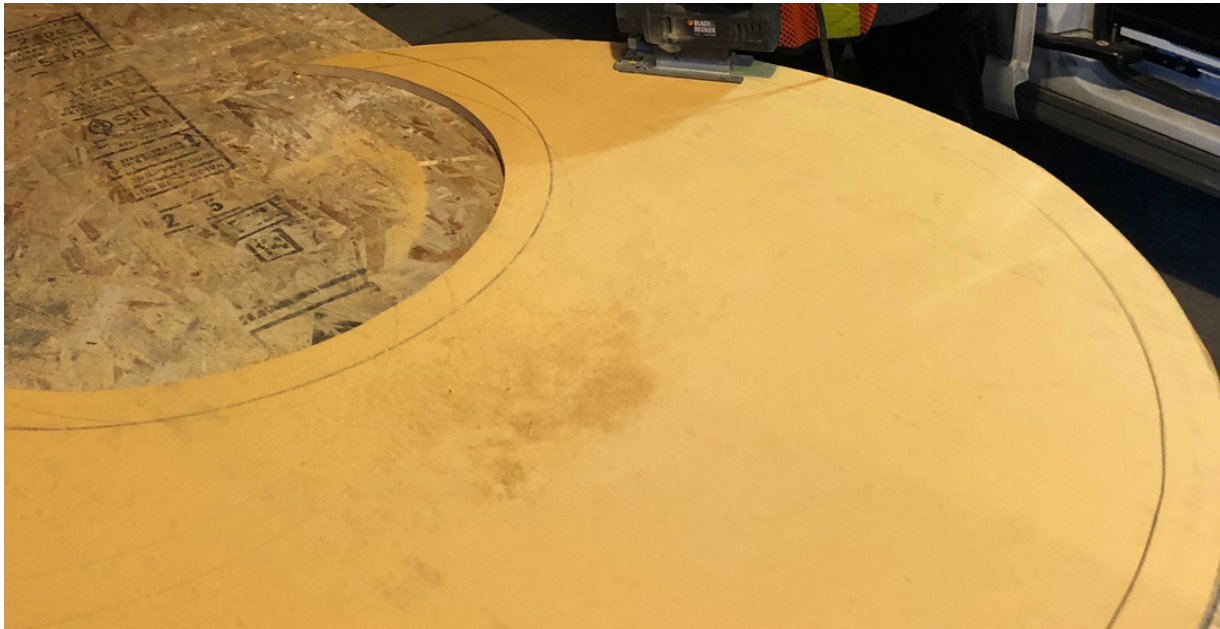
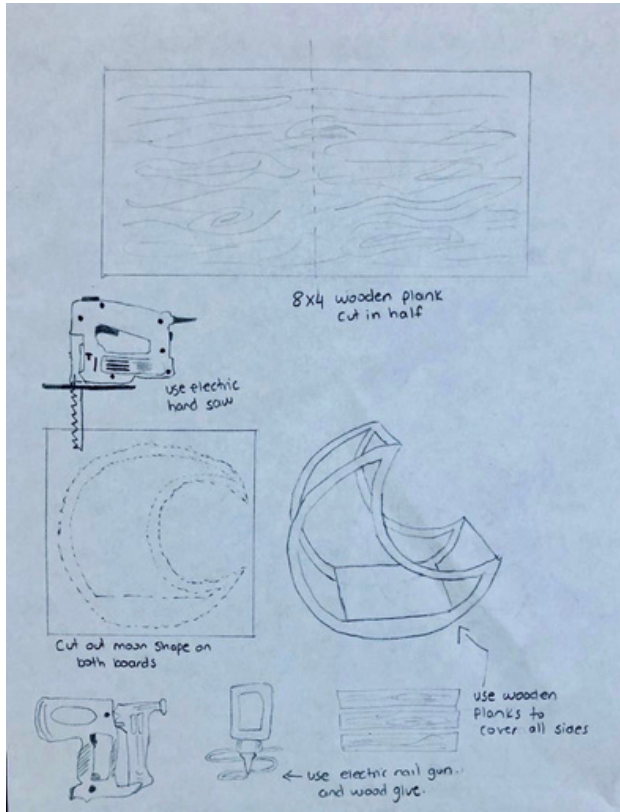


My intention behind this painting was to convey a message about how important it is to think outside the box. This painting serves as a reminder to think of new ideas from a new perspective and to have an innovative mindset.

The paper airplanes symbolize creativity, imagination, and belief.

The lightbulb as the sun represents new ideas forming outside "the box". The desert landscape suggests that being stuck in a situation you have never been in before requires a shift in thinking and perspective.

Think Outside the Box
2018. Acrylic on canvas
16 x 12 inches



Woodworking is a skill I have developed over several years. From creating small-scale to large-scale projects, I learned how to design and construct furniture by hand, and how to carefully use the necessary tools required for these woodworking projects.

I designed and constructed this moon-shaped cradle for my niece. It was interesting to use woodworking as a creative medium to explore this symbol and translate it into furniture.

Moon Cradle
2019. Woodworking
48 x 50 x 22 inches

(process photos)





This is another woodworking project I planned and constructed for my niece.



Bookshelf
2020. Woodworking
42 x 40 x 12 inches

(process photos)





This is a poster my group and I created in GEOG 558. We researched Dubai's migrant labour market, looking closely at the division and exploitation of migrants.

Group Project Poster
2020

Travel Photography

08



Los Angeles, California
2018. Digital Photograph

Traveling and exploring different places and cultures has broadened my perspective and allowed me to appreciate architecture and design much more. Every structure has its own unique design and story. Photography is a way for me to express my skills and sense of space through digital media. It allows me to capture and cherish special places, buildings, and monuments, and share the way I view the world.



Paris, France
2019. Digital Photography



Los Angeles, California
2018. Digital Photograph



Phoenix, Arizona
2018. Digital Photograph



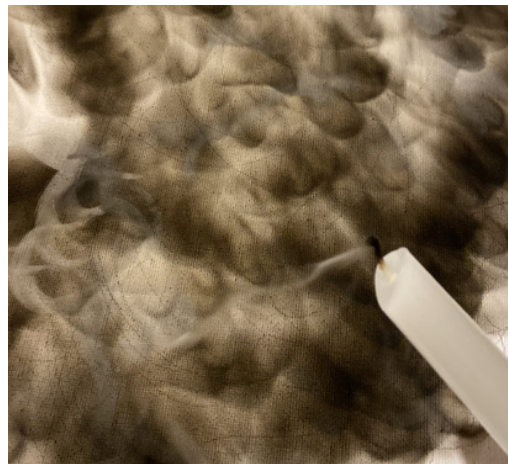
Ottawa, Ontario
2019. Digital Photograph



Tripoli, Lebanon
2019. Digital Photograph



Akkar, Lebanon
2019. Digital Photograph



This art piece was fully created using candle smoke. This form of media, better known as 'fumage', involves lighting a candle, placing it close to a canvas, and moving it ("painting") along the canvas to create patterns.

I wanted some areas to be darker than others, and I achieved this by placing the candle as close as possible to the canvas, and vice versa for the lighter areas. In order to achieve a detailed portrait, I went over the canvas with a dry paintbrush to create the intricate features.

Portrait of a Woman
2020. Candle smoke on canvas
16 x 20 inches

(process photos)

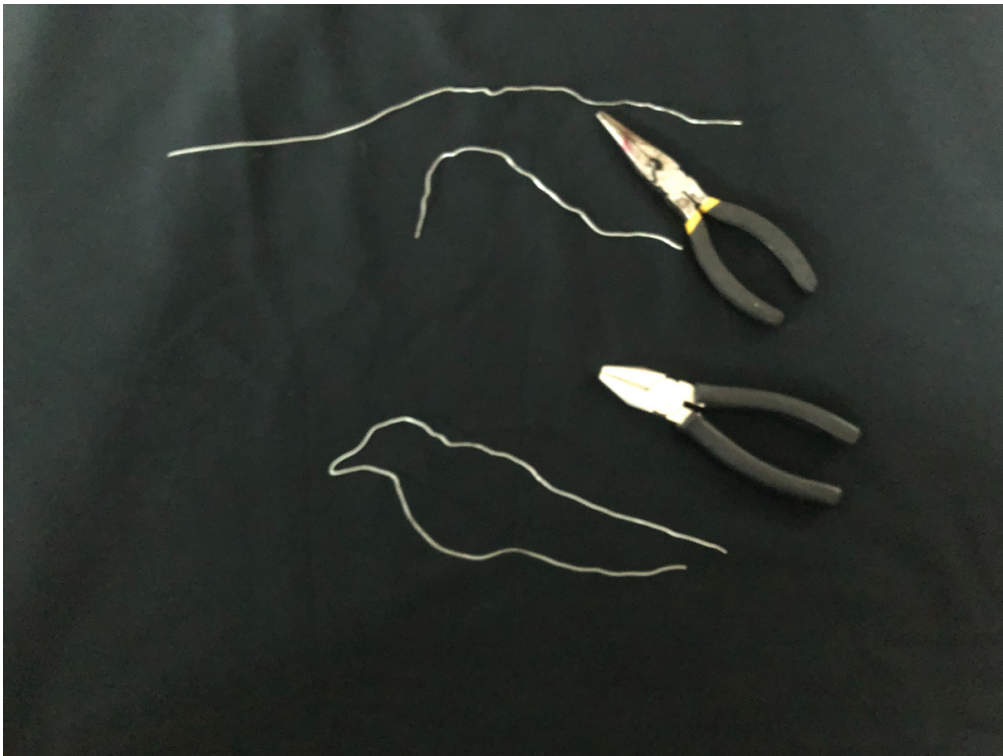




My intention behind this piece was to address the important issue of deforestation and its effects on our climate. I used acrylic paint to create the forest and flames. I also implemented the fumage technique by using a candle to create the effect of smoke in the air.

Deforestation

2020. Acrylic and candle smoke on canvas
14 x 11 inches



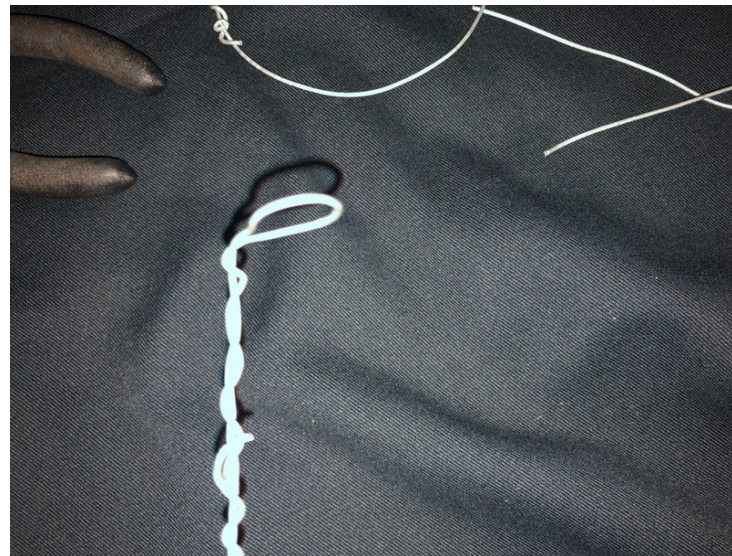
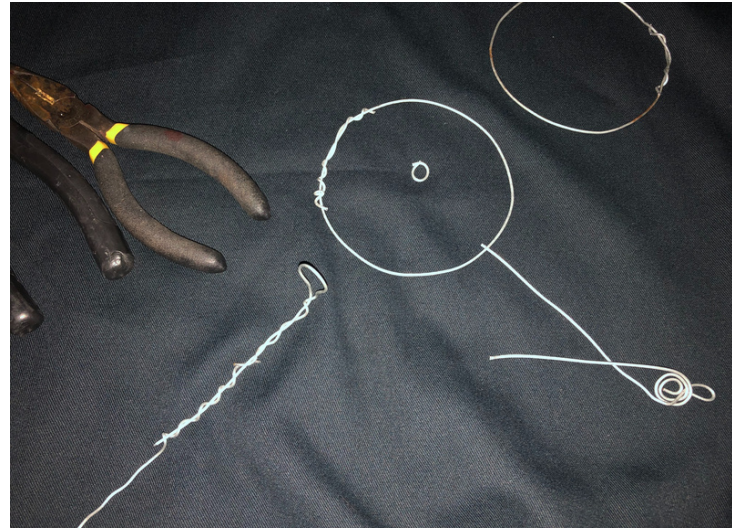
Using steel-wire and pliers, I created a sculpture of a blue jay bird. This was the first time I used steel-wire to create a sculpture. The goal of this project was to develop my skills and creative thinking using a unique medium.



Blue Jay Sculpture
2020. Steel Wire
5 x 8 inches

(process photos)



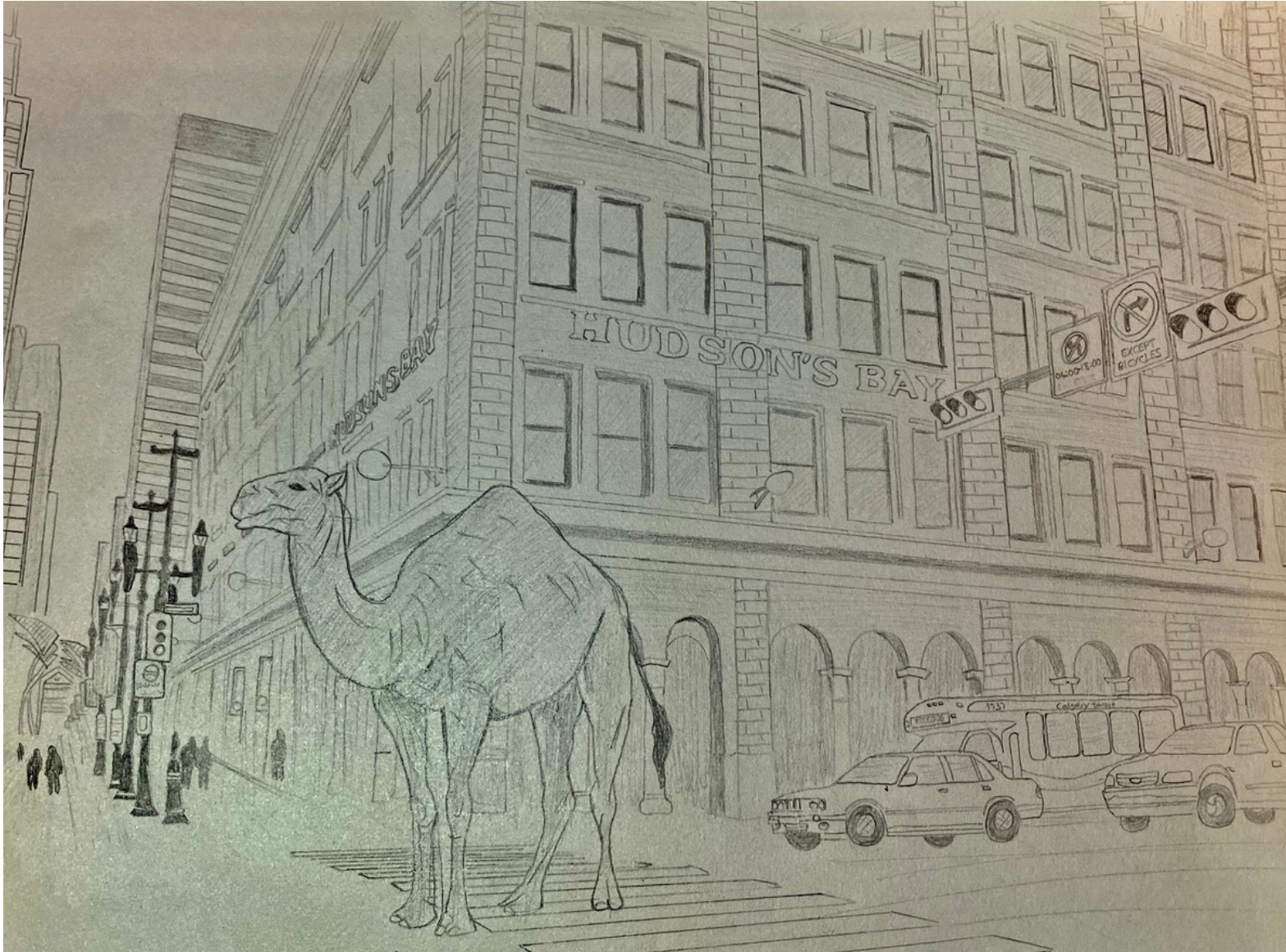


This bicycle sculpture was also created using steel-wire and pliers.

Bicycle Sculpture
2020. Steel Wire
6 x 8.5 inches

(process photos)





Pencil sketch of Stephen Avenue in downtown Calgary with a creative twist. Included a camel walking down the street, which is not something you would normally see in a city.

Out of Place
2020. Pencil on paper
9 x 12 inches

Thank you for your consideration.