

Capstone Mural Description: Wild Fire

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Southwestern College

AT/CN 637-A Art Therapy/Counseling Capstone Process

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The creation of this mural took place over the course of several days. On Sunday, February 27th, Jayni, Whitney, and Meghan worked on the mural in person with Scarlett supporting the group virtually. In previous group meetings, we all vocalized materials and items that would be useful or meaningful in the creation of the mural (glitter, greenery, sponges, additives for paint, epoxy, and specific paint colors), and these were the items that Scarlett sent in order to contribute to the physical creation of the mural. The day-of process went smoothly as Jayni, Whitney, and Meghan included one another on ways to approach the art piece, next steps throughout the full day's process, and periodic feedback on how sections looked and what could be added or changed. After creating a background in thirds from top to bottom, we took a break for lunch and then simultaneously painted sections of the mural together such as the dragon, constellations, and fire breathing sunset. However, there were some unexpected complications that came up that day. We had to be flexible and let some of our original ideas go as we had trouble gluing the 3D elements, such as the vines, onto our mural. We noticed that glue was dripping from some of our gems, but we were able to cover up the glue with paint. We periodically sent images to Scarlett via text and live updates via Zoom and FaceTime in which she was always available. We referenced our group sketch often and helped each other gather and mix paint, brainstorm throughout, connect with one another and clean up.

The greenery featured throughout the mural is a symbol of new life that the contributors are moving toward, as well as what we cultivated during our time at Southwestern College. We added fire and an image of the sun to represent transformation, masculinity, and tenacity. With the fire, came a fire breathing dragon. Our dragon represents fierceness, intelligence, and remaining untamed. The moon in our mural symbolizes femininity and nurturance. We placed a circular mirror on the sun and the moon as a way of finding a balance between these spectrums

of intense energies. The Northern lights and sunset gradients represent expansiveness, magic, mystery, and beauty. Lately, the constellations and stars reminded us of songs from the heart, hope, awe, luminosity, and celestial guidance. Each constellation is one of our astrological signs and Jayni's sign is the slice of pizza.

The goal of this mural "Wild Fire" is to communicate the journey that the mural makers have been on, both in their time at Southwestern College and in the ongoing global pandemic, together and separate. Re-growth and transformation happens faster, and can be heartier, after a burn. We hope this mural is received as a time capsule of this difficult moment in time, while also looking toward the future with hope and persistence—always being able to find the beauty in our good work and in our fortunate lives. Spreading love and care like wildfire!