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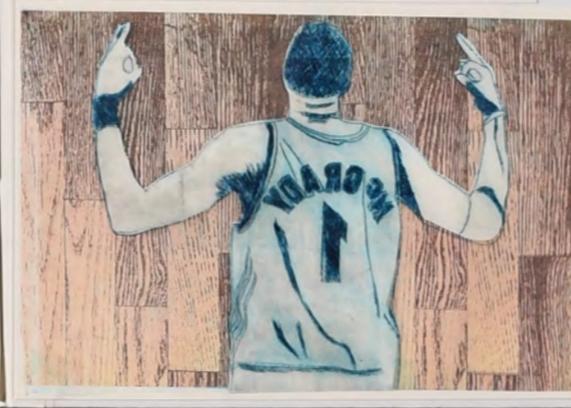
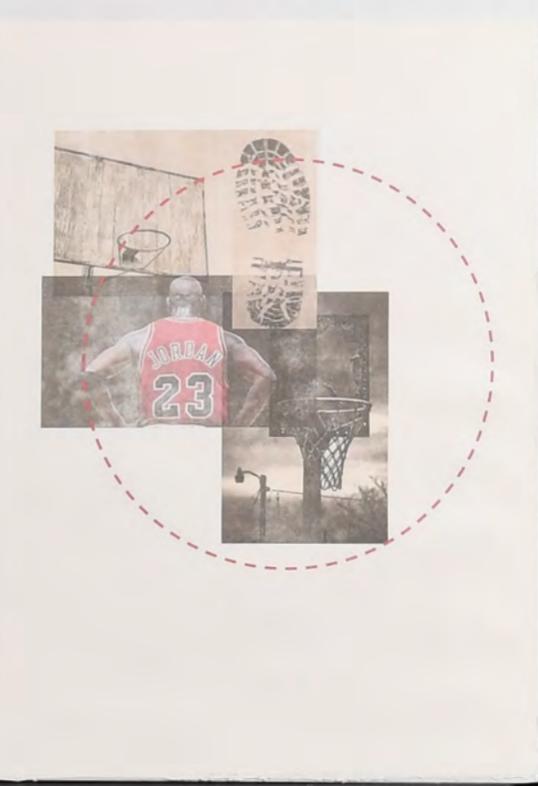
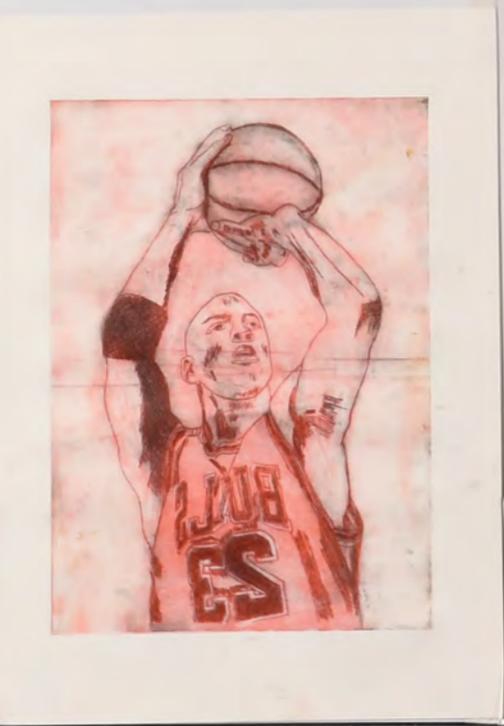
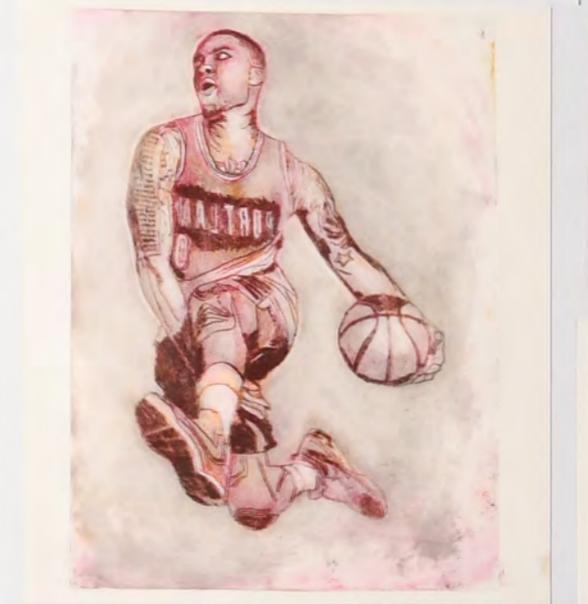
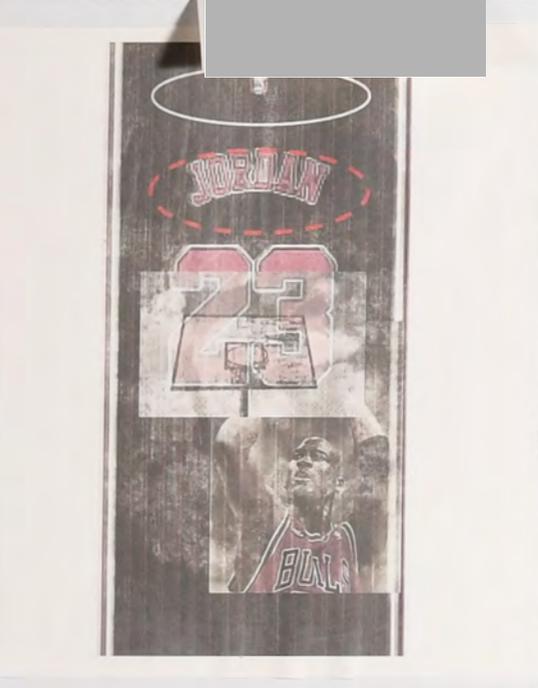
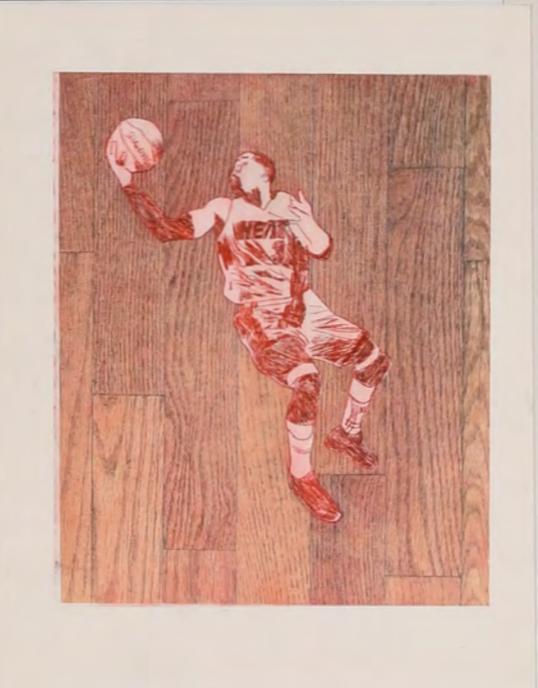
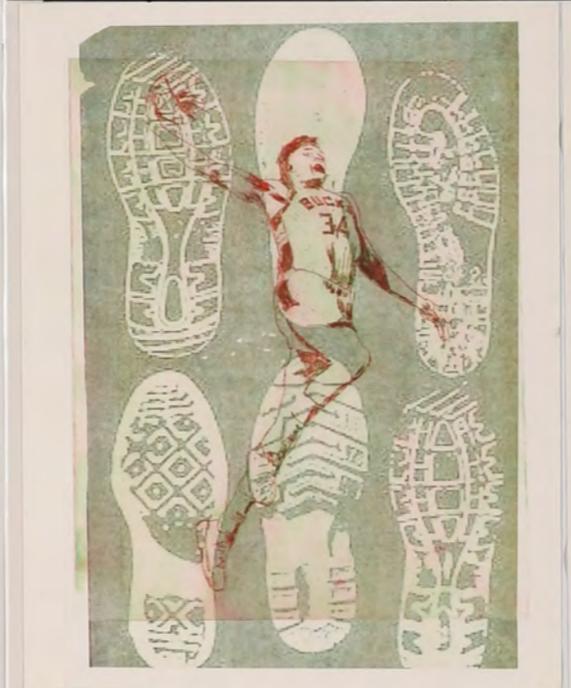
Level 3 Visual Arts 2023

91458 Produce a systematic body of work that integrates conventions and regenerates ideas within printmaking practice

EXEMPLAR

Merit

TOTAL M



Merit

Subject: Visual Arts – Printmaking

Standard: 91458

Marker commentary

This dynamic portfolio is a homage to the superstars of basketball, and shows the action and movement associated with the game. The first work, a confident pencil drawing with subtle tonal shifts created through soft blending, brings together subject matter of different scale. It includes footwear, gear, a ball, and figurative elements, as well as setting up an interest in the textural surfaces of the wooden floorboards. Drawing is translated well into printmaking, with the fine mark and grey tones replicated through drypoint intaglio processes. Plate tone is used with purpose, adding to the sense of motion and aligning tonally with drawings. Three of only five works on Panel 1 are large, figurative central compositions, and similar in terms of picture-making. This continues into the top and bottom line of Panel 2; however, behind the central figure, the background has an added wooden texture. These works are similar compositionally and take up a large amount of the portfolio due to their size.

Use of intaglio processes continues on Panel 2, seamlessly combining a handmade, drypoint plate with digital transfer processes. The first work is very successful, with a player layered on top of basketball boot prints in a range of tread patterns. It builds on earlier ideas, shows experimentation, and sets up new possibilities. Layering is also seen in further works on this panel, such as the circular motif of the Denver Nuggets hovering over another image of a basketball player in mid-flight. The sense of movement is emphasised by the drag of ink in the print below.

Harmonious, muted colour is consistent and well-considered, informed by tones of the court and basketballs. Ink is used with sensitivity.

Well-constructed compositions with multiple layers of imagery are seen in Panel 3, with a play between circles, ovals, the dotted lines of court markings, figure, environment, hoops, and textural surfaces. These works are investigative, break the frame, and build on previous ideas. However, again, presenting large-scale works dealing with similar pictorial concerns limits space to show a depth and range of ideas.

To meet Excellence, this submission would have benefited from some smaller sequences of work and another 'push' or passage on Panel 3, to create a further shift and show regeneration of ideas built on strengths. Different viewpoints and angles could be considered to add variety, informed by an artist like Mark Bradford and his series of basketball images. Taking original photographs where possible and remembering to reverse images with text when making plates ensures words and numbers come out the right way around when printed. Although there are times when technical skills are used with fluency, this is not consistent across the submission.