Kendell Gunderson

Instead of being scared, I found beauty, and the beauty I found reminded me to live. I want to showcase my passions for memento mori by making my art play off each other. For my art, I have painted organs in oil and screen-printed skeletons; this is meant to represent life and death. On one side, the organs I paint are not living, and on the other side, the skeletons I draw cannot function without their organs. Both topics represent death, however, I have made both sides very life-like. I want to pay tribute to memento mori (remember to die), but also subtly hint towards memento vivere (remember to live). I find both phrases very powerful, and I find these two meanings are what give me a drive in life. For the longest time after experiencing my first death, I became fixated on the indelible. I will die along with everyone else in my life, but through art, I found beauty in what I fear the most.