



BIENNIAL
School of Art, Design
& Creative Industries



Ulrich Museum of Art

The XXIII Faculty Biennial It's All Part of the Process

Artist Statement

Tanna Burchinal

Recently, a close friend confided in me traumas she endured from her family as a young girl. Her memories made me reevaluate the childhood experiences we shared. This was new territory for me. Quickly, I found my expectations and intentions for this work were not lining up with my formal artistic choices or emotional state. In short, work begets work; I went into the studio and gave shape to the difficulties I was facing, despite my apprehensions to start.

I have used hair in my work since my graduate education. For me, hair holds a space that is both threatening and comforting. Using this as a foundation, I incorporated research on European fairy tales and the depiction of hair as stand-ins for purity, virtue, value, and voice. In the work, the dolls' hair is overwhelming, a fantastical overgrowth for the dolls' size, and an overgrowth of expectations. The dolls' deflated bodies cradle one another, comforting each other from their experiences. What was once salvation is now stagnation. This work came from our growing up as young women in restrictive familial structures, but ultimately it's about how we endured and shared those double-edged lessons or "morals of the story."



Crane Walter, illustration from Household Stories from the Collection of Bros Grimm (London: Macmillan and Co., 1914).