

March 4, 2026

Greetings Mentored Student Research and Creative Activity Review Team,

I am extremely excited to share my experience working with Morgan Calvo during the creation of two iterations of "Discovering You Have Marfan Syndrome 18 Years Later"; a successful combination of autobiographical content, scientific research confirming lived experience, combined with an exploration of various printmaking processes.

It takes courage to make work like this, to be this open and honest about personal subject matter that may be embarrassing or taboo. I give credit to Morgan for having the strength work out these thoughts and experiences through their artwork; knowing that their ideas and images would be critiqued and scrutinized in our studio classes, put up for public display, not once but twice.

In the first iteration of this imagery, Morgan is represented as an unrecognizable creature, someone who may never fit in. Something happened in the time between that first and second version of this idea. Morgan's confidence grew, their understanding of their condition changed, and Morgan grew empathetic to their own experience. This can be seen through the decision to change the middle figure (Morgan) from a creature into an actual human being. A human being made of flesh, bone, nerves, shown on transparent layers like a vintage scientific textbook. Morgan is willing to share everything in the hopes of creating connection and understanding with the viewer.

The ambition grew in the second iteration of this piece. Multiple screen-printed layers on transparent plastic sheeting with the addition of multiple individual framed lithographic prints. The print is transformed from a small, individual, quiet piece to a large and unwieldy declaration. The work takes up more space on the wall; Morgan takes up more space in the world.

The physical creation of these two prints was time consuming and labor intensive. The two version show a shift in Morgan's understanding and control of the various printmaking processes. The second iteration has more precision and subtleties. This understanding and control of the process runs parallel with a better understanding of this condition, and how Morgan fits in this world.

This kind of commitment to an idea is exactly what we hope our students achieve during their time here. Starting with research, experimentation, and follow through to see this idea through to the end. Then realizing an idea that was thought to be complete, could or should be made again because the circumstances have changed. This is how complicated ideas are developed and sophisticated art is made.

I wish the committee luck in making their choice.

Sincerely,



Joseph Lupo
Associate Director
Graduate Studies Coordinator
Professor of Art

