Link Gallery presents:

Reflection

By Nathan Koch

Nathan Koch, born in 1996 in Fort Wayne, Ind., began his endeavors in art as soon as he could hold a crayon. Soon enough, he was in elementary school, only enjoying his time in his art classes. Even stapling his fingers together or accidentally cutting his fingers with scissors didn't stop him.

By the time high school rolled around, Nathan became interested in cars and metal, ultimately guiding his interests in the field of art. By the time he became a student at Manchester University, he was exploring art through drawing, painting, airbrushing, and experimenting with grinded metal art. In May 2019, Nathan will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in art and business management, and will be exploring his interests in the automotive design field.

My interests in art began because I was drawn to complexity. I wanted to be able to recreate the complex world around me, but I struggled because I wanted everything to be a perfect representation. However, my interests in cars began to grow while I was restoring a 65' Mustang, which forced me to become familiar with metal. One night I was in the trunk grinding away the only visible surface rust on the car, when I noticed how reflective and vibrant the bare metal was. Soon enough, I was experimenting with metal and a die grinder, grinding complex patters into the metal. I realized that to represent complexity, I didn't have to represent accuracy.

Now, my interests lie in abstraction. Every time I grind down a new piece of metal, the vibrancy of the reflections still surprises me. The automotive world has also inspired me because of its huge variety of vibrant paints. I think cars are the focal point of my interest because they're such a large canvas and it gives me a better opportunity to show the world the beauty of metal art. When people see my work in the future, especially on cars, I hope they fall in love with the vibrancy. I think the world of manufacturing makes people pair their thoughts of metal with jagged and rough. But, I have never seen any other material react to light the way ground metal does. I hope when people see my work rolling past them on a car, they can see how beautifully and spontaneously the reflections roll across the surface.

-Nathan

Link Gallery in Other Winger Hall, Manchester University
Exhbition date: February 8-March 8, 2019; Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily
Free Admission. Appointments Available. Contact the artist at nrkoch2019@manchester.edu