

Senior Profile

The goth of Brevard

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

Kristen Martinets is a senior at Brevard College. She is an art major with a double concentration in art history and painting. She will be graduating soon in May 2020.

Martinets is from Polk County, North Carolina and moved around quite a bit. When her parents separated, she moved to England, Canada, California, Texas and then finally back to Polk County, where she began to dedicate herself to her art.

She always loved art. As a young girl, her mother, grandmother and great-aunt persuaded her to become an artist because she had a natural gift for it. Her mom especially influenced her daughter to be the person she is today by teaching her to stand out from the crowd and embrace her individuality.

Art was first an escape for Martinets, then through time, it morphed into a passion. She has a personal sketchbook with an array of “macabre” and “thought-provoking” drawings that communicate to the audience.

Drawing and painting was a way for her to connect with people about the things she has been through. This was a coping mechanism for her—finding meaning inside the darkness.

Art is a speechless way to convey ideas and inspirations to the public. Martinets fell in love with all art, but the artists that stuck out to her the most were Toulouse Lautrec, Salvador Dali and Riley Smiley.

Lautrec was a post-impressionist and known to paint nefarious people (ranging from prostitutes to alcoholics) as humans with feelings. Salvador Dali is her inspiration for surrealism and Riley Smiley for her line work.

The painting shown is called “Lucid Dreamer.” Not shown is a painting titled “Tattoo Artist,” which was a way to show her initiation into adulthood. Sadly, the artist in this painting is no longer with us, which she found out after getting her painting. Fortunately, the son of the artist found out about Martinets’s painting and recently bought it from her.

“Lucid Dreamer” was a process to get over her fear of candle wax. Before her freshman year at Brevard, Martinets accidentally burned half of her face with hot candle wax.

She applied to four colleges but chose to come to Brevard College after a former

employer’s wife went here. “It wasn’t too far away from my family, but far enough to where they needed to call first,” she said.

When taking an art history class with Professors Robert Bauslaugh (retired) and Anne Chapin, Martinets fell in love with the subject. She now knows more about the artists she loves and can incorporate different styles into her art. Looking at different artists and learning not to confine herself to a specific style has broadened her horizons and expanded her talent.

When first coming to Brevard College, there was heavy negativity surrounding her for the first two years. However, through time, things changed for the better and attending Brevard College has made her a better person and she has become more humble.

“If the campus was a person, I would want to slap it in the face, but I would like to thank it afterwards because it has done so much for me,” she said jokingly.

The college has also given her so many great opportunities to show off her talent and to learn from inspirational people from the area. One person, in particular, is Lori Parks.

Parks’s art is weird and “out there,” a lot like Martinets’s work. She and Parks are collaborating for her senior project and Kristen couldn’t be more honored to learn from such an amazing woman.

Her senior project is coming up at the end of

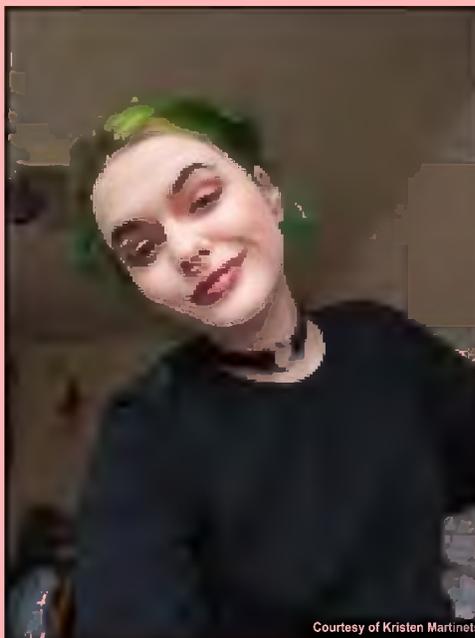
this semester in April. Her individual senior show is about “being a flâneur of modern nightlife” -- finding your own places to be accepted and being yourself. She chose this theme because she found her place in the alternative culture of Asheville.

Her time here at Brevard is coming to an end soon, but she will leave an impression on this campus. “Art connects us and expresses things that cannot be described. Art captures the beauty and forms of human connection that seems to be lacking today. I don’t think we could survive without art,” Martinets said.

She wants people to remember that, “You can be weird and be a good person and things take longer than anticipated, but it can’t rain all the time.”

After graduation, she plans on getting married to Gavin Wentz of Canton on October. 31, 2020. She then plans to go to community college to take a couple of chemistry classes and wants to earn an online Psychology degree. After her community college experience, she wants to get a Masters in Restorative Art.

Wherever she goes, she will impact the people around her and allow individuals to dig deep within themselves to be vulnerable. Her confidence, ambition, and friendship allow others to see the vivid light that shines so bright inside of her. She will move mountains.



Courtesy of Kristen Martinets

Kristen Martinets is known around campus for her artwork and her captivating sense of style.



Courtesy of Kristen Martinets

“Lucid Dreamer” by Kristen Martinets.