

The Desire to Be...

We all have desires in life.

... to be free

...to be loved

... to be heard

My dream is to be a working artist and costume designer. I create art to give my own thoughts a voice, to expose the real me.

Angels' wings, like those of contemporary sculptor Anselm Kiefer, allude to how books and art allow us to escape and enter a fantasy world where all of our desires and passions are fulfilled. My concept for this show flew into my head a year or so ago while reading "*Angels in America*," a profound play about homosexuality and AIDS. I couldn't stop drawing wings and trying to figure out ways to construct them and thinking about materials that could be used to fulfill my dreams. Many of my thoughts were "flights of fancy." But I began to see wings everywhere, and my passion and its implications consumed me as much as determining how to give wings physical form.

The journey of these wings was a personal search, a culmination of many travels. I feel now I am ready to spread my wings and reach new heights.

These wings have references specific oil paintings from the past. As I researched these famous works, I realized that my personal desires for freedom, love, and a voice today mirrored those found images of the past.

Lament For Icarus by Herbert James Draper. I chose the story of Icarus whose wings were created by his father Deidalaus. Both were trying to flee a prison. The wings were said to be made from wax and feathers. Deidalaus warned his son not too fly too close to the sun or to close to the sea. However Icarus was excited about flying and simply got too close to the sun; his wings began to melt from the heat and this caused him to fall into the sea.

The Birth of Venus by Alexander Cabanal. Venus was a Greco-Roman goddess principally associated with love, beauty, and fertility. The five little angels or *amorini* (love gods) flutter above her languid body and observe her splendor as she floats on the waves of the ocean from which she was born. She is the very object of desire.

The last wing comments on the multiple representations of the Archangel Gabriel that appear with images of the Annunciation. Curiously, this is the same angel that plays a critical role in "Angels in America." This powerful angel, whose voice announces transformation, functions as a catalyst for change.

As a senior art student, I have spread my wings and will fly away as of May. So I feel this show is celebration of my accomplishments as I take off into the sky and explore what life has to offer. I do believe that I can fly, I believe I can soar. The sky is the limit.

I'm no angel, but I've spread my wings a bit.

- Mae West