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Living Space

Emily Morse North

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April 27th, 2022

Abstract:

The living room is a place where people can feel comfortable, interact with each other, and display some of their most prized possessions. This project uses five pieces of furniture to create a room; an armchair, chaise lounge, bookcase, coffee table, and lamp. These elements, combined with textiles, wall art, and knick knacks come together to make a warm and inviting space that I feel represents myself, and my love of nostalgia, heirlooms, and handmade items.

Artist Statement:

The pandemic triggered in me a deeper interest and motivation to develop a project that was related to my love of interiors, woodworking, and multi-use, comfortable furniture. Because we were remote for the academic year in 2020-2021 I spent a lot of time at home. I kept looking at the furniture I had, the furniture I wanted and the furniture that was given to me by my grandparents. I kept thinking about why I wanted what I wanted, what the design cues I found appealing were, and how I could arrange it and adapt it to not only look aesthetically pleasing to me, but also serve its maximum function. Interacting with the furniture I had made me think a lot about heirlooms, what is the story behind the pieces that were handed down to me? How will those stories continue and how will I add to them? It made me want to make things that were solid, and able to be handed down one day, or given to new homes so that they can be thoroughly used and loved. My family has so much stuff that has been handed down through generations, and every time I go home I find myself listening to stories about where it has been and what function it served. My Grandad's pieces have always been my favorite. He was interested in woodworking and bookbinding and made beautiful objects that fill my family's home.

Because I was surrounded by my Grandad's handmade objects during the early part of the pandemic, it sparked in me an interest in handmade items. I thrive off of prompts and the umbrella prompt of "it has to serve a purpose" really drew me in. It was enough direction that I felt focused and inspired, but left enough room for me to make things my own. The challenge of creating something that serves a purpose, is aesthetically pleasing, and also needs to be comfortable and functional has been a fascinating challenge and one that I will never get tired of pursuing.

For this project I will be making five pieces of furniture that serve as a living room set. There is an armchair, chaise lounge, bookshelf, coffee table and a lamp. They are objects that are made based on functionality, size-inclusivity, and my own aesthetic preferences and are meant to come with me wherever I move. I will also create wall art, textiles work in the form of a quilt and a footrest, and small objects that will decorate the space. I will bring in objects from my current house to create a room environment which I hope will be a warm and inviting space. I want to do this project not only to learn a new skill, which I can no longer imagine not being in my life, but also as a kind of gift to myself.



Armchair, wood (mahogany, cherry, dowels, plywood), upholstery foam, fabric.



Back detail from *Armchair*



Arm detail from *Armchair*



Side profile of *Armchair*



Chaise Lounge, wood (Cherry, plywood, mahogany), upholstery foam, fabric



Detail of *Chaise Lounge* back panel with plywood tiling



Seat detail from *Chaise Lounge*



Detail of back rest shelving from *Chaise Lounge*



Detail of wall art depicting: *Pieshud Storytime*, *Laminated plywood shelf* (plywood, unknown wood)



Tea Party, with laminated plywood frame, gouache on watercolor paper.



Hanging Lamp, paper, wood dowels



Coffee Table (wood; laminated plywood, scrap wood), accompanied by *Footstool*



Top view of *Coffee Table*



$\frac{3}{4}$ view of *Coffee Table*



Detail of *Bookcase* in low lighting



Bookcase, wood (mahogany, cherry, plywood) in low lighting





Detail of center section of *Bookcase*



Detail of right side of *Bookcase*



Detail of top left corner of *Bookcase*



Detail of side of *Bookcase*



Footstool, quilt, fabric scraps



Lamp; paper, wood (plywood)



Work in Progress image of *Coffee Table* (Nov. 2021)



Complete *Living Space* as set up in the Koch Gallery



Me enjoying *Armchair* and some hummus and crackers :)

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