

Art

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by profession. She also just happens to be one of the most revered artists in her field at the moment.

“Ladies and gentlemen, [Kohlene] has won the top prize for her art in Florence,” Toolan told the students. “So when I talk about Jay Z, Kohlene is the Jay Z of encaustic painting.”

Hendrickson lived and worked in Los Angeles for more than 20 years as an illustrator and art director. As a commercial artist in the fast pace of Tinseltown’s art scene, she had to learn and master a variety of media, an aspect of the job that she said made her yearn for a form that was more organic, authentic. Pushed away by the city and compelled by her artistic pursuits, she discovered fresco, moved to Switzerland and, eventually, found the medium that made her famous.

Encaustic painting is just what she sought. Derivative from the Greek phrase for ‘burn in,’ encaustic painting is a labor of a process from start to finish, combining the freedom of artistic expression with the precision and meticulousness of science and chemistry, the hybrid of a wealth of knowledge from the point the paint is mixed until the brush is dropped and the flame turned off.

It is a craft, from beginning to end, involving the harvesting of beeswax straight from the hive, a mixture of resin and hand-made pigment to create the paint. Then comes the process of creat-

ing the art itself; melting and molding the paint with heat and flame, allowing the artist to work it with ease.

It is a medium that predates expressionism, going back to the days of Caesar. Now, with Hendrickson’s guidance, students at Groton High will glean modern applications from an ancient form. They eventually will follow the whole process from start to finish, creating an odd intersection of fantasy and science resulting in completed works of art.

It all starts with the school’s sole science elective, Chad Devoe’s class Food, Land and You, which teaches students the interplay between humans and the ground that feeds them. Just wrapping up a unit on bee husbandry, Devoe’s class will be providing some of the wax that will be used to create the paint Spanbauer’s students will eventually take the heat guns to. The rest will come from local sources.

“With the grant, the collaboration had to be based on working with a non-arts connection,” Spanbauer said. “Science seemed to be the most natural and with Chad’s class and the materials [Kholeen] was working with, it seemed to be a natural fit.”

The materials the class will use are all locally sourced, adding to a legacy of sustainability the school practices daily. Groton High has a small farm store selling items — like eggs and soap — produced by Devoe’s classes, which has been producing its own honey with its own two hives since last school year. For the next few weeks, his 22 students will be handling everything from the harvesting, refinement and filtering of the beeswax all the way to the creating of pigment needed to create the art.

“All within the context of science,” Toolan said.

This being the first year of the program, there is some optimism in future plans for this type of programming, including an idea to potentially merge the science and art classes or moving off-campus. In Hendrickson’s eyes as an artist, this is the connection which originally attracted her to the encaustic medium, and though a fine intersection of art and science, it is most properly experienced through following the process from start to finish.

“To be able to express yourself, you have to understand your tools,” Hendrickson said. “When I’m teaching, I try to give them a foundation with the tools, the techniques and the materials, but also include the creative aspect in it... it’s emotional, it’s base and it’s philosophical expression, but sometimes there’s no narrative to it. It’s so easy now to buy tubes of paint at the store and have everything premade, but artists used to do this. They start from the raw materials and build the canvasses themselves. It’s all done for you today, and it’s interesting to go back to the roots of it all.”

An art teacher by training, Kohleen Hendrickson’s purpose during her time in Groton is to help guide the students through the paint-making process.

Though she’s teaching, Hendrickson will also be working on two pieces for Toolan’s Sun Dog art collective under the title “Follow the Dragonfly.”

“Just to get down here, to sand the wood and put the few coats of paint on ... it finally makes it ‘my space,’” Hendrickson said. “Sometimes I don’t even know what I’m going to do, but as soon as I sit in that chair, it just sort of happens.”



NICK REYNOLDS / STAFF PHOTO

Kohlene Hendrickson and Jeff Toolan examine one of Hendrickson’s pieces in the Main Street Gallery.

She cites a shamanic experience of the dragonfly — her symbol — appearing before her in Toolan’s Groton studio as the main influence of this series, when she found a dead dragonfly, perfectly-preserved, lying on the floor.

Logistically, time is tight. The gallery had to be set up, the program at the school had to have been approved and models had to be photographed. Now, with everything out of the way, Hendrickson can finally get to work.

Her next series, “The Spaces Between” will draw from the inspirations of time spent away from the blackboards and the canvas, an exploration of the negative spaces, a reflection of the beauty of the silence in the pause and an exploration of the abstract periods of suspense many overlook.

The exhibition will be taking place Thursday, November 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Main Street Gallery, located at 105 Main St. in Groton.

Cayea

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Jones began to see Dunaway before she started going out with Cayea. The first time Jones mentioned Cayea to Dunaway was Sept. 24, 2013. Dunaway said Cayea and Jones, 23, parted ways around May 2014. Cayea was adamantly in favor of breaking up, according to Dunaway’s testimony.

Staying apart did not last, however. Jones moved out of an apartment she shared with two roommates and into her own place in October 2014 in Cayuga Heights. Cayea moved in with her around that time while he looked for his own place, according to testimony Monday.

The first physical incident that Dunaway said was reported to her was on Feb. 17, 2014. Dunaway said Jones and Cayea were traveling in a car, Jones was the passenger when she “suddenly got scared” and tried to get out of the moving car. Cayea physically pulled her back in, Dunaway said. Coming back to that incident later when being questioned by defense attorney Matthew Van Houten, Dunaway said Jones entered a “frightened, young state of mind,” something that happened to her at times.

Van Houten attempted to ask Dunaway why Jones was seeking treatment. Bonavia objected, and the objection was sustained. Later when Van Houten approached the topic again, asking about Jones’ diagnosis, Bonavia objected stating that “questions about her mental health treatment are inappropriate.”

Tompkins County Judge Joseph Cassidy, who is presiding over the case, agreed and told Dunaway not to divulge the diagnosis of Jones.

During her testimony, Dunaway said Cayea visited her in June 2014. He told the therapist “he was shocked by his assaulting her,” Dunaway testified. “He felt terrible about it.”

Later, Dunaway told the court Cayea agreed that he and Jones should not be together. Dunaway said he felt “in lay terms, if she could push his buttons that way that it was best that they not be together.”

Van Houten asked Dunaway if Jones ever instigated physical violence between them. Looking at her notes and quoting Cayea, Dunaway said, “He said her needy clinginess is not good for him. He said that she seems to induce fighting, seems, to him, to want it.”

Van Houten asked Dunaway if she had notes about how things were going between the two in October. Jones had told Dunaway that Cayea had been “great in spite of her being pretty chaotic.” Jones also told Dunaway that he hadn’t been supportive and she felt she couldn’t do her schoolwork without him.

“Did Shannon talk to you at all about being aggressive or being irrationally angry at him?” Van Houten asked Dunaway. She responded that that came up throughout the relationship.

“She talked a lot about the upsets with Ben. He was around a lot. It was mostly good, however she was also, her words, freaking out on him frequently, feeling like he didn’t care, taking offense too easily then feeling panicked and flailing around. She called it ‘aggressively agitated’ and then she’d finally get tired again after about two hours,” Dunaway said, referencing her notes.

Jones was a Cornell University student, in her second or third year, facing school-related stress, Dunaway said.

While studying at Cornell, Jones met Laura Comin, a graduate who now lives in Texas. Comin, who said Jones was her

best friend, testified Monday. They met in a chemistry class in fall 2010.

Comin first met Cayea in October 2013. She said Jones and Comin would discuss their relationship. At the beginning, Jones was happy, she said. She initially thought Cayea was “OK” she said.

Comin said Jones told her about an incident in February when Cayea put his hands on her. Based on what Jones told Comin, Jones was outside of a vehicle and he wanted her to get back in. She said they were arguing and it got to the point where he put his hands around her neck and choked her until she blacked out.

The story conflicted with Dunaway’s testimony. Comin recalled another time Cayea put his hands on Jones. Jones had messaged Comin on May 12, 2014, saying “Ben put his hands on me again Sunday.” The Facebook message was entered into evidence. Dunaway said Jones phoned her May 17, 2014, to talk about an incident between her and Cayea.

When Bonavia asked what Jones said during the phone call, Dunaway said, “Ben had tried to choke her, he pinned her down. That scared her a whole lot. She was very phobic about that. ... phobic about being pinned down.”

Comin did not spend a lot of time with Cayea. Jones’ friends did not approve of Cayea, she said.

“You didn’t approve of Ben because he wasn’t a Cornell student?” Van Houten asked.

“No, because he was aggressive,” Comin said. Comin said she had multiple conversation with Jones about the dangers of domestic violence and abuse and asked her to leave him.

Another close friend of Jones’, and also a roommate, Rebecca Smith, testified Monday. Originally Smith and Jones were neighbors beginning in August 2012, but they became good friends over time, and Jones eventually moved in with Smith and her boyfriend. Smith first met Cayea when he was helping Jones move into their apartment in the summer of 2013. Cayea would often stay over on the weekend. Smith said Cayea seemed like a “nice guy.” She said the four of them would hang out together. However, Smith and her boyfriend started to become uncomfortable with Cayea coming over because they began to fight frequently.

“The fights would get worse and worse ... There was a lot of yelling,” Smith testified. At first the fighting was not bad, but as the year went on, the fighting escalated. She said she would hear doors slamming and people hitting walls.

“It was really scary,” Smith said. Smith said she and her boyfriend would talk to Jones, telling her “this really isn’t normal, you shouldn’t be fighting this much.” In May 2014, Jones became “exceptionally withdrawn” and very quiet.

Smith and her boyfriend felt so uncomfortable with Cayea coming over, they stopped allowing him to come over, she testified. “I felt very unsafe with Ben there,” Smith said. If Cayea would come over, Smith said she and her boyfriend would leave. It was not sustainable, Smith said, of them living together. She said Cayea had plans to move to Tennessee in September 2014, but when that did not happen, Smith said she and her boyfriend could not continue living together with Jones. In October, Jones moved to her own place in Cayuga Heights.

Jones was found dead in her apartment less than two months later, on Thanksgiving 2014.

Van Houten asked Smith if she ever personally witnessed any physical violence between Jones and Cayea. She said she had not.

The last to testify Monday was pathologist James Artin Terzian, who per-

formed the autopsy of Jones on Nov. 28.

During the autopsy, he noticed “several traumatic marks” like scrapes and bruising to her nose, lips and neck. He also described injuries to Jones’ head, including three areas of hemorrhaging.

“It means there had to be at least three blows to the head, or the head against some object, to form three different areas of injury. It couldn’t all have happened at the same time,” Terzian said.

Jones’ cause of death was either asphyxiation or suffocation, Terzian said. There was evidence of both. When asked to describe the process of asphyxiation and the effect on the body, Terzian said with a complete lack of oxygen, it takes about 20 to 30 seconds to become unconscious. If takes a couple of minutes for strangulation to be complete though, he said. When Bonavia asked what the man-

ner of death in this case was, Terzian replied, “homicide.”

As several images of Jones’ autopsy were displayed, Cayea cried.

Cayea’s attorney, Van Houten, said he has three potential witnesses to call, including Cayea. Cayea has had supporters in the courtroom throughout the trial, including his mother and a brother who traveled from North Carolina.

“I think tomorrow will show who Ben is and what kind of a person he is. We’ll let the jury decide from there,” Van Houten said late Monday after court had ended for the day.

Cayea wants to testify, Van Houten said. “He wants to tell his side of the story and there’s a lot more to it than presumptions that are being put out there by the prosecution.”

“The case is going to be over tomorrow,” Van Houten said Monday.

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