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ART OF MEDICINE

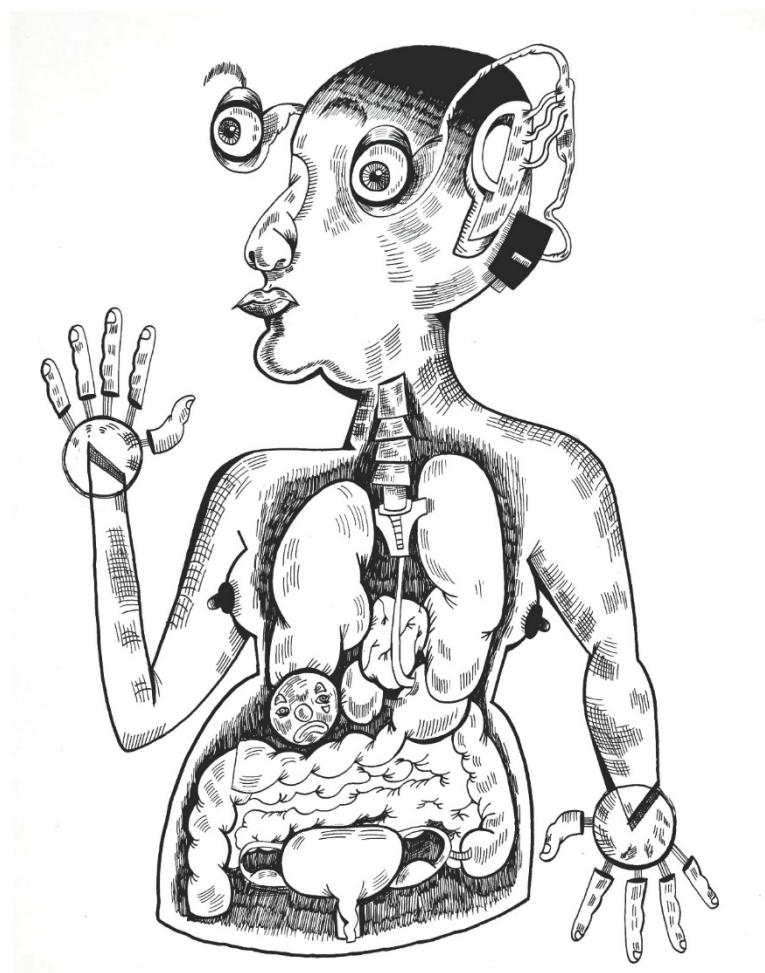
Self Portraits of a Woman in Peril

Kayla Mackenzie McCormick

Abstract

This series of self-portraits explores relationships between one's self and possible genetic and epigenetic sources of illnesses.

Figure 1. *The Call Is Coming From Inside My Body*



Media

Ink on paper.

Caption

Our organs, responsible for sustaining every function our bodies use to exist, are invisible to us, and they eventually fail us. Anxiety due to this invisibility can lead to a constant hum of thoughts about what could possibly be wrong. An apparatus on the figure's ear provides pathways to a mind trying to **decipher physicians' words**.

Figure 2. *I Would Like to Unzip Myself*



Media

Ink on paper.

Caption

This work considers mourning the loss of a healthy body. The figure is pulling itself apart and also revealing a body, a self, and an anguished memory of lost vitality.

Figure 3. *Should I Cut Out Dairy?*



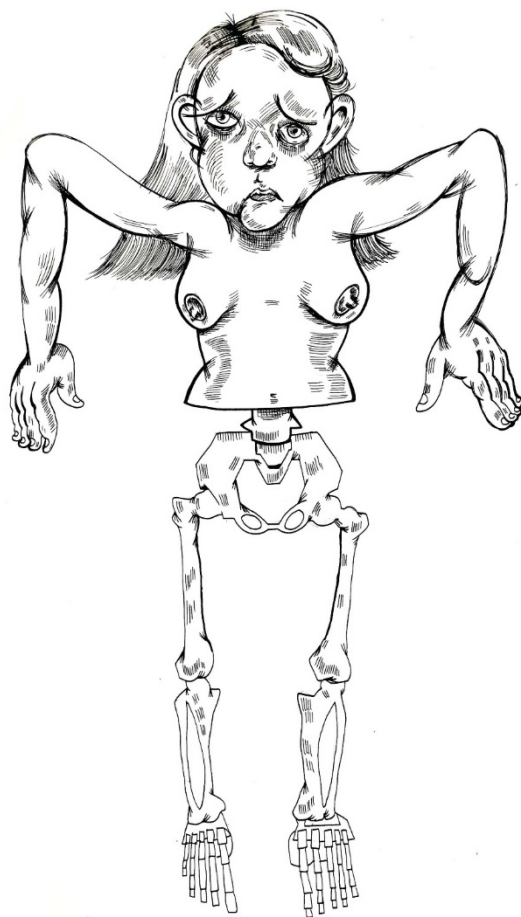
Media

Ink on paper.

Caption

In the history of humanity, now is the safest time to be alive, but despair about potential ailments based on an omnipresent, overwhelming flow of information could befall us.

Figure 4. *It's Too Late, Isn't It?*



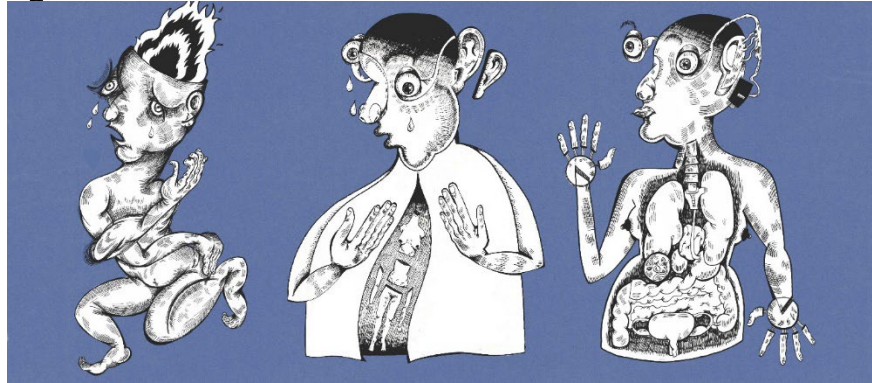
Media

Ink on paper.

Caption

This work considers **fear of death**.

Figure 5. A Woman in Peril



Media

Ink on paper, scanned and edited digitally.

Caption

Fear of our own mortality can be exacerbated by a history of **chronic health conditions** on both sides of a family, which is why all of these works are imbued with a sense of detached unease with human form.

Kayla Mackenzie McCormick is a student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Illinois and was an Art of Medicine intern with the *AMA Journal of Ethics* in 2024.

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure

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