

At Can Serrat this September, I came with the intention of working through new ideas and imagery in painting. I was immediately inspired by the surroundings and the other artists in residence. I began working in illustrative/book cover formats, with square and rectangular backgrounds, considering what I was feeling and looking for in my imagery. Some of my imagery was inspired by conversations with other artists, and being around so many writers possibly caused the poster/cover format I began to work with.

The idea of desire in the form of hunger came about, and my imagery and faces began to reflect relationships with others in a humorous way relating to food.

For our group show, which we held at town hall, I configured an installation of the works I had produced thus far, which included a predatory human cat named Salvatore, a mushy make out between a couple, a face opening in two with a bacon-pickle tongue, and placed around those, in a circle on the floor, was a group of faces composed of deconstructed burger condiments. I used found wood for a bonfire that we never made, and the wheelbarrow we used to collect the logs, as support for the paintings to be draped over.

I was working with acrylic paint for walls, using a large container of white and mixing my own colours with pigments into small food jars (post consumption). Many colours were unable to be mixed until there was a jar available to put them in. After each painting was complete, I coated it in a healthy layer of high gloss varnish, giving them a sticky/wet look similar to candy.

After the show, I continued to make some more sketches and ideas about desire as a hunger. And found that my desires for success, relationships and creation were met quite well throughout the process. The later pieces I produced, were two posters, one advertising an earth burger, with the caption "Now serving...Earth!" and the other an advertisement for a vacant snail shell. Both of which speak to our desires as humans for domination over our environment and a neglect for the earth and each other. The Snail shell ad playfully speaks to the housing crisis in many cities, like my home of Montreal where businesses like Air bnb and condo developments have made it very difficult to find affordable housing.

The experience of working and living at Can Serrat, is one that I will cherish moving forward and feel so fortunate that I was able to participate.