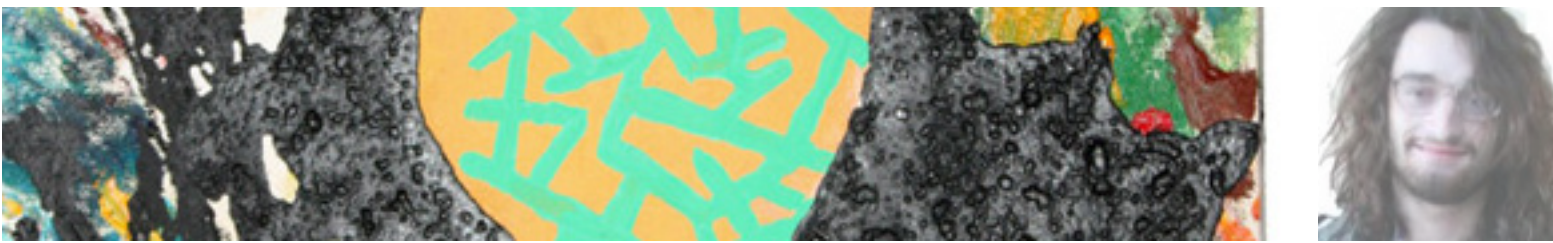


# From the Roots

guest curated by John Minieri

From the Roots is a joint show featuring new work from artists John Pierce and Jasio Stefanski. The name of the show is a quite literal interpretation of the work. Like the idea for the show itself, these works stem from the artists reaction. The reactions provide emotional responses that directly influence the outcome of the work, each emotion effecting each artist differently. The idea of emotion is too broad a topic to even consider trying to convey it all through a small exhibition. Instead, each artist was given the task of trying to decipher the basis for emotion, the roots of it. Given only the quote by the feminine psychologist Irene Claremont de Castillejo, "**Emotion always has its roots in the unconscious and manifests itself in the body,**" Pierce and Stefanski were forced to look at their work through a new lens. Their emotions acted as the only controlling element over their work and resulted in an ephemeral and expressive emotion.



**John Pierce** is a senior Printmaking major working towards a BFA at SUNY Purchase. He works in printing, drawing, painting, ceramic, and photography. Pierce's work questions the line between good/bad art and expressionism/naturalism.

*"The work's included relate directly to the quote through process and aesthetics. The pieces begin without a premeditated outcome. This technique forces me to attempt to work from the unconscious to instantly transcribe ideas, memories, and feelings with paint. The finished pieces are meant to extract similar emotion from the viewer. The work relies heavily on the body because the strokes are gestural, violent, and expressive rather than careful or meticulously planned."*



**Jasio Stefanski** is a graduate from Canisius College and has a BS in Digital Media Arts with a concentration in Fine Arts. He works in ink, drawing, painting, print, and photography. Stefanski tries to keep his work as conceptual as possible. He starts with a figment of an idea and let it grow or fade away. Most of his work is taken from his notebook, in which it barely exists. By barely exists Stefanski means that it consists of a line or two, a quick sketch or based on a text based idea.

*"Emotions are just expressions, this is how I relate to the quote, this is how I relate to things I see."*