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Miller Arts Scholars
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Fourth-Year Arts Award 2018: Outcome Report
Study Abroad in Italy

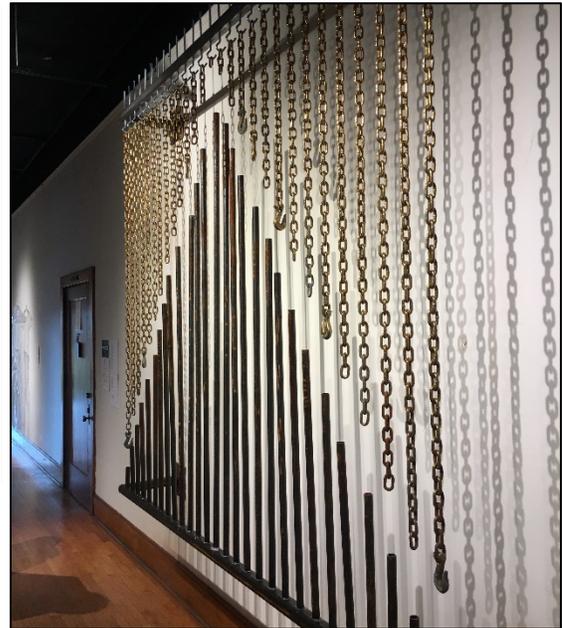
This last summer, I participated in the UVa study abroad Arts Program in Italy. With my Arts Award grant money, I paid for my tuition fees. While there, I took two courses: Modern Art in Italy (ARTH 2472) which fulfilled my art history credit towards graduating this May and Pinhole Photography in Italy (ARTS 2511) which went toward an elective credit, also allowing me to meet requirements. The program began in Rome, moved to a smaller village in Tuscany called Castiglion Fiorentino, to Florence for a day, and Venice for a long weekend. We witnessed the diversity of art in each region with our travels while making art of our own. We visited several art museums displaying everything from Renaissance work to Contemporary. We attended the Venice Biennale for two days which is like a giant artist world expo that happens every two years. From my summer, I learned a lot about the traditions and trends of art. I got a taste of what modern-day contemporary art looks like which helped me refine my own style.

In the Art History class, along with writing papers on different people and events in contemporary Italian art history, we had to write our final exam essay on a topic of our choosing that tied in topics throughout the lesson. I chose to write my paper on Phyllida Barlow, the British Artist representative at the Venice Biennale. Barlow is a sculptor in her seventies who specializes in massive installation projects that immerse the viewer in the piece. Growing up in war torn England has influenced her work to be quite industrial and messy, like a blown out structure. Her work inspired me to create a piece of my own to a larger scale. I named this piece

Tetanus and entered it into a show in the McGuffey art center in Charlottesville. It will also be a part of my Fourth Year show on April 27th.



A piece by Barlow at the Venice Biennale (pictured above) and *Tetanus* at McGuffey (pictured right)



In the photography course I took while in Italy taught me a lot about composition and subject. I found myself taking many photos that contained elements of repetition or of rusted older metals. It's interesting when considering that my work in sculpture generally has these elements as well (see *Tetanus* pictured above). We built our own pinhole cameras, learned to use a dark room and develop photographs, and assembled our best work for our final photo show. I have never been excellent at two dimensional art, but had a wonderful experience experimenting with different concepts and the arduous process that is developing film and creating good prints.

