Faculty Presentation Speech:

I would like to honor Cecilia Schmitt with the Natalie Calhoun Award of Artistic Excellence, named after Natalie Calhoun, who died in February at the too young age of 95. Natalie Calhoun was an art student at Kishwaukee College for 30 years, 12 of which I had the honor and fortune of being her teacher. Natalie was talented, ambitious, and was an inspiring force to all who knew her. She left the Kishwaukee College a better place. Cecilia is the first student to receive an award in her honor. Cecilia Schmitt has been my student at Kishwaukee College in Drawing I, Drawing II, Painting I, Figure Drawing I, Figure Drawing II, and Intro to Visual Arts from the Fall of 2018 through the present Spring 2020 semester, so I have come to know Cecilia quite well as an artist, student, and person. In her time at Kishwaukee College, she has won awards in gallery exhibitions, the Kamelian Art & Literary Magazine, and departmental awards. She makes every classroom better with her presence. She is a leader, often extremely supportive to her classroom peers, and frequently organizes extra-curricular art activities to share and practice art. She is motivated, hard-working, entrepreneurial and ambitious, using social media and the web to connect and market her work to followers of her work. As a student, she is humble, has a fierce determination for learning and improving herself, she is open to feedback from her mentors, and pushes herself technically, creatively, and conceptually in her artwork. Cecilia too will leave Kishwaukee College a better place because of her time here, and I look forward to see how she changes the world with her artistic passions.