

Faculty Mentor: Chris Daniggelis, Art

Two Lovers

Morgan Murphy and Chris Daniggelis

Morgan Murphy's work is parallel to Ingmar Bergman's film noir stage set quality that caricatures psychological settings. Through the utilization of the romance of printmaking, and the paper and plate only touching once before that connection is ripped away, "Two Lovers" achieves social commentary of the current state of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Rene Magritte's painting, "The Lovers" is reproduced backwards in mezzotint to show the reflection on time in the past. This painting represents a barrier preventing an embrace between two lovers and the frustration and isolation that comes along with that. These, of course, are very similar struggles that seem to be ubiquitous, given our crisis. While Murphy's reproduction of "The Lovers" encourages us to reflect on the past, Murphy's second mezzotint engraving implores us to analyze the times we currently live in. The masks worn by two lovers in the second mezzotint signify that interruption of human connection and the distance and alienation many of us suffer due to the current pandemic. The connections that Murphy draws between the surrealist painting "The Lovers" and the masked, socially distanced setting we endure today remind us to cherish the opportunities we have with our loved ones, and more importantly, that we are all in this together.