

**My Last VCFA Packet**

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Hi Tasheka!

**REFLECTION/SUMMARY**

My last packet as a VCFA student!!! I can't believe I made it. The last two years have been unbelievably crazy. Transferring to VCFA was one of the best decisions I've ever made. It's been super challenging and at times painful, but also extremely eye-opening. I am so grateful to have been able to be a part of such a unique and transformative program. Thank you!

So yeah, things have continued to move along this month, albeit *v e r y* slowly. This little screen idea has truly become quite a project. The building in itself has been super time-consuming and challenging, but the real twist to the whole thing is the fact that it needs to be made in small and shippable parts. There's a chance things will break in the process of shipping, which is terrifying. I may spend just as much time packing the whole thing than making it. We'll see. After about two weeks of building prototypes and searching/quoting/finding the right supplies (and then waiting patiently for them to arrive via UPS), I think I have a decent plan. I have not figured out what else will be part of my exhibition. But I'm sure it'll come to me within these next few weeks. Right now I am whole-heartedly focused on building the screen, that's it. After that, my plan is to make the hand-made book (including printing & binding), then create my presentation, and last complete the exhibition. Let me know if this seems like a good plan of action. Oh, and I should mention I did send off my book to blurb and ordered 3 copies just in case. I should get them next week. I plan on only making one hand-made version, so the other two are to fulfill the requirements, the third is just in case.

I've uploaded a final, digital PDF version of the book to my website. [Click HERE to see.](#)

**EXHIBITION IDEAS**

The screen that I'm building, I've learned, is properly known as a Byobu screen. They are very popular in Japan and are mostly used as dividers to enclose and separate varying spaces. The word 'Byobu' literally translates to 'wind protection,' as these were original built to block drafts. Byobu screens, as with many traditional Japanese arts, originated in China and can be traced back to the Han Dynasty. Through time, they have evolved in structure, form and content, remaining an important artistic element of Japanese tradition. Since their creation, Byobu screens have served as a context to showcase calligraphy, natural landscapes, and depict scenes of daily life. Byobu screens tell stories, which is the inspiration for my own installation.

I chose to build a Byobu screen out of my thesis document because it recounts my thesis journey in an unconventional way, it compliments my topic, and it couples my interest and love of paper and wood with structural pattern, sustainability and Japanese aesthetics. Additionally, it is meant to explore an unexpected, yet relevant, form of the book.

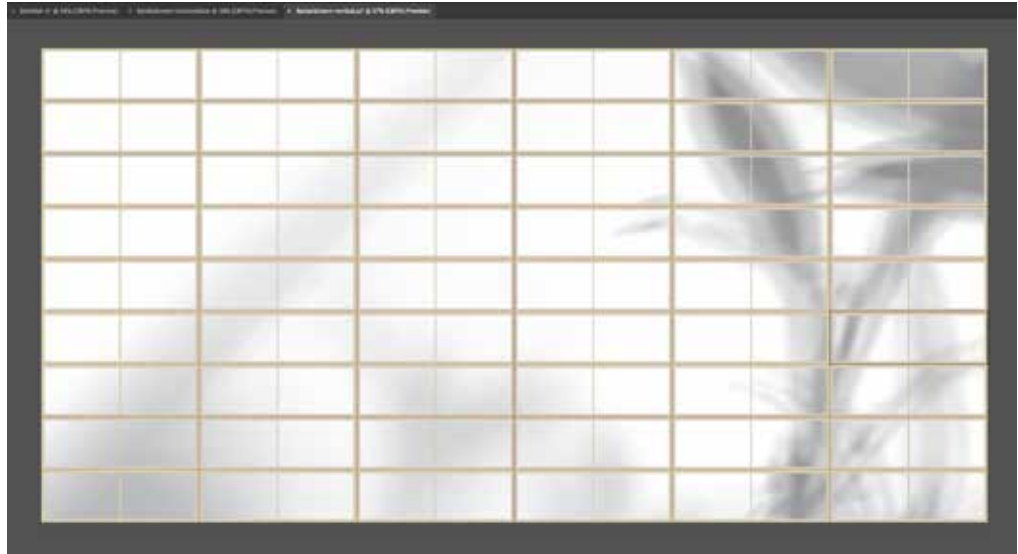
Here are some images of my progress to-date:

## OUTER PANELS



I played around with the idea of setting up the book in either printer spreads (as French folds) or as reader spreads. I decided to go with reader spreads because I do want it to be a story that, should the reader choose to engage with, is easy to follow. Plus, it highlights each spread as it was designed. In considering it as a 6 x 9 panel structure, I then wondered whether it should read vertically or horizontally. Because as an installation piece each column will be 45 degrees from the next, I decided it would read easiest vertically from one column to the other. The digital rendering above showcases the entire structure, flat. Note it is 6 panels high by 9 panels wide. Each panel is 24 inches wide x 8 inches tall, making it a structure that is 12 feet wide by 6 feet tall. I decided to use Neenah's Eames Paper, Canvas Texture, to elude to the idea of painting, which softly references Worringer's theories as my theoretical point of departure. The framing will be constructed out of balsa wood. This will make the panels very light (but also very fragile). The entire thing will stand on its own (fingers crossed) with 36 inch tall vertical reinforcement beams in the back.

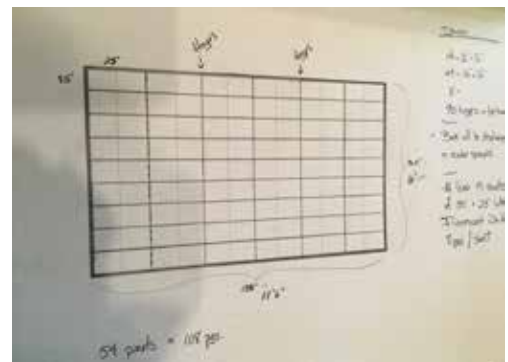
INNER PANELS

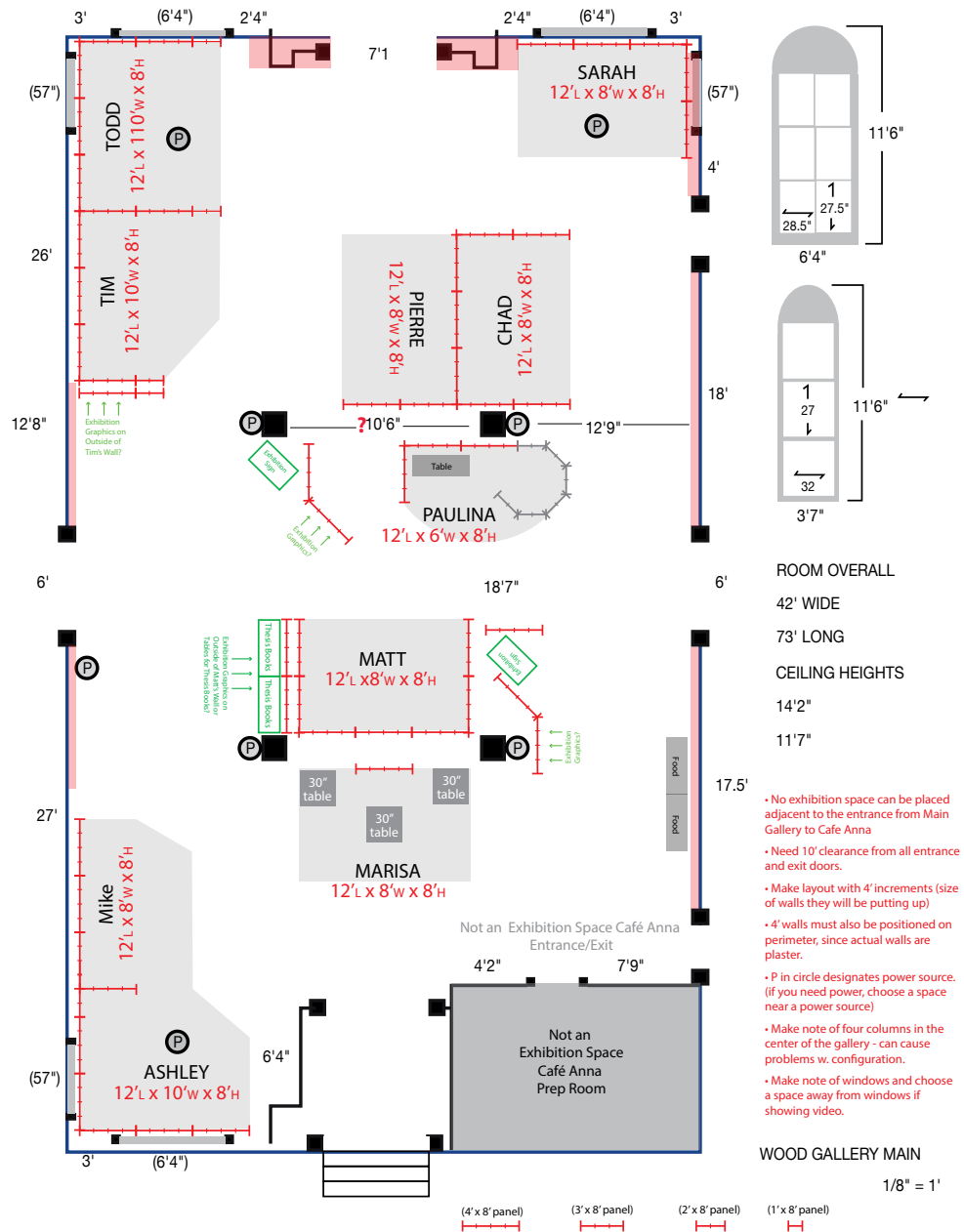


On the inside of the structure, there will be one large image that spans through all panels. This image is meant to create a feeling of serenity as the reader steps inside, while creating a visual connection to nature. I'm thinking of putting a lamp inside as well as maybe a small circular rug or sitting cushion. It's literally meant to crate a separate space for solitude within the gallery. This plays to the juxtaposition and interplay between mental space, physical space and lived space: the underlying topic of my thesis.



Some sketches, tests and prototypes. I've also begun to compile time-lapse making videos which I may use for my visual presentation, unfortunately they're a bit big to embed in this PDF.





As a class, we've been working on configuring the layout of the gallery and allocating individual space to display our work. Above, in gray and next to my name, you can see how I plan to fold the screen and then support it up against a set of three walls. I have no idea what I will put on those adjacent walls. Any ideas?? I've also requested a large pedestal. Also not sure what will be placed on it aside from my book. Would love your help, please!

**THANK YOU!**

That's it for now Tasheka. Thanks for all your help and support this semester. I frankly was not sure I'd make it to this point. In fact, I didn't buy my tickets back to Vermont until a few weeks ago. That's how unsure I was. But you consistently reassured me that I was on track, and that I would, in fact, be able to pull it off. I've still got tons to do before residency, but I feel much more confident now. Talk to you soon!