



## Artist Statement: “Lavender and Honey”

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Some believe that when we dream, it is our mind subconsciously working out solutions to different emotions and problems we encounter in everyday life. Recently, my work has been exploring the idea of a dreamscape, in which I take inspiration from my own dreams and attempt to translate everyday struggles into surrealist imagery. By using cathartic art as a way to reflect upon my own emotions from the waking world, I investigate whimsical or fantastical settings. In this particular piece, I delved into personal feelings related to pressure and stress. I wanted to address questions such as how can stress and pressure affect a person, and how can they benefit from them? Who do you become and what's the point? The viewer could be left with a positive or negative reaction depending on how they see the figure: receiving the sweet nectar, or just being used.

My focus in art deals primarily with photography but also includes some forms of fine art. In winter 2011, I enrolled in a relief printmaking class (taught by Morgan Rosskopf) which resulted in this image. For our final project, we were to carry out a reductive woodblock process—meaning you use one block of wood to print several layers of color on one print. cut a small amount out of the block and print that layer many times before washing the block and cutting

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more away, printing the next color on top (which allows the previous color to show through). This process is a bit intimidating, because once an artist moves onto the next layer, no more prints can be made. I enjoy learning new art forms such as this, and art has always been a strong passion of mine. Victoria Haven, a contemporary artist, once said, “Your work will reveal something as it progresses, even if you don’t know what it is at the time.” I agree and am excited and inspired to create more and grow as an artist, so I may see what my work will someday reveal.