Throughout my time at Oxbow, moments spent in nature greatly shaped my experience. In both my art-making and community, being in nature or using nature often played an integral role. These experiences led me to incorporate nature and highlight the memories I have had in nature in my pieces. In my final project research, I explored the topic of wildlife conservation. I was primarily focused on lesser-known endangered species and areas. This research inspired me to highlight the smaller things in nature and appreciate the environment surrounding me through my art.

My artwork consists of three mixed-media landscapes that combine printmaking and painting. I began by creating twelve lino-cut squares of butterflies inspired by the mission blue butterfly. I specifically chose it because it is native to the areas portrayed. Following the lino-cuts, I created three monotype prints which I used as underpaintings then printed the lino-cut butterflies on the monotypes. I then painted, using oil paints, over the prints where I added more detail to the landscapes. Finally, I reprinted the butterflies over two of the pieces using oil paint.

While creating these pieces, I wanted to highlight the process along with the product and let the different layers in the pieces shine through. I hope in these pieces, the viewer can appreciate the story I am aiming to tell as well as appreciate these parts of the environment as well.

NATURAL FRAGMENTS Sofia W. New Providence, NJ