



Mannie McBride

2025

To my father,

Whose music filled my childhood with both beauty and depth. I'll never forget the sound of you strumming the guitar and singing *Blackbird*—a song that once seemed too sad to understand, until I realized it was about hope and freedom. Through every moment, you've been there, teaching me what it means to do right, and for that, I am forever grateful.

This is for you.

Artist Biography

Mannie McBride is a multi-media artist born in Montreal, QC but raised in Newton, MA. They had classical training in drawing and guidance from their mother, Marisa Scaramella, who is a graphic designer. They went to college at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, MA where they honed their craft and love for illustration. Starting out with watercolor, dabbling in digital, and dipping their toes into book arts, they slowly fell in love with illustration and found their distinctive style.

At MCLA, Mannie has worked on the SmART Commons Blog, by being one of their co-editors for two years. In that position, they conducted interviews featuring upcoming artists and exhibits, transcribed them and helped get them out into the community. They have also been an editor for the school's literary magazine, Spires, for three years. In that position they conducted campus outreach, edited and supervised editing of fellow students work, and put together the layout for each edition using Adobe Illustrator.

Mannie had their work displayed in MCLAs Winter 2024 exhibit in their student gallery, Gallery 51. But one day hopes to one day be able to work at a publishing company helping to create and design the covers of books for other future writers.





Just trust me,
you'll be fine
And when I'm back in Chicago,
I feel it

Another version of me,
I was in it
I wave goodbye to
the end of beginning

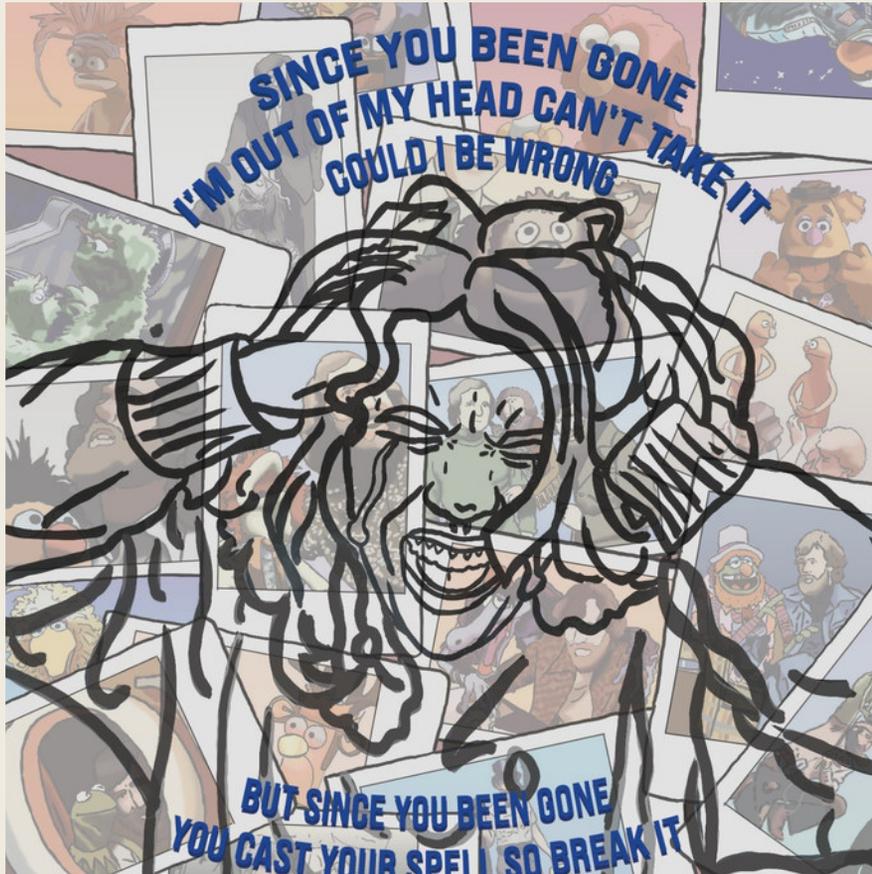
End of Beginning
Digital Art
2025
5x5

Since You Been Gone

Digital Art

2025

5x5



You
can't
start
a fire
Sittin'
'round
cryin'
over
a broken
heart
This
gun's
for
hire

You
can't
start
a fire
Worryin'
about
your
little
world
fallin'
apart
This
gun's
for
hire



Even if we're just dancin' in the dark

Dancing in the Dark
Digital Art
2025
5x5

Artist Statement

My digital drawings explore the intricate relationship between gender politics and life as performance, investigating how identity is both constructed and revealed in the everyday. Through music, storytelling, and visual expression, I seek to illuminate the nuanced ways in which individuals navigate societal expectations, power structures, and personal freedom.

Influenced by artists as diverse as Neil Young, Rick Springfield, and Paul McCartney, my practice weaves together elements of nostalgia, pop culture, and introspection. Their ability to craft melodies that evoke deep emotion and cultural memory serves as a foundation for my own exploration of authenticity and artifice. By synthesizing both opaque and transparent discourse, I create work that oscillates between ambiguity and revelation, encouraging viewers to question what is seen, heard, and felt.

From an early age, I was captivated by the musicality of relationships—the rhythm of conversations, the harmonies of human connection, and the dissonance of societal constraints. What begins as an experience of wonder and curiosity often transforms into a powerful nostalgia, a yearning for moments both past and imagined. Yet, within this longing lies the potential for transformation—a reimagining of the world as it could be, rather than as it is.

As subtle phenomena take shape through emergent and personal practice, they reveal hidden truths about our collective existence. Through my work, I strive to offer glimpses into the shadows of our condition—into the tensions, contradictions, and beauty that define human experience. By engaging with these complexities, I invite the viewer to step into a space of reflection, where identity is fluid, performance is perpetual, and the search for meaning is ongoing.



Long nights,
impossible odds
Keeping my back
to the wall

If it takes all night
to be just what I am

Well,
I'm gonna be a
blue collar man

Blue Collar Man
Digital Art
2025
5x5

YOU COULD STAND ME UP AT THE GATES OF HELL
BUT I WON'T BACK DOWN



I Won't Back Down

Digital Art

2025

5x5

If I was a sculptor, but then again, no
Or a man who makes potions
in a travelling show



I know it's not much but it's the best I can do
My gift is my song and this one's for you

Your Song
Digital Art
2025
5x5

Better Together

Digital Art

2025

5x5

It's not always easy and
Sometimes life can be deceiving
I'll tell you one thing,
it's always better when we're together



"When I was young, my
of the people who made o
My hope still is to leav
better for my ha
- Jim H

ambition was to be one
a difference in this world.
e the world a little bit
ving been here."

enson

Live While We're Young

Digital Art

2025

5x5



Let's go crazy,
crazy, crazy 'til
we see the sun
I know we only met,
but let's pretend
it's love
And never, never,

Never stop for anyone
Tonight, let's get some
And live while we're young



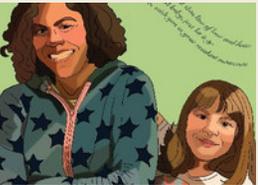
Dancing in the Dark, Bruce Springsteen, "Born In The U.S.A", Columbia Records, 1984

"Dancing in the Dark" symbolizes the struggle to find meaning or clarity amid chaos and uncertainty, a theme echoed in *Deny, Defend, Depose*, where institutional responses often obscure truth rather than illuminate it. Both works highlight how systems—whether emotional or legal—can leave individuals feeling isolated, unheard, and trapped. in the shadows.



Blue Collar Man, Styx, "Pieces of Eight", A&M Records, 1978

"Blue Collar Man" captures the relentless drive and pride of a hardworking individual fighting to maintain dignity through labor, mirroring the determination of a working father striving to support his family. Both embody a refusal to give up despite economic hardship, fueled by a need to provide, responsibility, but ultimately it comes down to love.



Weakest Moments, John Mellencamp, "American Fool", Riva Records, 1982

"Weakest Moments" reveals the vulnerability and emotional rawness that surface when defenses fall, reflecting the deep, unspoken bond between two siblings who love each other unconditionally. In their lowest points, their connection becomes a quiet source of strength, proving that love often speaks loudest in silence.



Man in the Mirror, Michael Jackson, "Bad", Epic Records, 1987

"Man in the Mirror" underscores the power of self-reflection as the first step toward meaningful change, resonating deeply with me, someone who vows to fight for a better world. It reminds us that true transformation begins within, as personal accountability fuels the courage to challenge injustice and inspire others.



Since You Been Gone, Rainbow, "Down to Earth", Polydor Records, 1979

"Since You Been Gone" echoes the ache of absence and the lingering void left by someone irreplaceable, mirroring the sorrow of missing Jim Henson, a soul who brought light and wonder to the world. His loss is felt not just in silence, but in every smile and spark of imagination he once inspired.



I Won't Back Down, Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers, "Full Moon Fever", MCA Records, 1989

"I Won't Back Down" stands as a powerful anthem of resilience, perfectly reflecting the unwavering spirit of someone battling a chronic illness. Despite the pain and setbacks, the song embodies a refusal to surrender, turning struggle into strength and defiance into hope.

End of Beginning, *Djo*, "Decide", Djo Music AWAL, 2022

"End of Beginning" captures the bittersweet tension between closing one chapter and stepping into the unknown, mirroring the fear and uncertainty of graduating college. It reminds us that every ending carries the seed of a new beginning, even when the future feels overwhelming.



Your Song, *Elton John*, "Elton John", DJM Records, 1970

"Your Song" speaks to the beauty of heartfelt gratitude, perfectly capturing the love and appreciation felt for a found family parent who chose to care unconditionally. It becomes a gentle tribute to the kind of bond that's built not by blood, but by devotion, kindness, and unwavering presence.



Better Together, *Jack Johnson*, "In Between Dreams", Brushfire Records

"Better Together" beautifully reflects the quiet strength and comfort of being with someone who makes life feel whole, much like the steady, grounding presence of a found family father. It's a reminder that love, support, and belonging can be chosen—and that some of the best families are the ones we build ourselves.



Live While We're Young, *One Direction*, "Take Me Home", Syco Music & Columbia Records

"Live While We're Young" captures the thrill of embracing the present moment, much like the carefree bond shared between two friends who united over their mutual love for One Direction. Their connection is a reminder that some of the best friendships are formed through shared passions, creating memories that last a lifetime.



I'm gonna make a change
For once in my life
It's gonna feel
real good
Gonna make
a difference
Gonna make
it right



I'm starting
with the man in the mirror
I'm asking him to
change his ways
And no message
could've been any clearer
If they wanna make
the world a better place
Take a look at yourself
and then make a change

Man in the Mirror

Digital Art

2025

5x5



Weakest Moments

Digital Art

2025

5x5