



Elisabeth Antonini, *Serenity in '66*, Mixed Media, 5.5 in x 8.5 in, 2024.

Artist Statement:

I have been scanning photographs for the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Archives for seven months and have loved every second of preserving my campus's history. Certain scanned photographs have inspired me to sketch them out and make full art pieces. Examining the people in the aged negatives makes me imagine their lives, and what was going on when the photo was taken. I often create scenarios of what is happening behind the camera and sometimes envision people from different photos knowing each other personally. That is what I have done with this mixed-media artwork. The young woman to the left is inspired by a contestant from the Miss Edwardsville contest in 1966. She is sitting in a car and getting ready for a parade on Edwardsville Main Street, from which the background is inspired. For all my life, I have lived within walking distance of this area, so it is fascinating to view it at different periods. The man on the right is taken from another 1966 negative. Unfortunately, there wasn't any description of who he was or what he was doing. While both reference photographs are taken in the same year, I plan to create more artworks combining multiple periods and their unique characteristics.