Every year the School of Art teams with the English Department to produce a body of work titled Pen and Pigment. I was able to participate in this project through my Typography class with Peter Andrew. Our assignment consisted of two parts. First, we were instructed to produce a poster with a typographic design to exchange with the Creative Writing: Poetry class in the English Department. Second, upon exchange of works, we were given a poem to interpret while using typography as a strong element in our design. The poetry class, in turn, wrote poems based upon our art.

I created a piece called Unexpected, after the poem from which I drew my inspiration. My goal in executing this design was to illustrate the emotion and the story of the poem using only type. I also made a strong attempt to utilize the elements and strategies of design. I was most concerned with maintaining a sense of balance within the asymmetrical organization, which I felt created visual interest. I employed a color palette that replicates the natural tones of eyes and skin, and was able to work within that range to create a sense of dimensionality in the image.

The project ended with each student typically developing either two pieces of art or two works in writing. The student products are catalogued in a small anthology, also produced by the School of Art students. This year marked a special occasion as the Pen and Pigment Show was hosted in the Griffith Gallery. Typography posters were displayed with their accompanying poems, and the guests of opening night were treated to a reading of some of the creative writing works.