

effort

Why is this happening to me?

How long will it last?

I can't do this

I'm not cut out for this

What's wrong with me?

I'm just a burden to them

Disappointment. Disappointment. Disappointment.

I'm not cut out for this.

Help me.

I will never be important.

What have I done?

I'm not cut out for this

I'm not cut out for this

They'll never forgive me.

Everyone knows you're a fraud.

Why can I never say the right thing?

Please!

I'm a failure.

I'm a failure.

I'm not cut out for this

I can't.

I'm a failure.

Why did I think I could work?

I'm not cut out for this

It's all my fault.

I'm not safe here anymore.

I'm a failure.

Everyone hates me.

What is wrong with me?

I'm not cut out for this

I'm not good enough.

Why am I like this?

I'm not safe here anymore.

I'll never be important.

I'm not cut out for this

I'm a failure.

Stop!!

Why am I like this?

How long will it last?

Everyone knows you're a fraud.

Just leave.

Why am I like this?

I'm not safe here anymore.

I'll never be important.

I'm a failure.

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Capstone – Photo Image Making

Department of Art and Art History

Artist Statement:

Fear: noun. 1) the emotion experienced in the presence or threat of danger; 2) an uneasy state of mind usually over the possibility of an anticipated misfortune or trouble.

When a mountain lion steps into your path, teeth bared and claws extended, your body reacts accordingly flooding you with enough adrenaline to keep you running or fighting for longer than you normally would be able to. But sometimes there is no mountain lion. Sometimes a mere glance can be enough.

With this project, I asked myself what fear and anxiety *look* like. We know how fear presents itself– the shaking hands, racing heart, and shallow breaths that accompany adrenaline or the freezing of limbs when you realize you can't run or fight–but fear goes deeper than that. It comes before the physical sensations. What I investigated in this work was what the *feeling* of fear looks like, and mirrors combined with handwritten text allowed me to do just this. Mirrors and handwriting bridge gaps between our subconscious thoughts and feelings to the outside and literal world. They provide us with a new way of seeing the world around us. By standing in front of a mirror, we are able to physically see the feeling of being human; the way our shirt sits on our skin, the way our hair protrudes from our head, the way our body moves. Through handwriting, we are able to physically see the intangible thoughts inside our minds; the way the lines get more erratic with anxiety, the way the ink smudges from tear drops, the way the pressure changes with anger.

The broken glass shards covered with text mimic the sharp, and at times painful, experience of fear that slices away at our minds.

The phrases we sometimes tell ourselves like, "Everyone knows," "I'm broken," or "I can't do this" can cause more harm than the broken glass they're placed on if we let them. However, they also show us something vital to this project: fear blinds. When we let our fears take control, life becomes warped and clouded. The positive and beautiful things that surround us everyday, no matter how small they may be, are swallowed up by the darkness. This body of work aims to shift this perspective. When you step up to these mirrors and place yourself in these compositions—your head dipping below the raging waves or your eyes connecting with the gazes

of others—something changes. Suddenly, this crippling feeling becomes nothing more than words on a canvas. Suddenly, these fears of judgment or failure are reduced to simple words and not the life-threatening mountain lion we first believed them to be.

This work is not complete without you, my viewer. I urge you to step forward. Put yourself in the frame. While you do, I want to ask you something personal, something that will make you think, and hopefully something that will make you realize:

What is your fear making you blind to?

Title**Original Format**

Figure 1: All Eyes on Me	Mirrors and permanent ink, 28 1/8 in x 21 1/2 in
Figure 2: All Eyes on Me Detail #1	
Figure 3: All Eyes on Me Detail #2	
Figure 4: All Eyes on Me Detail #3	
Figure 5: All Eyes on Me Detail #4	
Figure 6: All Eyes on Me Detail #5	
Figure 7: Trapped	Mirrors and permanent ink, 50 in x 20 in
Figure 8: Trapped Detail #1	
Figure 9: Trapped Detail #2	
Figure 10: Trapped Detail #3	
Figure 11: Trapped Detail #4	
Figure 12: Trapped Detail #5	
Figure 13: Adding Fuel	Mirrors and permanent ink, 30 in x 30 in
Figure 14: Adding Fuel Detail #1	
Figure 15: Adding Fuel Detail #2	
Figure 16: Adding Fuel Detail #3	
Figure 17: Adding Fuel Detail #4	
Figure 18: Adding Fuel Detail #5	
Figure 19: Whispered Words	Mirrors and permanent ink, 47 1/2 in x 34 in
Figure 20: Whispered Words Detail #1	
Figure 21: Whispered Words Detail #2	
Figure 22: Whispered Words Detail #3	

Figure 23: Whispered Words Detail #4

Figure 24: Whispered Words Detail #5

Figure 25: Drowning

Figure 26: Drowning Detail #1

Figure 27: Drowning Detail #2

Figure 28: Drowning Detail #3

Figure 29: Drowning Detail #4

Figure 30: Drowning Detail #5

Mirrors and permanent ink, 44 in x 40 ½ in

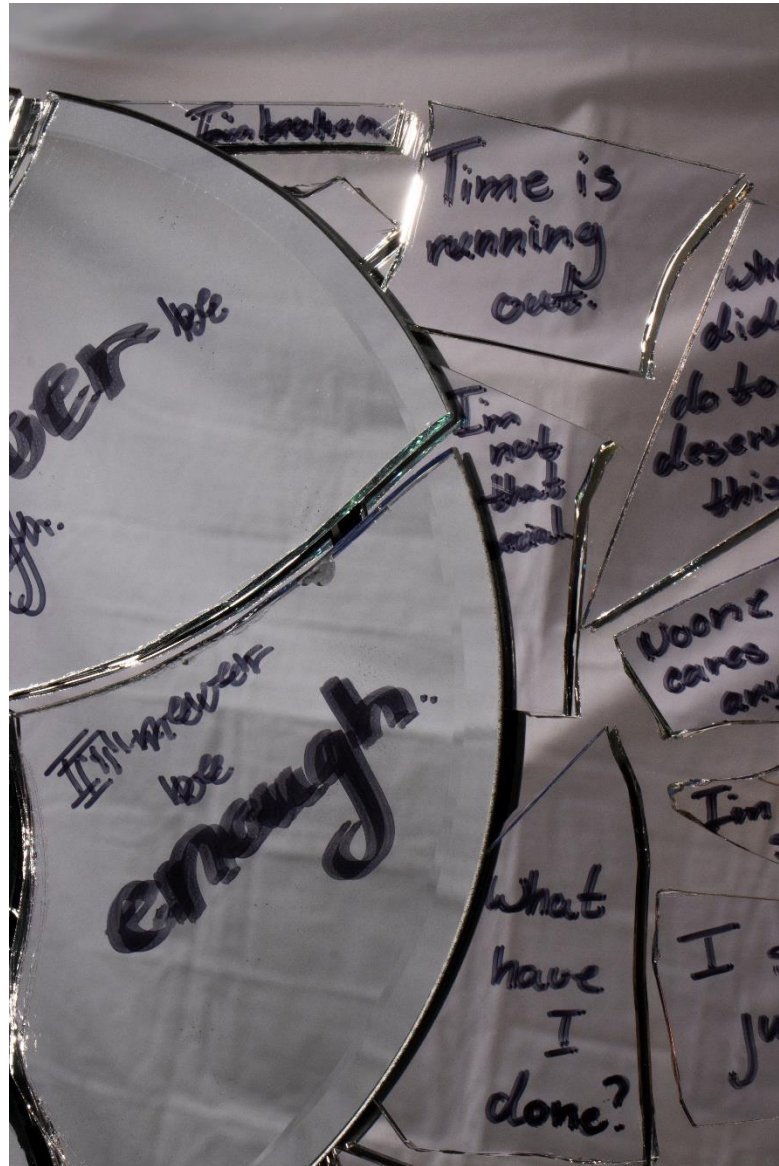


Figure 2: All Eyes on Me Detail #1

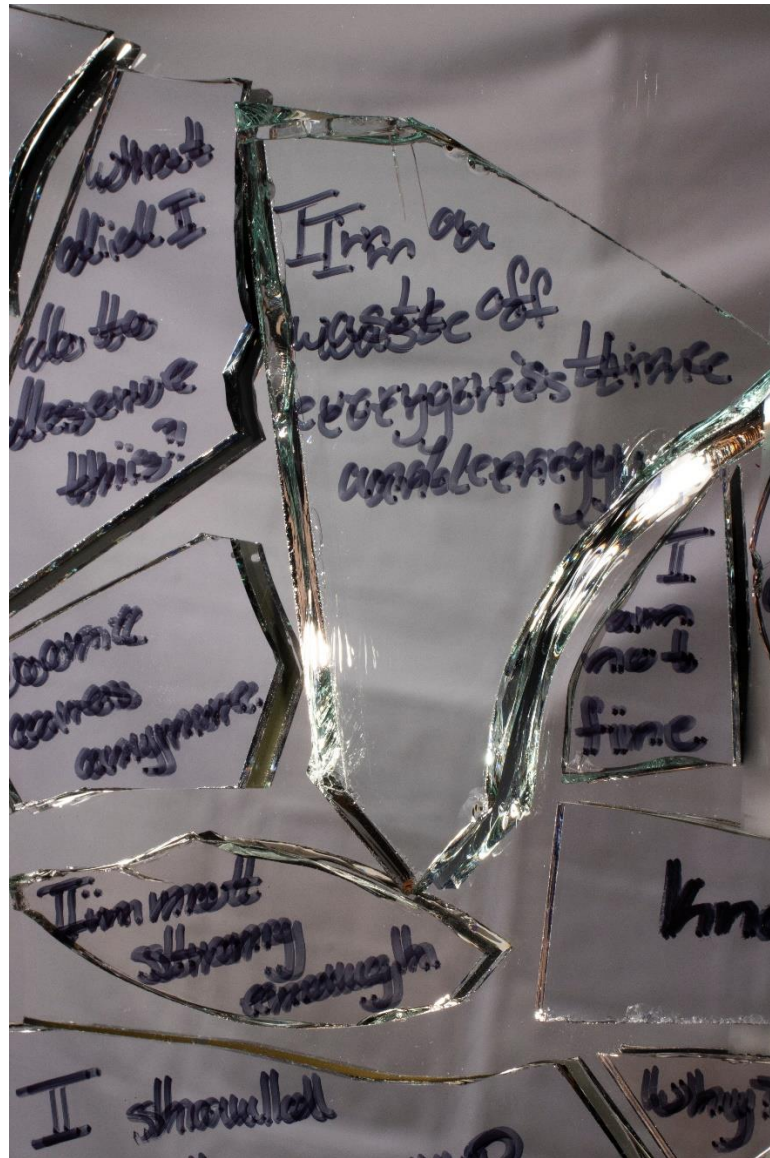


Figure 5: All Eyes on Me Detail #4

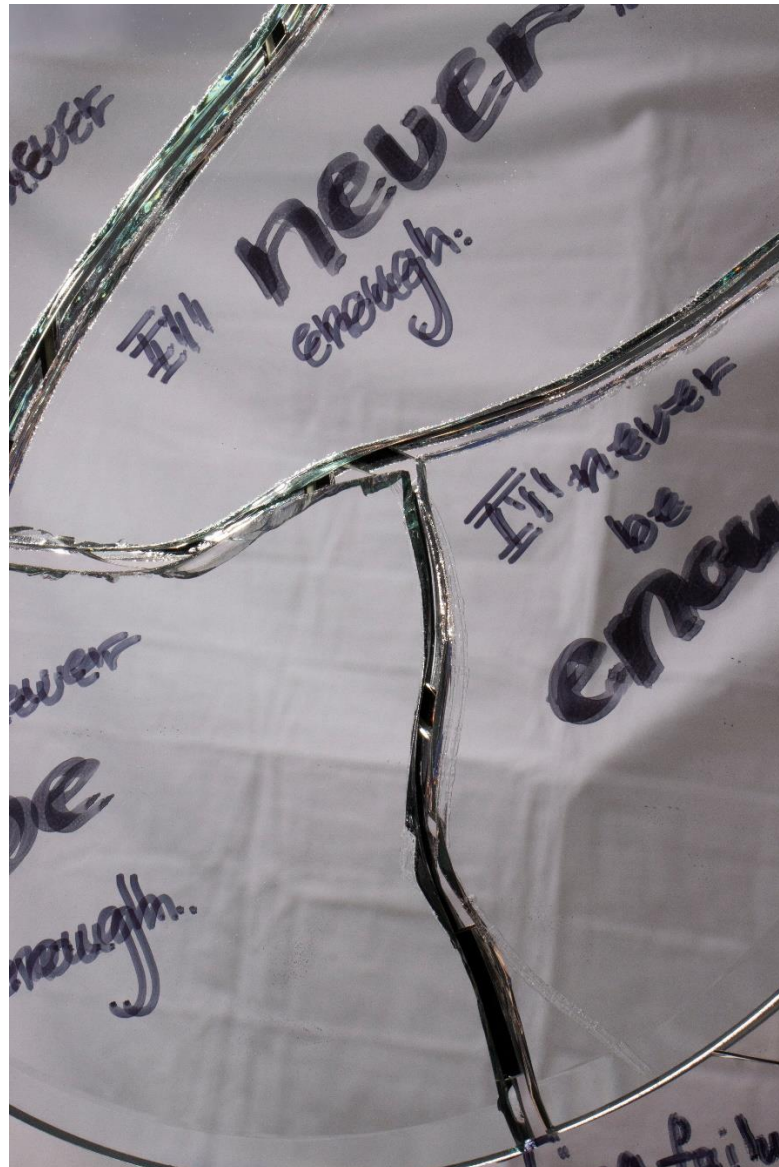


Figure 6: All Eyes on Me Detail #5



Figure 7: *Trapped*, Mirrors and permanent ink, 50 in x 20 in



Figure 8: *Trapped Detail #1*



Figure 9: Trapped Detail #2



Figure 10: Trapped Detail #3

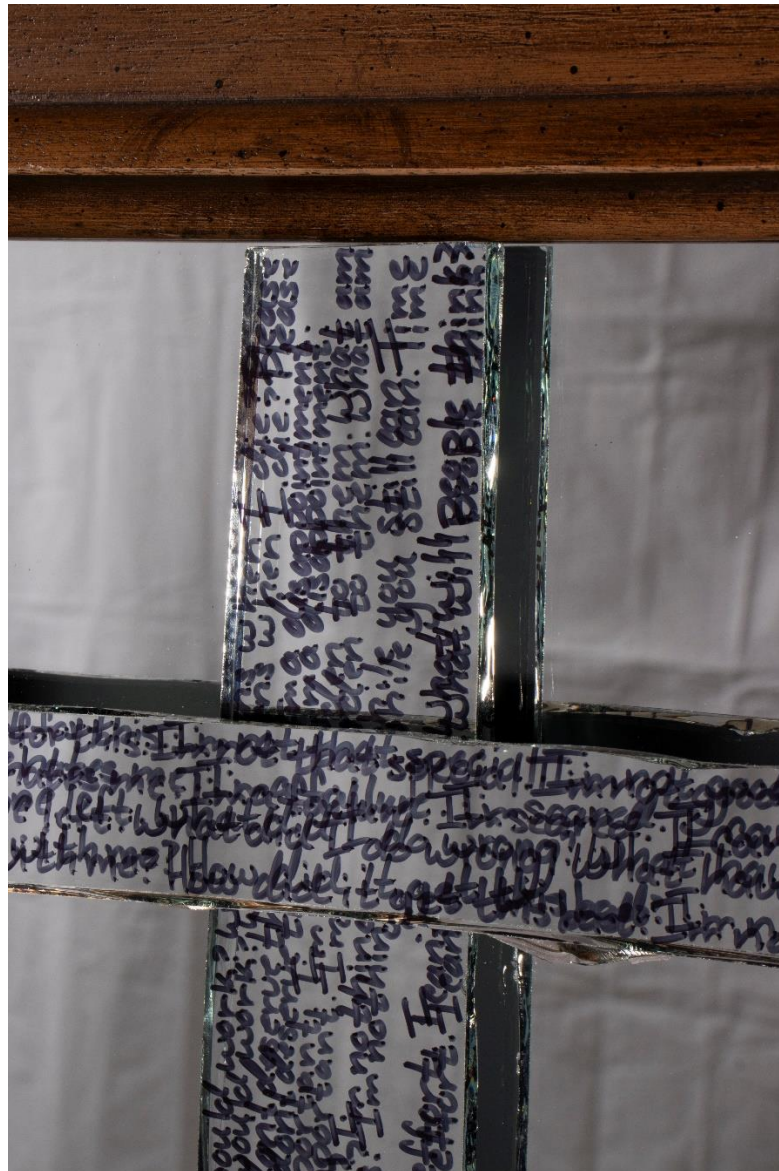


Figure 11: Trapped Detail #4

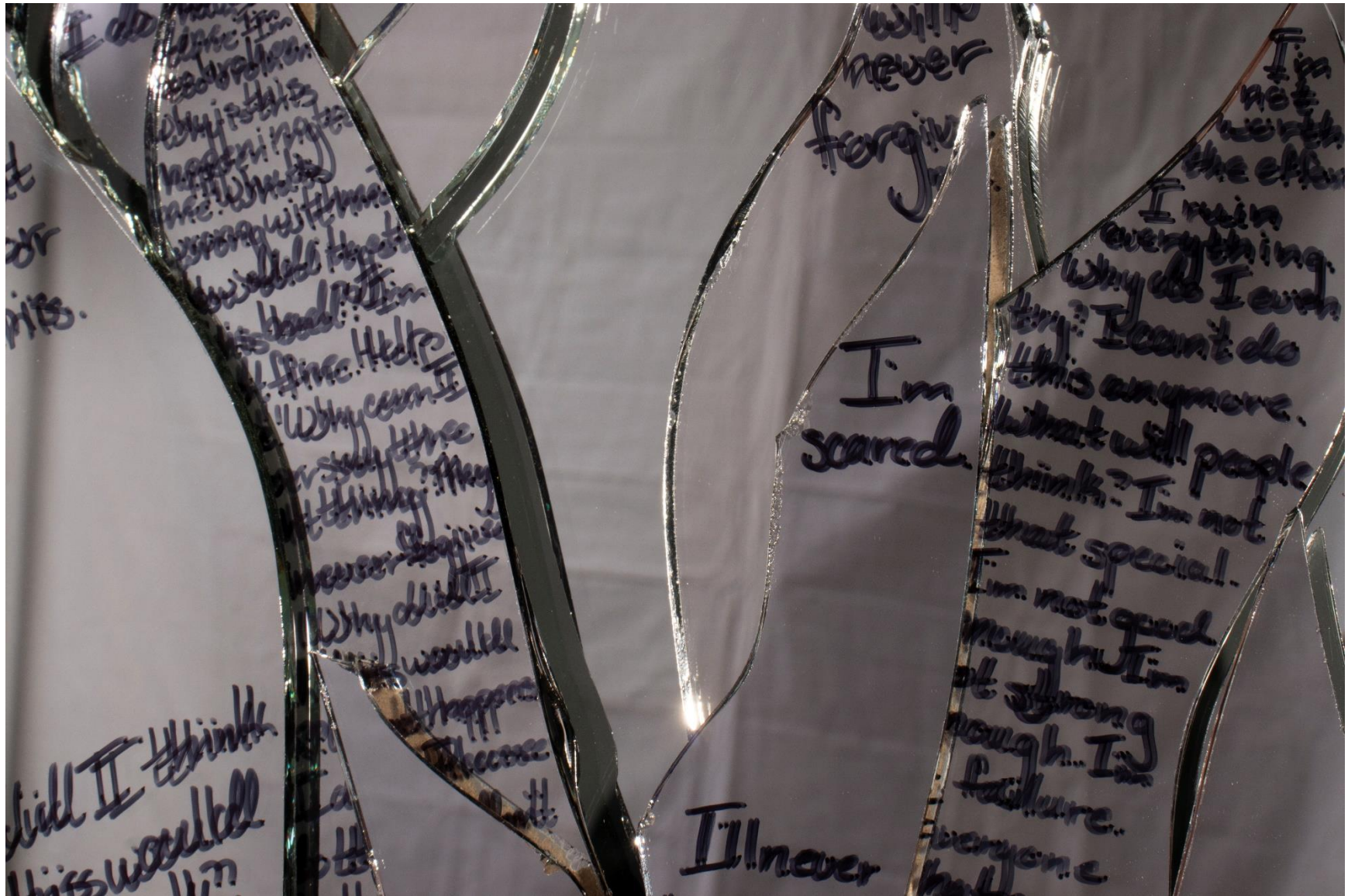


Figure 14: Adding Fuel Detail #1



Figure 16: Adding Fuel Detail #3



Figure 17: Adding Fuel Detail #4

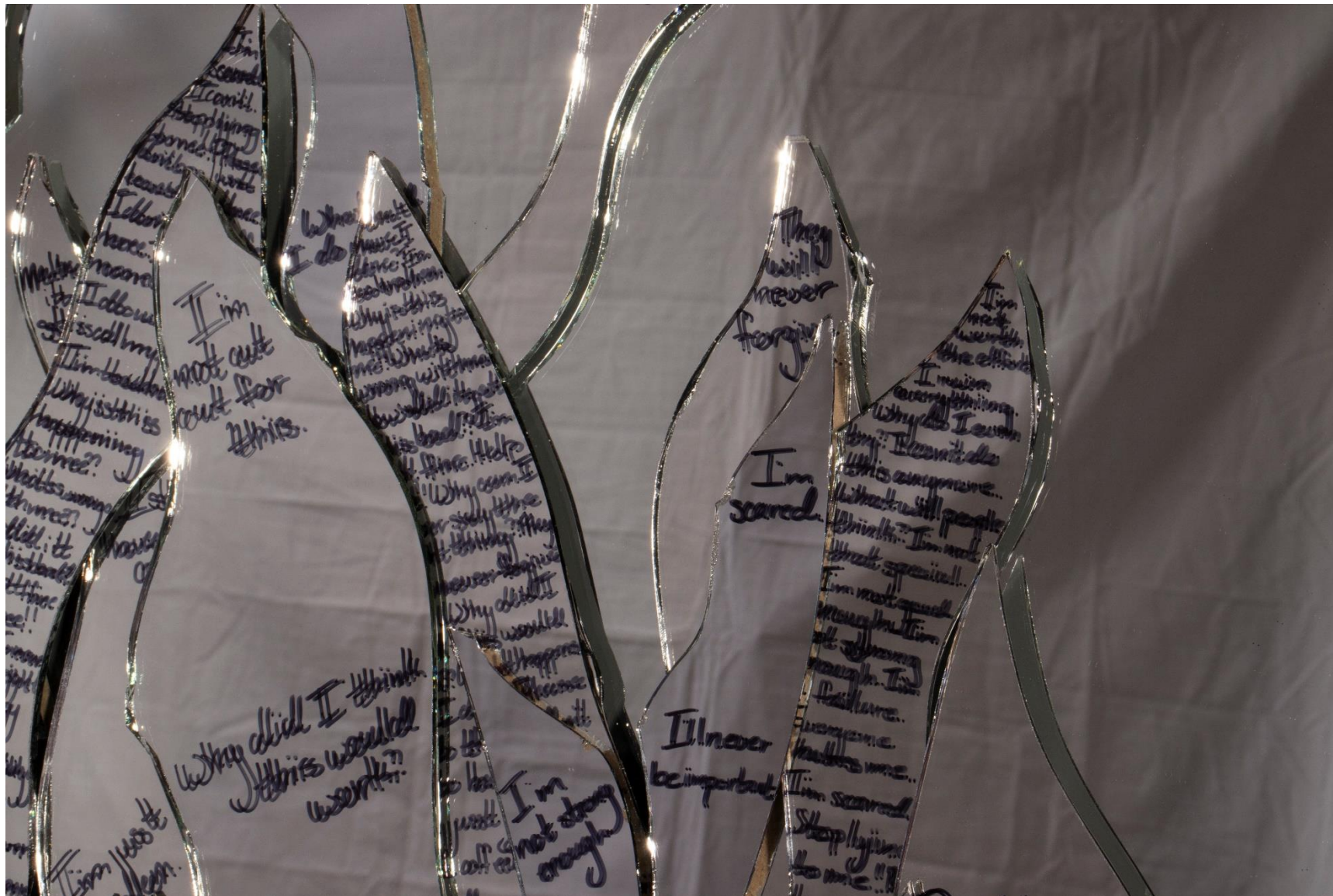


Figure 18: Adding Fuel Detail #5



Figure 19: *Whispered Words*, Mirrors and permanent ink, 47 ½ in x 34 in



Figure 21: *Whispered Words* Detail #2

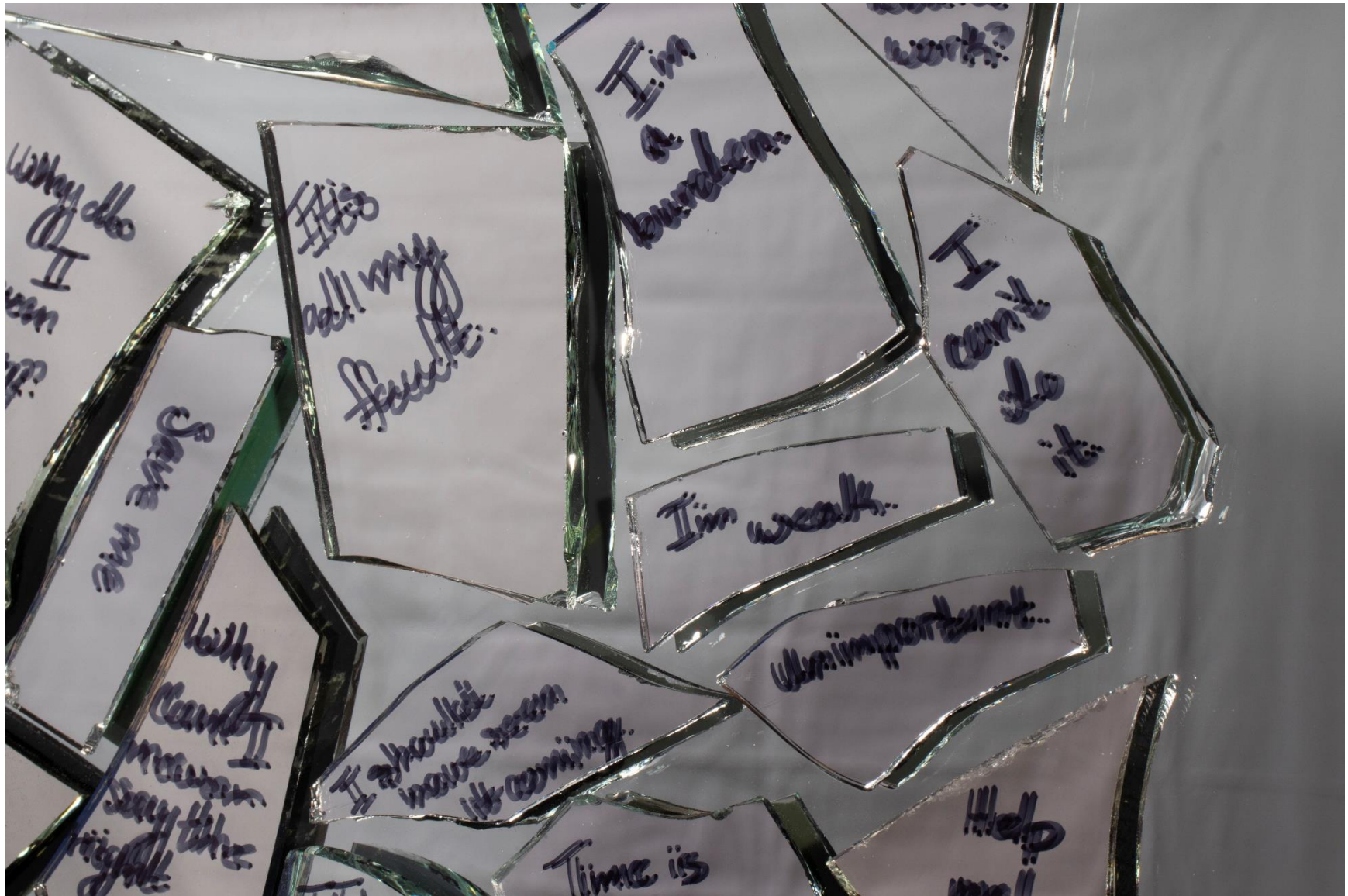


Figure 24: *Whispered Words* Detail #5



Figure 30: Drowning Detail #5