Joshua Walker

*Fish Pattachitra*

Palm leaf, thread, needle, etching knife, oil soot, water, cloth

6” x 8”

The Pattachrita workshop was taught by two brothers from Odisha, India, which was quite a drive away from where we were staying. Their passion and dedication to their craft rubs off on someone like me taking an interest in their artwork. I knew I was in good hands when I learned that this craft was generational in their family. Some of the materials that I used to make the Pattachitra came from nature like the palm leaves. It’s amazing how one can put such intricate detail on something like a leaf. The leaves were prepared for us and we had to sew them together with a thread and needle. I would never think of sewing leaves together, but the outcome for these Pattachitras are amazing. I drew the border around the work with a pencil and then etched it out. Surendra Sahu Ji drew a detailed fish and then I etched it. Fish seem to be a reoccurring theme in the Indian culture most likely because of the small details in them that can be brought to life through art. I added coral to my piece of work because I wanted something that isn’t always seen in fish paintings or drawings. I wanted to add more, but I doubted my artistic ability and did not want to make it look any worse even though it is not that bad. I erased all the pencil marks and added the black oil soot from lamps to fill in the etched marks. I used water to clean it off and then I let it dry in the sun. I was amazed because even though it was average, it was probably my best artwork that I have ever created. The impurities are noticeable, but they make the artwork unique to me.