



Joshua Kornexl
The Waste Land

Joshua Kornexl has experienced many transcendental moments of life, from the solitude of youth to the raging of soldierly experience in foreign lands to the questioning environment. This led him to build a mixed family of two beautiful, adopted children (from birth) and leave nothing but kindness in others around him. He works these experiences onto paper through writing stories and poems, onto the canvas in paintings, and into sculptures to share in these intimate conversations. Joshua is a 2022 graduate of WTAMU with his master's degree in English. In Chandler, Arizona he teaches 8th through 12th grade English both in person and online – sharing as much knowledge and life lessons as he can through his experiences and academic trials, and art occupies all other hours – often late into the night.

This artwork titled “The Waste Land” represents T.S. Eliot’s The Waste Land poem which among many themes, addresses the Circle of Life, Death, and Rebirth. Joshua’s work centers around the intimacy of those lost in World War One, and contains original paper ephemera, photographs, Liberty Passes, playing cards carried by soldiers, currency collected during tours, bus tokens and slips, and so much more. The soldier is imprisoned in concentric rings of his life and destiny using duty orders, photographs, letters, as well as telegrams. The complete rings of poetry represent the levels of Dante’s Hell, which many considered to be a true No Man’s Land. The frame is made of children’s blocks, representing the first stages of life. This work is personal to Joshua because he himself is a veteran of conflicts and collects those same scraps of paper and mementos from his time when enlisted. That is sometimes what remains of a person long after they are gone, poems and bits of information.