

## Artist Statement

Lily Habas '25 (CCS Art, Book Arts emphasis)

2025 UCSB Alumni Awards Gala

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"Headlock" (2025) is the artist's interpretation of the 2005 song of the same name by Imogen Heap. Heap's music has played a vital role in developing my artistic sensibilities and style, which I hoped to reflect through this Risograph print. The lyrics read, *"You've been walking / You've been hiding / And you look half dead half the time / Monitoring you like machines do / You've still got it, I'm just keeping an eye."* As we enter the age of AI and artists reckon with machinery trying (and failing) to replace human-illustrated art, Heap's lyrics are strikingly poignant. Juxtaposed with a dying tree and falling leaves, "Headlock" asks viewers to question what it means to be human. Is humanity the absence of machinery? As machinery gains human traits, how do we distinguish between humanity and technology?