

Process Portfolio

Visual Arts HL
Sasha Huang

Self Portrait Elly Smallwood

Artist Research #1



transcription #2

Smallwood's oil paintings of figures and portraits convey a sense of softness and vulnerability of women, yet never diminish the beauty or elegance of womanhood. I like her colour choices to capture the immense emotions on the faces of the models.



Biography

Elspeth Smallwood is a Canadian painter born in 1989. She is most well known for her unique and out of comfort paintings, commonly featuring nude women or close up of a woman's vaginal area. Representing the interior life inside her mind, she often paints without any prior planning to express her unfiltered, raw and true perceptions. Her more prominent themes in her works are sexuality, conflict with self and alienation.



transcription #1

Why I Chose Her

The first time I saw Smallwood's painting was "into the dark" which I have transcribed. Something about it just drew me in and made me instantly fall in love with her work. I really love her simple but colourful compositions, lightly twisted facial features and the central focus of the works. She paints with a lack of black paint and rich colour of skin tones. Smallwood often paints with oil painting, which is also what I plan on painting with.



transcription #3

Personal Response

Smallwood's portraits were my favourite painting from her because of the emotions portrayed in the paintings. Through the facial expressions and the colours to exaggerate each fold, frown or pull off the skin. I decided to create 4 transcriptions of her paintings that focus on different facial and body features. She paints lighter areas with pale peach, light yellow and light blue to contrast with the darker areas of brown, purple and red. The boxes of colour swatches next to the transcriptions are the colour swatches I unintentionally created when painting them. However, it did give me a clearer idea of the colour ranges and tones I could apply to my own portrait. I want to use layers of paint to create a slight facial distortion.



transcription #4



Artwork Analysis

Smallwood's style often includes bold and messy brush strokes with lost of layers on top of each other. Her colours are not blended, emphasising the subtle facial distortions in her portraits. She first sketches her paintings with pencils that often purposely leave white spaces in the finished product to create a focus on the facial features. Emotions portrayed through the eyes and centre of the face with little details or paint in on the hair.



Self Portrait

Planning

Idea #1

- finger in the cheeks and hands covered over the chin
- eyes looking at the camera
- more shadows near the mouth to show the compression of skin
- dark background with lines of light



- Background
- pastel, pale colours
 - like colourful rain, vertical patterns
 - very white, near fading out



colour theme of background

Self Portrait

- brighter and darker colours for contrast
- mostly warm tone colours
- strong emphasis on colour of cheeks to show the skin and face squished by hand
- experiment with oil painting and create a colour filtered portraiture



trial with acrylic

Idea #2

- crying tears of paint
- not looking into camera
- normal skin tone
- pulling the right cheek up



colour scheme practice



This is my final draft because I really like the simplicity of this facial expression. The subtle distortion of the squished face can also be painted really differently.

Idea #3

- hands squeezing the face
- more difficult for the shadows creates by the hand
- brighter, less realistic



photograph for reference of proportion and skin tones



black & white for reference of tone and lighting

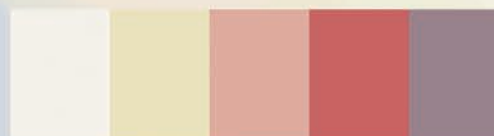


Idea #4

- hands in a fist that the head rests on and pushes the skin of the cheeks up
- focus on the emotionless eyes
- emphasis on the stretched mouth
- darker and monochrome background



colour theme of portrait



Self Portrait

Experiment

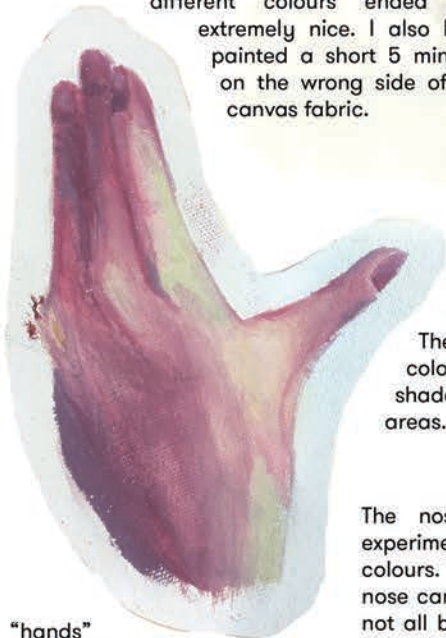


colour theme



experiment #1
"eyes"

This eye was the first trial that I painted with the decided colour theme. Overall, this eye did not have as many colours and shades as I wanted, but I managed to blend all the colours smoothly. Oil paint was a lot thicker than any other paint. The blended of the different colours ended up extremely nice. I also have painted a short 5 minutes on the wrong side of the canvas fabric.



"hands"
experiment #4

This was the first time I have ever painted with oil paint. I tried 3 major features of my self-portrait to experiment with the effect of an oil painting. Before painting, I mixed all the paint with turpentine to thin out the thickness of the paint itself for it to be applied easier on canvas. The rough trails were sketched out with a very thin and diluted brown oil paint. Then I slowly build up the layers of paint from the middle tone to the highlight and shadows. Banana oil was also used to clean the brushes or act as an eraser for mistakes.



experiment #2
"mouth"

Out of all the experiments of oil painting, I had the best brush control with this mouth. The wrinkles and lines of the lips are quite clear and realistic with the shape defined well with shadows. It became a bit difficult to create the same colour through mixing paint, which is why the top of the chin is too sharp and dark.

The brightness of my hands was not as bright and smooth as the photo on the photo. The tone and shades of the fingers did not turn out very distinctive. The fingernails blended in with the colour of the fingers because the shades were too similar to the dark areas.

The nose was one of my better experiment since it had a large variety of colours. The depth and structure of the nose can be seen and the colours did not all blend too well that may have flattened the painting.



experiment #3
"nose"

Process



First, I painted over the blank canvas with acrylic paint of white, blue, yellow, purple and grey. A thin layer of pink paint is added after to create a sense of coherence in the background



I started by sketching the structure of the self-portrait with turpentine-diluted red paint. This is to map out all the proportions of the face and hand.



Then, I started to apply paint in sections from the centre. The rugged and dry brush tips created a vague line between the different colours when blended.



I then blocked in the colour of my hair as a wine red, but it was not dark enough. The mouth was painted with brighter colours of red and pink.



After changing the hair to an eggplant purple, I painted on the shirt with grey and purple. There was not a lot of detail on the shirts for the audience's attention to focus on the face.



I blended the ends of the purple hair into the graphite shirt. The background was also repainted with pink and purple since it originally looked disconnected from the portrait.

Self Portrait

New

Oil Paint, Acrylic on Canvas,
80cm x 100cm

To sum this project in a phrase- an experiment of things I've never done before. This was the first time I ever painted with oil paintings or on a canvas larger than an A3 paper. It felt intimidating. I didn't want it to be too simple, so I went with a different colour scheme than natural skin colour and to play around with a distortion of my face. The entire painting embodies outside my comfort zone, including the idea of self-portrait itself. I had a lot of fun in this experience.

The facial proportion was quite accurate and the shades of purple succeeded to act as a shadow.

The hair of dark purple worked well with the face and the grey shirt.

The edges of the arm could be refined and darken the arm to emphasise its cylindrical shape.



Oil painting is an extremely popular media in painting, I was very grateful I got to experiment with it through this project. It was a lot thicker and denser than any other paint but I got more and more familiar with using it over time. The colours are blended with the brush going back and forth repeatedly to create a ridged edge between 2 different tones. The sense of messiness allows the painting to have a stronger overall aesthetic.

Evaluation

Maybe more tones of blue or darker colours in the background for it to have a clearer difference to the portrait.

For further improvements, I would extend the right side of my nose further out.

I love the light yellow highlights on the portraiture, and the colours blended well together.

There could be more tones of purple in the lips, the red seems a little too bright and vibrant.

I love the slightly tilted head movement so that the face isn't completely centred and awkwardly place straightly in the painting.

I would darken my neck more to create more depth.

Perhaps try an uglier or more distorted facial expression next time to have more fun in painting the stretch and compression of the skin.

I am for an Art

Conceptual Art

What is Art? #1

1. What is Art

Art, by definition of the Oxford dictionary, is "the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power". However, art, by the definition of me, is yet an entirely different thing; and by the definition of time, society and each individual will unlikely to ever be the same.



Throughout the history of art, its definition failed to stay the same as a concrete concept. It is challenged by new forms, media and uprising artists; the movements from romanticism art to impressionism art, to expressionism and to pop art and conceptual art, the uprise of Impressionism and modern art.

Starting from the earliest art ever discovered, a cave painting of animals in the Lascaux, France before 10000BC; then what is art became the Renaissance period of artworks represented by Leonardo Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa", Michelangelo's sculpture of "David", depicting the perfection or the becoming of humankind; after, arts of "Sunrise" by Claude Monet and "Starry Night" by Van Gogh; the rise of conceptual art and pop art of Andy Warhol "Campbell Soup Cans" and Marcel Duchamp's "Fountain" with many debates. Art's definition seems to be ever-evolving and to expand; it seems almost impossible to say that there is a way or one definition that fully expresses art.

All images from timeline were collected from "Main Page". Wikipedia, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page.

Since the introduction of conceptual, Impressionism and modern arts, it seems that the line between what is an art and what isn't is so blurred and vague that it's incredibly difficult to distinguish them. However, with art, the abstract content embedded in each work could very likely be unlimited. How is it seen through each eye, how it is made by each artist and how it is felt in each heart can never be truly defined with words?

Personally, I define art as one's emotion, story or even dreams. It can trigger responses of laughter, anger, love, sadness. Art is the expression of unspoken words or thoughts through an infinite form of media, style and methods of the idea the artist wants to portray.

2. The Value of Art

Is there a way to determine the value of an artwork? As mentioned, art should not be valued through just the appearance itself, but rather what's behind it.

How does one examine the content behind the art then?

To try our best to understand a piece fully, we often look into three primary contexts for us to see its full value: the cultural value, material value and personal value all collaborating. Before, in the Romanticism and Realism period, art was mainly interpreted as what was the most aesthetically pleasing and beautiful. The meaning of artwork came as the latter.



"Michelangelo". En.Wikipedia.Org, 2020, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelangelo>.

The artwork showcased to the audiences is simply the final product of the long and meaningful creation, a small part of their process. As mentioned in the Renaissance period, the famous artist Michelangelo's painting of "The Creation of Adam" is so valued even in today's society was not just because of his talent. The astonishing composition and the delicate details of the movements painted played a significant role in the painting's fame, but it was also due to the perfection Michelangelo strives for and his unique interpretation of this scene in the Bible.

It was created for the moment before God touches Adam's hand, signifies God as the creation of humankind for his feminine figure represents Eve. Their slight status difference and the brain and birth of human were also portrayed in this large painting in Vatican City.



"The Creation Of Adam". En.Wikipedia.Org, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Creation_of_Adam.

I am for an Art

Conceptual Art

What is Art? #2



"White Center (Yellow, Pink and Lavender on Rose)". En.Wikipedia.Org, 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Center_\(Yellow,_Pink_and_Lavender_on_Rose\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Center_(Yellow,_Pink_and_Lavender_on_Rose)).

Another of his famous work of "Seagram Murals", more specifically "Black on Maroon" could have a monetary value of over 70 million dollars. When one takes a more in-depth look into the artist himself and his connection to the painting, this art would be unpredictably high. The reason being that this 2.6 by 3.8-metre painting, which was just about to be displayed to the public in the 1970s, was the day which Rothko has committed suicide. The emotions provoked from this painting seems to be full of emotions and overwhelming, adding to the story behinds it and the meaning it stands for.



"Black On Maroon". En.Wikipedia.Org, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_on_Maroon.



Looking into the presentation of art, "The Girl and Balloon" painting in the delicate gold frames sold in 2018 at 1.4 million made one of the memorable auction of all time. With the declaration of the work sold, the bottom half of the painting slowly slipped down the frame into a paper shredder hidden between the frame. It was implanted by the artist Banksy himself. He later posted on Instagram the process of the destruction and his reasoning of not wanting it to be auctioned off. In front of the buyer, bidders and press, this became a remarkable moment of the history of auctions. It was also suspected that its value and price had dramatically increased now.

Nevertheless, I believe that the value of art will never be wholly represented by money or fame; rather, what it means to me personally and how it reflects society.

@jasondaley608, Follow. "Watch This \$1.4 Million Banksy Painting Shred Itself As Soon As It's Sold". Smithsonian Magazine, 2018, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/watch-14-million-banksy-painting-shred-itself-soon-it-sold-180970486/>.

3. Art and Craft

When looking into the definition of art, it often collides with crafts. But arts and crafts are not the same things despite their similarities, that of which confused many, they are still two very separate categories. Art is the product of deliberately and creatively arranging elements appealingly. On the other hand, a craft is a category of artistic practices within the decorative purpose which is defined through its functionality and utility.

Crafts are tangible objects that are normally used in daily life as a tool or decoration. The reason behind the label of "tangible" is because of what they mean to the public. They often do not contain meaning or trigger many reactions. It can be very skilful, however, that it is very aesthetically beautiful or realistic since crafts do not necessarily mean a lack of techniques in the creation. On the contrary, crafts might sometimes require more technical skills than art, but the line dividing the two categories may remain different from everyone.



"Latte Art". En.Wikipedia.Org, 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latte_art.

Art is intangible



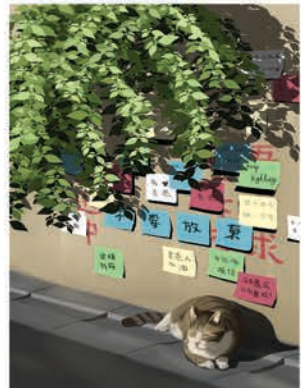
Gallery, Saatchi. "Grayson Perry - Golden Ghosts - Contemporary Art". Saatchigallery.Com, 2020, https://www.saatchigallery.com/artists/artpages/grayson_perry_golden_ghosts.htm.

The indifference of art to craft is that art is intangible. What this means is that the presentation, process and other factors play into an art. An art is created for making a statement or conveying a personal story. It discusses topics like politics, society and relationships. The idea behind the art is what makes art intangible, and different to craft. For instance, artist Grayson Perry's pot of "Golden Ghost", 2000, was an art, rather than a craft. The pottery was painted with girls in grief, sadness and despair, representing the innocence affected by the Chernbyl Nuclear Power Station explosion in 1986 and its aftermath. The expression convey deep sorrow and destruction, raising awareness to their suffering. Perry won a Turner Prize in 2003.

4. What Art Means to Me & Conclusion

Understanding an artwork is not as easy as just standing in front of it and looking at it, yet it is not as hard as it seems in the society. To me, artwork can have countless interpretations and can create countless emotions different in everyone's mind, which is what makes art so unique. It can be what I see presented in front of me, what means behind it and what responses it triggers me that is so incomparable to everyone else. Various media, forms or style are all unique to that artists and have their message to portray. I believe that money or fame can hardly do many arts there justice.

When art has no strict rules or limitations of the mind, art can be so powerful and amazing. Art is a form of appreciating aesthetic and meaning in any way I can, and to express my perspectives that may be different from everyone else'.



I am for an art

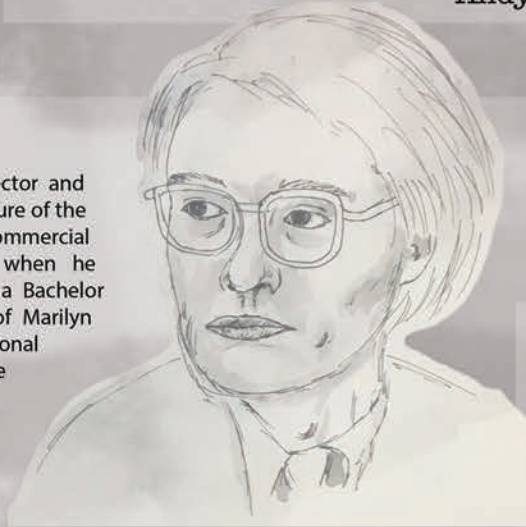
Andy Warhol

Artist Research #1

"When you think about it, department stores are kind of like museums."
Andy Warhol

Biography

Andy Warhol was a famous American artist, director and producer who is considered as a very influential figure of the pop-art movement in the 1960s. He started as a commercial illustrator in the Glamour Magazine in 1949 when he graduated Carnegie Institute of Technology with a Bachelor degree in Fine Arts. His screen-printed images of Marilyn Monroe, Campbell Soup Cans and other sensational works quickly rose his fame up and became representation in Pop Art. Even though Warhol is homosexual, he kept his private life simple and hidden from the public with small references to his sexuality in some of his works.



Sleep

58:40



1:28:37



2:44:27



2:37



2:49



Kiss



IMG_1126.MOV
11:22

Personal Response

Warhol's films often convey the topics of modernism and consumerism, challenging what society defines as "art". I decided to create a transcription of his film "Sleep" of 321 minutes, black and white, a silent film. The content of the film is fairly simple— his lover John Giorno. It consisted of many long and still shots of Giorno sleeping in different angles and distance from him. The simple film was argued to be "not an artwork" amongst many, but to many more, it conveyed a sense of intimacy and vulnerability. This minimal editing and stillness captured the rawness and calmness of a lover's relationship.

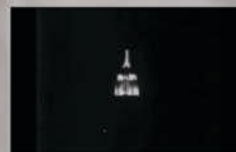
For my transcription, I filmed a pot of plants outside my house. The film is 17 minutes between 5 takes, each longer than 3 minutes, of the plant. "Photosynthesis" plays on the concept of the peacefulness nature embodies. The filming process was very relaxing and quiet, I felt really calm and noticed many small things we often ignore in living in the rise of modern technology. From seeing the slight wave of the leaves to the wind to the small ants crawling next to me, I quite enjoyed the process.



1:48:40



4:17:46



Empire

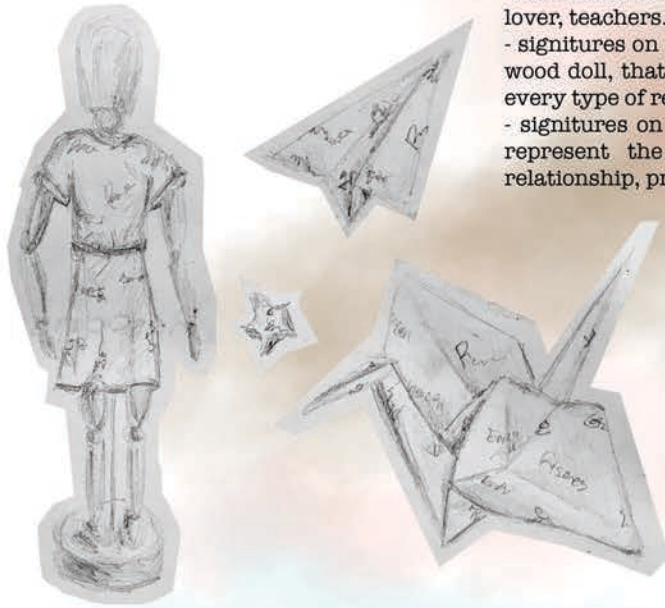
Why I Chose Him

The reason I chose Warhol as my research artist is because of his diversity in his works with no restriction to one specific medium. Even though he is most known for his pop artworks like "Banana", "Marilyn Monroe" and "Campbell's Soup Cans", he has produced and directed many conceptual films. His works include "Kiss" (50 minutes), "Sleep" (321 minutes), "Eat" (45 minutes) and "Empire" 485 minutes. Warhol was able to freely experiment with different concepts that the society shy away from. I really like his choice of minimalist editing to present the raw and nature unedited versions of simple films. The quiet audio and the stillness of the camera movements against the calm scene on the screen, Warhol's films simplicity portrays the simple events in daily life that most of us do not acknowledge or appreciate.

Warhol's films of black and white were a huge inspiration for this project. It stripped away all the added editing or special effects to present the raw beauty and simplicity of many moments. From the "Empire" of sunset to sunrise, I felt calm when watching it. Warhol's film has also guided the general direction of my film of black and white and long takes.



I am for an Art Ideas & Concept



- a collection of signatures from 20 - 50 people, friends, family, lover, teachers...
- signatures on a fabric that will be made into a dress for the wood doll, that we should be reminded about our love from every type of relationship
- signatures on a paper that is folded into a paper plane to represent the journey and community of love in all relationship, presented on a string hung in the air
- signatures on a square paper that is folded into a paper crane for the Chinese saying "千紙鶴" of "A Thousand Paper Cranes" that grants one wish, that everyone contributes to each others' life to help each other, the best wishes comes from being together with everyone
- each person signs on the end of a strip of paper that is folded into a paper stars in a clear jar for every unique identity

friends/family/colleagues/strangers/teachers/classmates/neighbors/exlovers/lovers

I am for an art of the beauty in relationships

I am for an art that speaks ones mind, journey, love and happiness

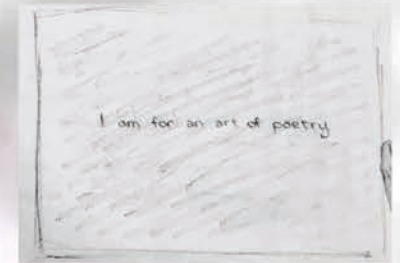
*I am for and art of poetry
in rhyme with my mind and no such
thing as lines that borders it.
I am for an art of literature, I am for an
art of theatre, music, science and
architecture*

*I am for an art that can stand on its
own,
whether it's a dream or a fantasy,
or a nightmare or a daydream,
an art which can not be clowned.
I am for an art created by family,
friends, classmates, colleagues, lovers,
strangers.
I am for an art of imagination.*

*I am for an art that tells a story,
the climax and the journey,
the people and the period,
the emotion the destination/*

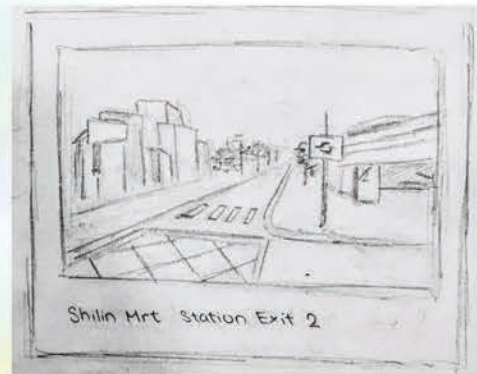
*I am for an art that shows life.
I am for an art of the unpolished reality.*

- a short film reading out the poem with the text at the center
- the poem is inspired from "I am for an art" by Claes Oldenburg
- consists of my personal beliefs of what art is to me and why I love art
- possibly have black&white videos playing in the background or black screen with the font continuously changing

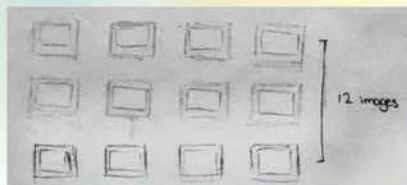


I am for an art that repersents a city

- photography collection
- polariods in colour & short description of time/people/location
- scenery of Taipei, local street view, local food, people
- the city Taipei holds so many artists' works in every corner and is the city that I grew up in, the city itself is an art to me



Shiling Night Market/mrt station/local playgrounds/stinky tofu/bubble milk tea/Ximengding graffiti/sunsets/Taipei 101/art studios



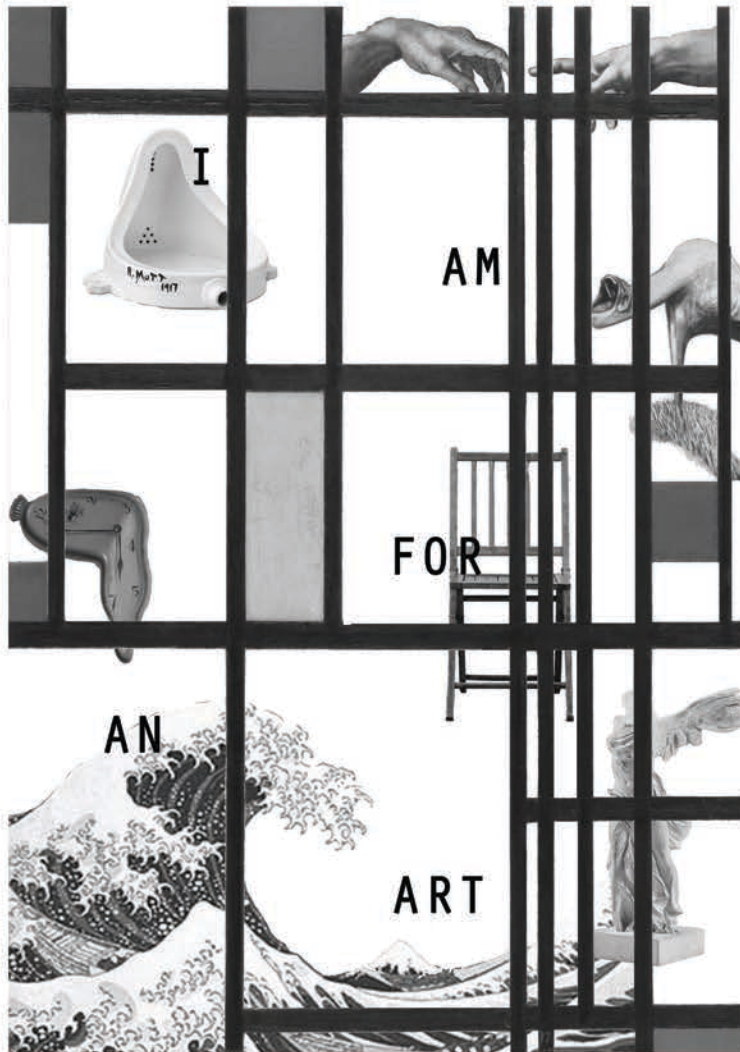
I am for an art of simplicity

- a collection of palette photos
- used leftover colour platte that created a painting but has so many colours mixed together
- created with no intensions but still beautiful
- each palette is a documented process of a creation of art
- peropls mix colours differently, paints differently, with different brushes and in different colour themes can all be seen on a colour palette
- a book of photos or a wall or the collection of palette photos arrange on the floor



I am for an art

Final Draft & Concept



The concept of "I am for an art" is a project that looks at the individual values of what is art. The title page is a collage of some prominent arts of an era, styles and media throughout the history art. From Renaissance art, impressionism, expressionism, pop art... Art seems to be cover many aspects of life, big and small.

I am for an Art of the Quiet Insignificances in this Busy Reality

I am for an art of poetry,
in rhyme with my mind and no such thing
as lines that borders it.
I am for an art without rules, I am for
the art of literature, teatre, music, physics, architecture,
endless

I am for an art that can stand on its own,
whether it's a dream or a fantasy,
a nightmare or a daydream,
I am for an art which can not be clowned.
I am for an art created by a group of people,
family art, friends art, classmate art, teacher art,
lovers art,
strangers art.
I am for an art that shows everyone's mind.
I am for an art that is everyone's imagination.

I am for an art that tells a story,
the climax and the journey,
the people and the period,
the emotion the destination.
I am for an art of simplicity,
the stars on the night sky, or the changes in a sunset,
the colourful portraits, leftover pallets,
black and white sketches.
I am for an art that shows a city.
I am for an art that represents our feelings.

I am for an art that shows life,
all of it with every stress struggles sadness,
laughters love lust.
I am for an art of the unpolished reality.

-Sasha Huang

Reason for this idea

I decided to base my project on this statement because it is the reason why I love art so much. I love all the arts that express our feelings and convey our emotions. Often, I would find myself losing track of time when painting or sketching. I love to see different artists' thought process, production process and interpretation. Art, in a way, is an insight to someone else's mind that we don't see. This poem is an extended definition of art to me. Anything can be art if you give it a value. When I think about that, every small little thing in our daily life that we don't notice suddenly becomes art, and my world is infinitely more interesting and beautiful.

Audio

I plan to read the poem myself. It will be recorded in one take to decrease inconsistency of volume and background noise in the audio. I will read it with a calm and monotone voice. Without the dramatic pace change or pronunciation, I feel that it can convey my poem most authentically.

Film

The film will be in black and white to strip away the noisiness of colours. I want to film a busy scenery to convey my statement that art is in all the unnoticed things in our daily busy lives.

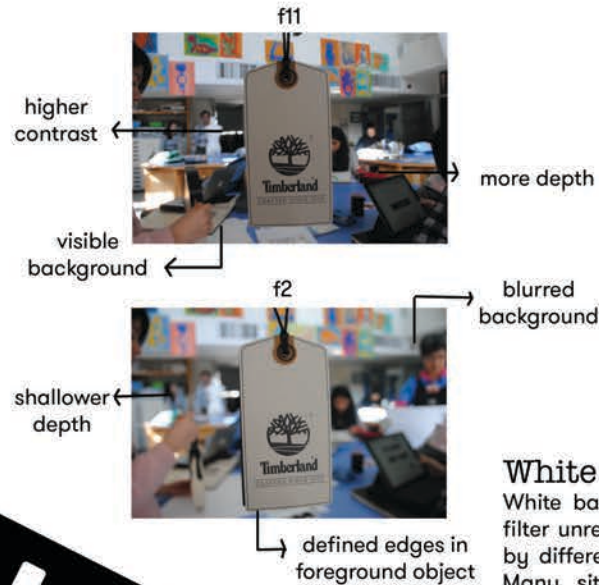
Text & Font

I am for an art of poetry,
I am for an art of poetry,
I am for an art of poetry,
I am for an art of poetry,
I am for an art of poetry,
I am for an art of poetry,

I am for an art

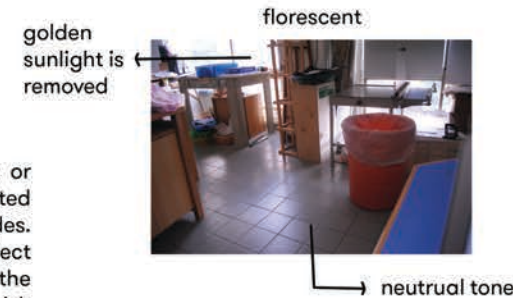
Experiment of Film and Photography

Since I have no previous knowledge or technique on photography, camera settings or black and white films, I decided to study a bit on the basics and framing of camera. I want to experiment with photography to be more familiar with using a camera.



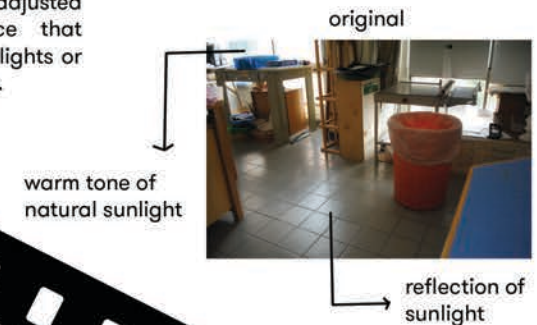
Aperture

Aperture is the device that controls the amount of light admitted into the film through the opening of the lens. This creates a focus on specific parts of the photograph or film (foreground, background or both on focus). "f2" is to enhance the foreground object with a defined edge by opening the lens and blurring the background to decrease depth. "f22" admits little light which is used for landscape photography for all the object in the back to be defined. This creates more depth.



White Balance

White balance is to remove or filter unrealistic colours created by different lighting or shades. Many situations lights reflect into the camera results from the photograph to appeal yellowish or blueish. This can be adjusted through white balance that removes the colour highlights or warm tones in photos.



Shutter Speed

Shutter speed is the time taken for the photo to be captured. It also means time for light to reach the film. 1/2000 second would be used to capture one still moment of a moving object or vice versa. Slower shutter speed like 2 seconds can allow more light to reach the film for a brighter photo, but motions will be blurred.

From this experiment and trials on camera, black and white photography, these 3 photos were my favourites. The compositions are all just corners or hallway of school with really strong natural

natural lighting and an unique composition. I really liked how the contrast of the black and white creates a simple but mysterious and different atmosphere.

ISO

ISO stands for International Organisation of Standards, which is used in camera to adjust the light sensitivity. 100 is for low sensitivity in a setting with a very high amount of natural light. 12,800 is for high light sensitivity in a dark environment, but create noise or grains in photos.



total of 212 photos from this experiment

I am for an art

Process & Evaluation

Filming (f11, ISO125)

The location I filmed the video in is exit 2 of Zhishan MRT Station. That exit opens to the cross-section of 2 large roads and a large pedestrian walk area. Going home from school, this is the place I pass extremely often, but I rarely stopped to appreciate its beauty. The cars and people creates a busy scene, but I feel very peaceful at that place. I filmed this by placing my camera on top of a sidewalk bar in the MRT station. There were several takes when I experimented with different angles, but when the lady approached me for directions, I knew that there wouldn't be another take better than that unplanned incident.

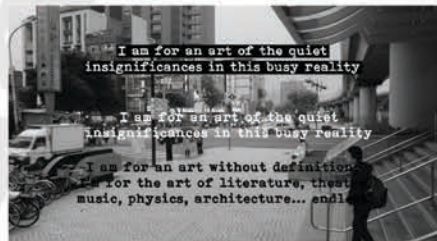
Editing (iMovie)

The editing process took me about 4 hours. Even the recording of the video itself is one take only, there were still other factors influencing the edit of the film. First, I had to record a voice-over of me reading the poem fluently in one take, which took at least 10 times. I denoised the recording to decrease the discomfort of background noises. Then I created the subtitles through photoshop to allow the white text to be highlighted in black. Little aspects of the structure of the subtitle and if it blocks the content of the video had to be checked as well. The biggest struggle I encountered was the timing of my pauses to the subtitles. Listening to the recording over and over again to match the timing of the subtitles drained a lot of time. But I think it's all worth it.

Overall Meaning

I wanted to use black and white film to simplify the busyness of the traffics and pedestrians around me to create a contrast between the messy scenery. The monochromatic choice of both the text and the video helps to convey a visually calming and serene aesthetic. There was nothing extremely bright, sudden or loud to divert the audiences' attention to one specific area of the video. With the soft voice over, I believe it can translate the emotions and thoughts I have better than a dramatic reading. I want to share my value of what is art. Through the simplicity in the video, audio and text, I want to show the beauty of unexpectedness embedded in each moment that we often don't acknowledge. This film is a representation of the "raw" arts everywhere around us.

Text



Filter



2 minutes 32 seconds
Black and White Film, 2019

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/134OoSOKbC4vslGpYcEKEO38MIQ2paQK5/view?usp=sharing>

For further improvements, I want to film it a few more times to include different takes that I can play around with in editing.

My clothes happened to be black/dark that I was able to stand out from the light colour of the pedestrian path.

I would have someone else film so that I don't have to look at the camera. This can make me more relaxed and calm in the film.

I would also stand further back into the centre of the frame so that my feet won't be cut off in a few frames.



The stillness of buildings and MRT station juxtaposes the motions of the pedestrians and cars.

The silence of the film successfully allow my reading voiceover to convey a sense of calmness and contrast with the busy streets

Overall I liked how my first short film

turned out to be as powerful as I imagined it would be. I had a lot of fun experimenting, filming and editing it.

Lastly, I would want to walk out of the frame to the station instead of towards the camera. This can keep the film more natural and less staged. A great way to and without the obvious ending of collecting the camera.

My favourite aspect of the film is how the lost lady came to ask me for direction just as I read "strangers art". It was a moment that strengthened arts and beauty in the small things in our lives.

World Issues

Banksy

Artist Research #1



Dismaland



anti-immigration mural

Biography

Banksy is an anonymous English street artist, painter and political advocate. His works believed to gain fame around the 1990s in Bristol, England. He started with freehand graffiti, but later on transferred into stencils in the early 2000s. Rumoured to have had conflicts with police, Banksy kept his identity a mystery that is debated to have contributed to his fame. There has also been a "Banksy's effect", of what the society considered to be vandalism are transformed into valuable art. He was speculated to be an ex-member of a group of street artists in Bristol but eventually evolved to work as an individual.

Why I Chose Him

Banksy is famously known for his public statement on countless political, social and societal situations all around the world. I chose him because of the powerful meanings behind his works. They are simple but the opinions are complicated. I want my art to be able to convey the emotions and thoughts Banksy's works can. Some of his well-known arts or projects include "Dismaland", "A Girl with Balloon", "Laugh Now"...etc. His works often dehumanise or mock human in topics of war, politics and other world issues through monkeys, birds and rats. Most of his arts are simple in colour through about 3 layers of stencils. His use of historical or controversial slogans, symbols or phrase critiquing a stance adds to more recognition.



Smiling Copper



Laugh Now Door B



Laugh Now

Smiling Copper H



A Girl With Balloon



Exhibition

On March 22nd, 2019, Banksy had a small exhibition in the Bellavita Plaza in Taipei. There were 18 of his works shown and I took some photos when I visited. It was really special to see his original works in person.

His artwork 15 of "Smiling Copper H" really stood out to me. It was painted on a wooden door. Normally, graffiti art is not recognised to be significant, but Banksy's fame and the messages behind the works were so powerful that the door itself became an artwork with it.

The simplicity in the colour of the police creates a huge contrast with the bright and yellow smiley face, immediately drawing my attention. The smiley face was not spray painted in detailed expression, but an emoji face that suggests a sense of mocking the justice system.

What makes it more interesting and provocative is that there are more. "Smiling Copper" and "Smiling Copper Panel C" all resembles the same look, style and face with different uniforms.

Personal Responce

I decided to create a transcription with Banksy's style of the stencil and spray paint, but using the famous WWII poster- "We Can Do It" by Miller. I used photoshop to increase the threshold and contrast of the poster to print it out on an A4 paper. Then I cut out the dark shadows with a knife on a clear plastic sheet to create a stencil. Even though it is just a small A4 sheet, cutting it smoothly was very difficult. The transcription is a stance of feminism, the slogan "We can do it" s changed to "Feminism is" because of the common misconception of what it stands for. Feminism means to stand for gender equality, and I want people to find the meaning themselves. The colours of blue and pink are to juxtapose the stereotypical boy and girl colours.



Transcription #182



World Issues

Wayne Thiebaud

Artist Research #2

Biography

Wayne Thiebaud is an American painter most famous for his illustrations of still-life objects. He once worked at an ice cream and hotdog cafe, which have inspired him for the creations that reminded him of his childhood memories. Inspired by works of Walt Disney animation, he originally worked as a cartoonist and a designer. He then transferred into fine arts and studied at California State University at Sacramento. Later on, he worked with artist Willem de Kooning and started his own painting style of using thick and bright colours in his compositions. He is often considered to be associated with the pop art movement despite himself disagreeing. In 1994 Thiebaud received the National Medal of Arts.

Artwork Analysis

Thiebaud is most known for his paintings of daily objects like cakes, ice creams, popsicles and pies. His colour composition is exaggerated bright colours that have an element of pop art. The illustrations of daily objects are mostly with a plain and monochrome background with the object or objects placed in the centre. This allows the bright coloured paints in the centre to grab the audience's attention easily and enhance the saturated colours more. He has similar works of cakes and pies pieces in a different medium: oil paint, ink illustration, linoleum cut and screen printing. I am very fascinated with his simplistic yet unique style.



transcription #1

Why I Chose Him

Wayne Thiebaud's bright colour and pop art style of cakes and pies are the brightly coloured colour scheme I want to achieve. Since the world issue I am creating my art for is an eating disorder, food is a huge representation of their struggles. I want to use the highly saturated and unnatural colours of the paintings to imitate what people who struggle with eating disorders might feel their food as something dangerous.

The pop-art aesthetic of smooth and thick paint is also something I want to explore. A thicker layer could resemble cake frostings or have a more 3-dimensional look as if it's a real cake. He also has paintings and ink illustrations of objects in black and white, another colour scheme in my project.



Personal Response

I decided to make an artist transcription of "4 Ice cream cones". The 4 Ice cream cones were fun to paint. The bright and vibrant colours with the little use of black were different to mix and create. The painting was relaxing, yet still challenging when I was trying to recreate the 3-d effect with oil paint with acrylic. His use of bright and vibrant colour themes managed to capture the attention of the audience in the plain, empty background. His choice of depicting the ice-cream with high saturation is the effect of the "dangerous" perspective I am looking for. It was interesting to see examples of great use of a variety of loud colours.

World Issues

Planning- Eating Disorder

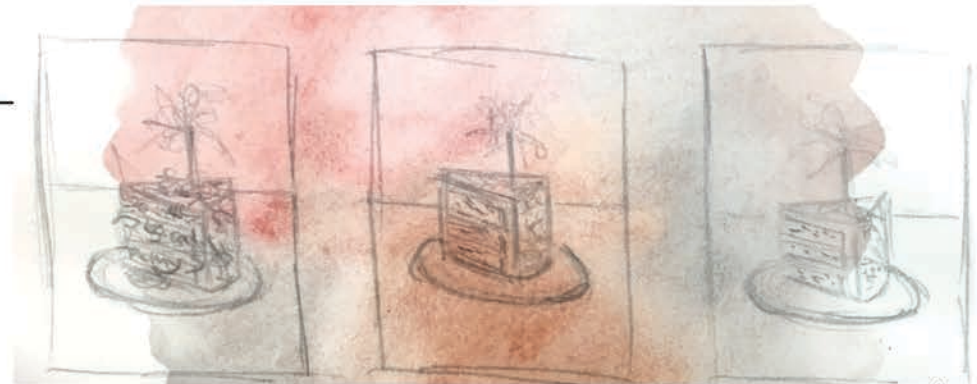
Idea #1

- a chalk of sketch
- a girl standing in front of the mirror naked
- purposely shaping her body to appear skinnier in the mirror
- a reflection of what the society perceives as beautiful
- green plants and white background to show the beauty of nature that contrast with the current unnatural beauty trends
- eating disorder and body dysmorphia



Idea #3

- oil painting or acrylic painting on canvas
- 3 paintings as a collection
- a birthday cake with candles in three different aesthetics
- shows how eating disorder is a mental illness
- dramatise the cake through the eyes of someone who suffers from eating disorder
- ironic that even though it is their birthday, they are stressed about the calories and workouts



- high saturation
- signs of "danger" or threat to their strict diet

- black&white
- they have lost interest in food

- original cake

Idea #2

- a media collage (photoshop)
- working desk filled with obsessions with weight loss, diets and body images
- fit-tea and laxatives for desperate attempts
- pro-anorexia or bulimia quotes
- mainly white and pale colour schemes

- a calendar for schedules is hidden under the other papers to show how eating disorder can affect personal and social life drastically



Idea #4

- acrylic painting
- a tongue sticking out with rubber band wrapped around it
- to show the restrictions people with

- eating disorder put themselves under
- emphasis on the redness and flesh of tongue for pain
- realistic painting
- show the pain of internal restrictions

Eating Disorder

Different from the common assumption of eating disorder, it is not just a physical illness, but classified as a mental disorder. It refers to the psychological disorder that cause an abnormal eating pattern that affect one's physical and mental health.

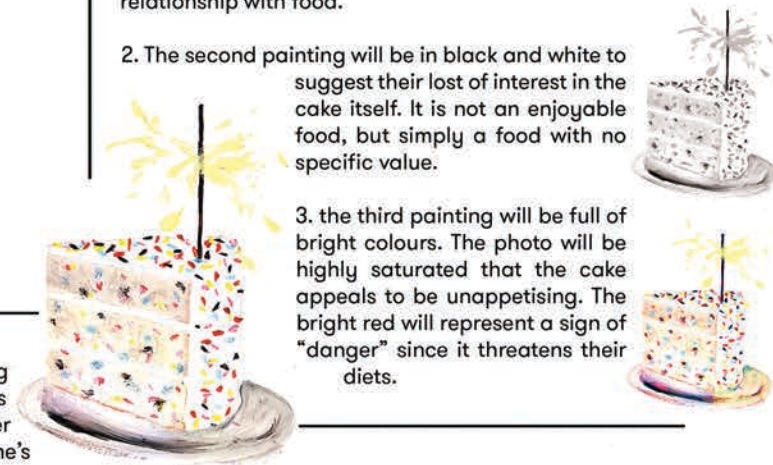
Final Draft

I decided to choose a birthday funfetti cake to illustrate an event most of us consider to be celebratorial.

1. The first painting will be in a normal colour scheme. This represents the perspectives of someone with a healthy relationship with food.

2. The second painting will be in black and white to suggest their lost of interest in the cake itself. It is not an enjoyable food, but simply a food with no specific value.

3. the third painting will be full of bright colours. The photo will be highly saturated that the cake appeals to be unappetising. The bright red will represent a sign of "danger" since it threatens their diets.



Process & Evaluation



I decided to use acrylic paint for this project and paint on 3 small canvases. I first sketched the outline of all the cake pieces with a pencil. Then I used a lot of paint to create a thick layer, mimicking the thickness of creams on cakes. I wanted to portray the texture of the cake layers by applying the paint with a dry brush swirling in circles whilst going back and forth. Without mixing the different colours before painting, it made an interesting and a variety of tones to create the rough and uneven surface of the cake.

The different colour scheme of the cake pieces was used but in the same brightness. The unfiltered piece had the natural must and beige colours with white cream. The monochromatic piece was painted using only white and black paint. The saturated piece was painted using the red, pink and brown, without mixing the colours with white.

The sprinkles were originally planned to be painted, but I wanted to make the piece more interesting by adding a 3-dimensional element to it. I decided to cut thin wires into short pieces then painted them in the colours of the 3 different cakes. Since acrylic itself could act as a glue when it dries, there was no need to use glue. The metal sprinkles added a sense of danger which ties into my issue of an eating disorder, where most foods with negative connotations reflect into the perspectives of those who suffer from the issue.

Happy Birthday

37cm x 32 cm

Triptych, Acrylic Painting on Canvas, 2019

"Happy Birthday" is a triptych of a piece of funfetti cake in 3 different colour themes: black and white, normal, and saturated. This is to portray the mindset of someone who suffers from an eating disorder. Different from the common perception of an eating disorder, it is not just a physical illness, but a rooted mental disorder. Struggling to see what others don't see, this piece of cake is a danger to their "diets" or "fasting" lifestyles that they force themselves into.

The process of painting and making the sprinkle pieces was really fun and enjoyable since I have never challenged myself to incorporate 3-dimensional elements into 2-dimensional drawings. The final piece came out a little different from what I had planned but more meaningful.

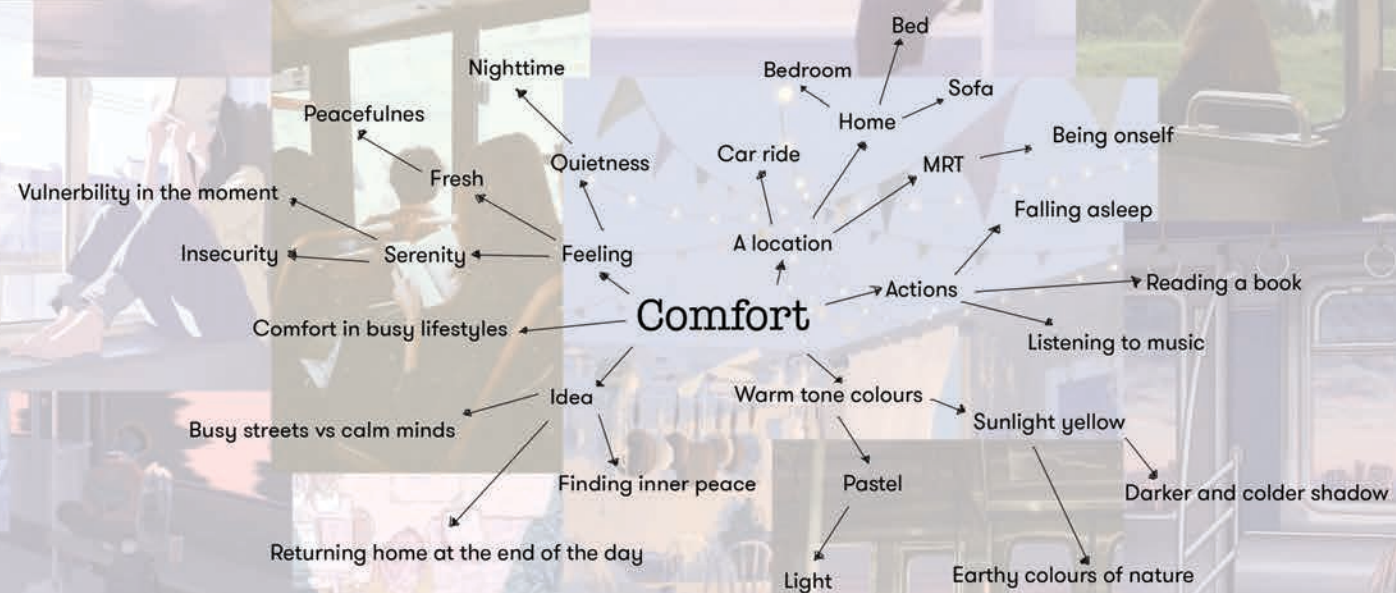


To improve, I would try to keep the cake pieces and the plates the same measurements. They do look a little different here and there, not enough to mess up the overall aesthetics, but enough to be noticed. I would also add more sprinkles and further enhance the different colours to signify the element of "danger". I would also want to use oil paint since the thickness of acrylic paint wasn't as rich as I intended, the paints also mix easily with acrylic that some shades of colours were not able to be created.

the pieces were hung with the monochrome piece in the centre to balance out the colours on the other pieces.

Comfort

Concept & Moodboard



Comfort

David Hockney

Artist Research



Hockney has explained: 'When you photograph a splash, you're freezing a moment and it becomes something else. I realise that a splash could never be seen this way in real life, it happens too quickly. And I was amused by this, so I painted it in a very, very slow way.'

Biography

David Hockney is an English painter, set designer, photographer and printmaker. Born in 1937, he was raised in Bradford, England, with a high interest in literature and arts. He attended Bradford College of Art in 1953 and entered Royal College of Art in 1959 as a graduate. Early in his career, he often references poems and literary quotations in his arts whilst still experimenting with multiple mediums. He later moved to LA in 1966 and his painting of "Peter Getting out of Nick's Pool" won the John Moore's painting price and his other work "Pool with Two Figures" was auctioned for \$90 million in 2018, which was the most expensive work for a living artist sold at the time. Today, he is considered as an important and influential figure in the pop art movement.

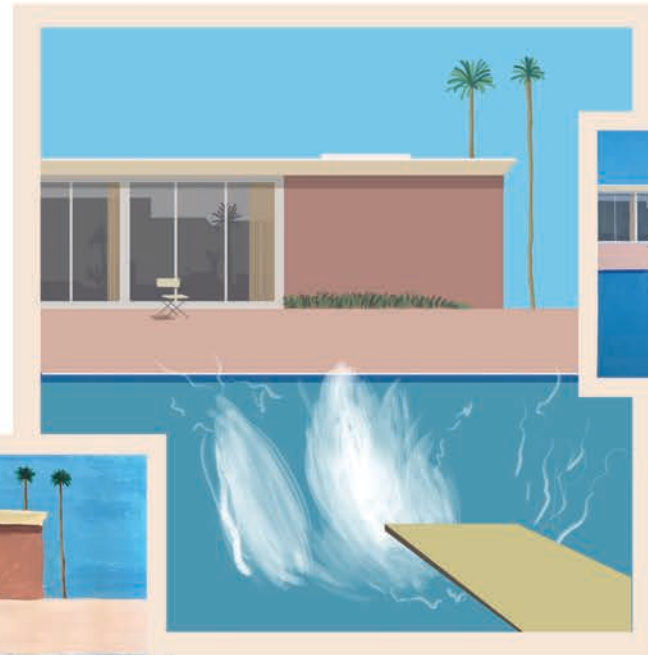
Why I Chose Him

I chose Hockney because of the minimalistic approach to his painting. His "A Bigger Splash" is composed of a modern and minimalistic geometric architecture in the background, 2 skinny and long palm trees and the clear blue sky, capturing the atmosphere of a sunny day in Los Angeles. Cut in three sections, the pink nude tones split the blue sky and blue water in the swimming pool in two. The foreground was emphasized by the diagonal, yellow diving board to contrast with the flatter colours in the background and interrupt the scenery. Hockney's touch of wavy, white highlights to represent the splash created by the diver interrupts the geometric architectures of the house and reflected in the window.

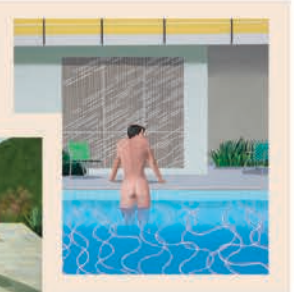
transcription #1 (acrylic)



transcription #2 (illustration)



"Pool with Two Figures"



"Peter Getting Out of Nick's Pool"

"A Bigger Splash"



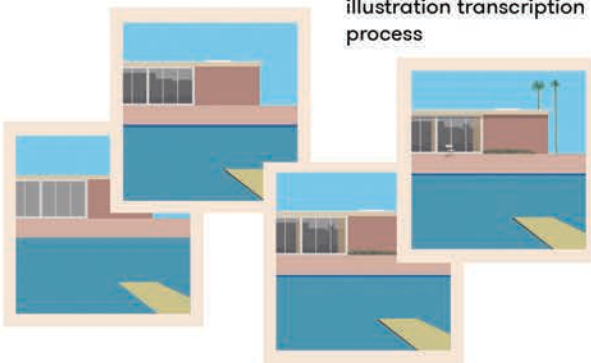
Personal Response

One of his most famous work, A Bigger Splash, is an acrylic painting with a relatively large canvas of 242.5 cm x 243.9 cm. It is a depiction of the impression of a California household. It looks simple, but there are many little details with the reflection of the

window and the shadows of the building. Hockney's painting consists of many layering of colours and big areas with the same colour, almost like flat design. I wanted to create the first transcription with the same medium as David Hockney's painting- acrylic. I originally thought he had used poster paint for the flat colour and struggled to keep the paint consistent without applying a thick layer. The process was fun to layer the large areas of a specific colour. I used

masking tape for sharper edges and the same brush for all the background scenery. Then I used a smaller brush for the shadows of the trees, chair and the pool. Most shadings are just a darker tone of the original colour, as the shadow of the pool and the roof, but the jumping deck had brown to emphasise with the large yellow and blue. The water splash was harder to create. I wonder what Hockney's thoughts were when painting this because I do not think mine looked like a splash. The splash itself consisted of the little lines of white were unique and an interesting depiction of water.

illustration transcription process



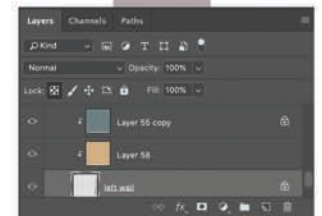
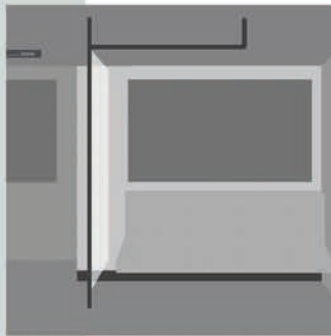
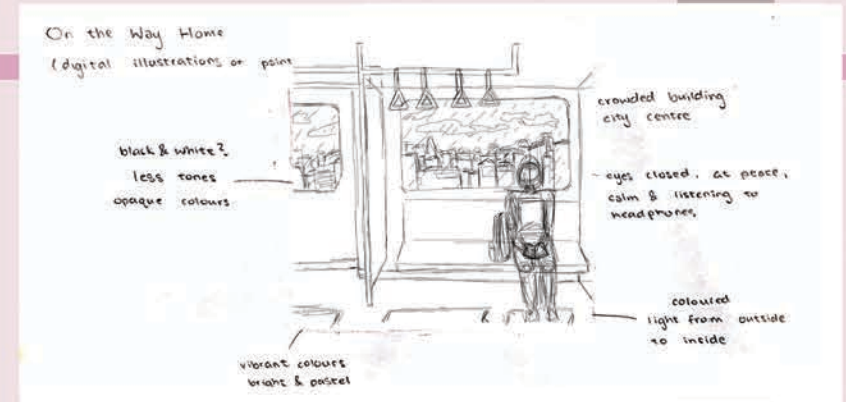
Comfort

Planning & Process

Planning

The central idea of "Comfort" is the aspect of comfort in a busy lifestyle. When I think of the word "comfort", I think of all the peaceful moments when I feel dissociated from the busy world. Even though I am surrounded by a crowd of people or just sitting on the metro to go home, those moments are of comfort. The idea is to portray that in the metro, the scenery has a calming atmosphere. That is then contrasted with the outside world of a busy place. But in the mind and perceptions of the person in the metro, the world is quiet and serene.

This sketch is the rough first draft of what I imagined the illustration to look like. I chose to draw digital illustration because I feel like this artwork can look better if the colours are more flat and very distinct.



Tools of "create clipping masks" and "colour lock layer" for the subtle changes in colour shade.

First, I roughly sketch out the outline of the piece to see the composition of the design. Then I colour blocked the objects or areas of different colours. After that, I start to paint on shadows and highlights with the brush tool.

I experimented with a lot of different colours schemes. Originally, the metro had a darker and earthy tone. The shadows and highlights had higher contrast. But it did not have a calming and quiet atmosphere, it was rather haunting and serious. So I altered the highlight and shadows drastically because the contrast is too low, the piece looks flat or too dark or too bright.

Sometimes the colour of the walls, ceiling and flooring would be very similar that they blended into one flat background. If they are too different, they would fight with each other and create an intense scene.

I created each of the buildings in the background with three layers for the top, front and windows. The windows are created

through copying and pasting different rectangles in another file, and pasted on to the buildings. I then used the brush tool to paint over some windows to create a nighttime aesthetics of houses with lights on and some closed. Something I learnt in this project was that looking at buildings at night and from a higher perspective, the roof of the buildings is darker than the front of the buildings. Then I used the motion blur to blur the window view horizontally as if the metro is moving.

To further increase the depth of the piece, I pasted the background of the metro into the windows and placed with "multiply". This is because of the reflection of the inside of the metro in the dark window.

The centre female was created through several layers for her shirt, pants, shoes and face. I chose the blue jean pants for the bright colour to make the figure stand out in the eyes of the audience from the background of a muted and neutral palette. Her posture of flipping her hair is to create a more lively and elegant look, along with the outfit choice of business casual.



In the end, three very bright and vibrant colours of the blue from her pants, yellow and magenta. I used the triad rule to place the colours in a triangle to tie the piece together. It also adds an element of life into the piece.

Comfort Evaluation



On the Way Home

20cm x 20cm

Digital Illustration, 2019

Drowned in the busyness of living in the city, one can often feel suffocated or numb. Sometimes when we are finally alone, it is the moment that we feel most calm. The simple event of sitting in the metro to go home is a transitory moment of comfort. The figure has her eyes closed and the serene atmosphere separates the two spaces, inside and outside of the metro, almost like two distinct worlds.

Reflection on Process

The process was quite dreadful because of the number of times I changed the colours of the background. It definitely could have been planned better as I remember changing it more than 30 times. I have also learnt to take the reference photo yourself if possible rather than searching online and finding a photo that only looks half realistic to the perspective I am planned. Illustration on the computer can be changed and unchanged all the time with the file histories, it's fairly easy to go back and unchanged something. This is an advantage to be more ambitious and bold the next time.

Further Development

Her face could have more details since she is the foreground. Her bag could have been a more muted colour since the ride side already has a yellow poster and a blue wall. The shadows for the figure can be a little darker and the poster with something brown. I would also add more objects or posters of advertisement in the scene to enhance the visual attraction and avoid any atmosphere of emptiness.

Even though my original plan was for the window view to be black and white, it did not turn out to look coherent and looked like I forgot to colour it. Making this, I learnt the importance of creating a light source and the shadows necessary for it to look realistic.

I like the added colours of yellow, magenta and blue which brought the illustration to life. I was originally really scared of the unrealistic touch but I am glad that I did add that. The figure also came out really elegant and proportionally accurate. The distinctive brush strokes of the lighting and shadow created an expressionism aesthetics that also made the piece more coherent.

digital file of the final work



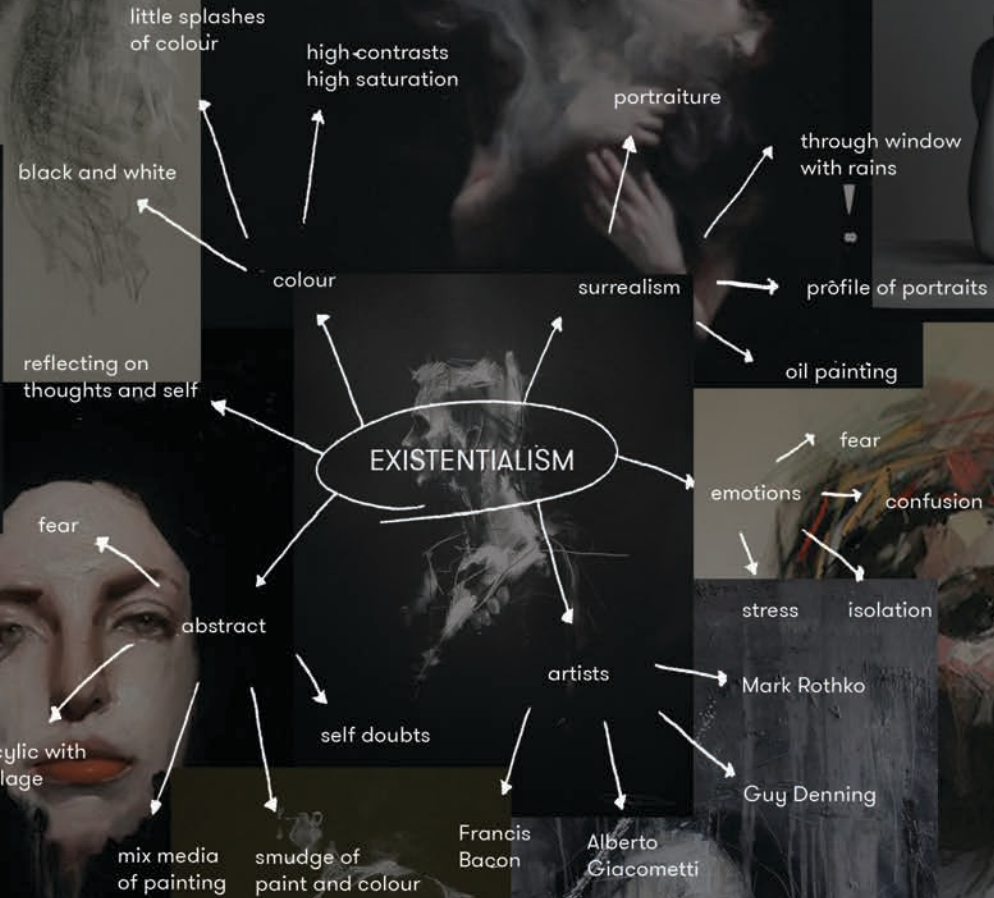
Existentialism Concept & Moodboard

Concept

Often when one is left alone for too long, one tends to ponder upon one's thoughts. In these moments, one may experience a sense of existential crisis.

"Who am I? What am I supposed to do? Why am I here? What makes me, me? Why am I worth being alive?"

Are all possible thoughts that might go through one's head in these events. I want to capture the emotion of self-doubt, fear, confusion, anxiety... through a more expressive style in portraiture.



Existentialism

Francis Bacon

Artist Research



Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion (1944)

Study for a Portrait (1952)

Why I Chose Him

Bacon's works are mostly of distorted figures in saturated colours that create a strong contrast to the background. His earlier works were of the style of cubism, inspired by Picasso, but later on, adapted to surrealism. His portraits and the collections of studies of the pope were what left such a powerful imprint on my brain. The boldness in his expressive painting style really portrays a sense of lostness, fear and existentialism. Bacon was also not afraid of using brighter colours in the composition and always captures a striking image for the audience to remember. I love his compositions of minimal objects/figures, and most of the emotions were conveyed purely through the colours and his brush strokes.

Personal Response

When I chose the emotion of existentialism, a painting by Francis Bacon immediately surfaced inside my mind. It was "Study after Velázquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X" (1953). Bacon managed to capture intense and powerful emotions in his expressive brush strokes. I really loved the contrast between the opposing colours of bright lemon yellow and the violet, enhanced by the strokes of jet black paint. It looked like a cage, locking the distorted figure of the pope stiff on the chair. It was also painted from another painting, "Pope Innocent X" by Diego Velázquez, which made his depiction more interesting.



Study after Velázquez's
Portrait of Pope Innocent X
Francis Bacon



Portrait of Innocent X
Diego Velázquez

Biography

Francis Bacon, born on 28th of October, 1909, was a British artist most famously known for his figurative paintings and surrealism art. Throughout his childhood, Bacon's family moved frequently between different cities in Ireland and England. At the age of 17, Bacon was thrown out of the family by his father when he was caught wearing his mother's lingerie. However, this sudden change was what aided his originality in creating arts. He travelled around Europe, immersing himself into different cultures and experiences. It was believed that he interest in art, after seeing Picasso's exhibition, was what made his self-taught works to be so distinctive.

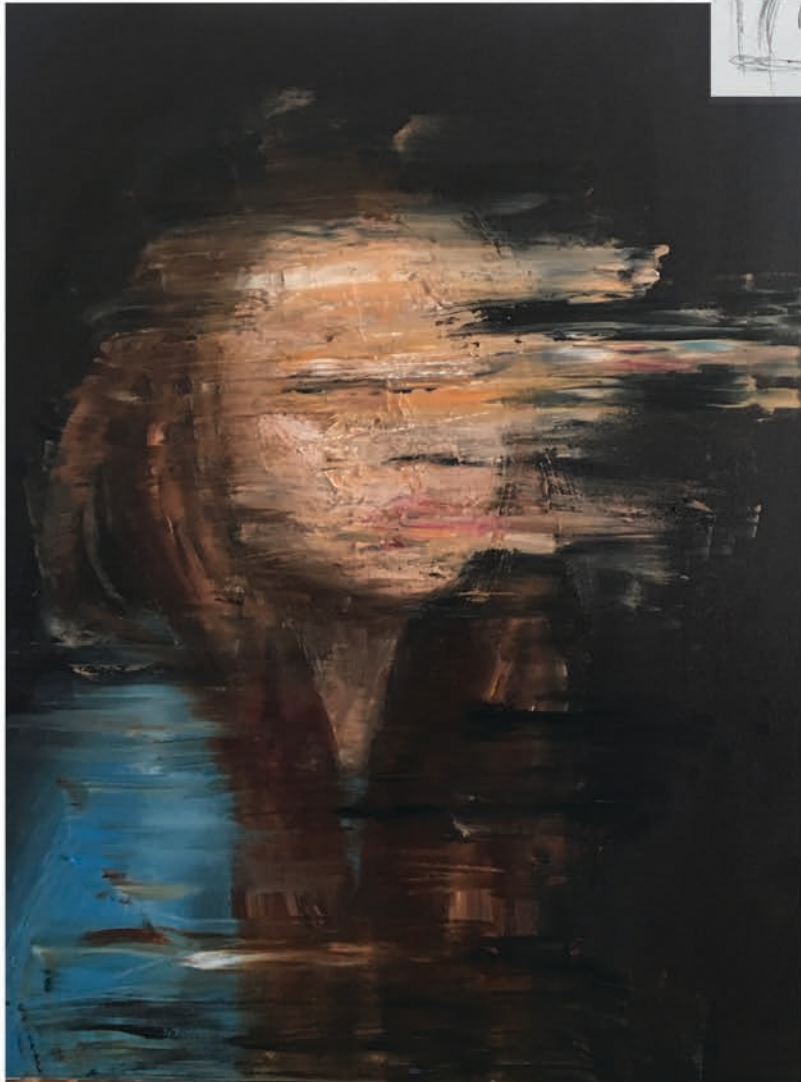


Artwork Analysis

This piece was painted in 1953, closely after the end of World War II and the development of cameras, influencing Bacon's works. The postwar art mainly expresses the exploration of one's identity and the coping of the trauma after the war. His portraits are mostly composed of a subject centred in the middle of the canvas painted in a sombre colour scheme. He took on a bolder and expressive style in painting after the influence of Van Gogh and Picasso.

The original painting was 153cm x 118cm, so I decided to transcript a section of it, with A2 paper (42.0 x 59.4cm). The section I painted was of the pope's expression. I did not exactly recreate the painting, but rather just went with the creative flow as I painted it. The brush strokes did not align but that was the how expressive the painting is. There is a sense of freedom and bold brushstrokes of black paint allowed me to express my personal emotions. I really enjoyed this transcription, it must've been somewhat liberating for Bacon as well, despite the feeling of existentialism in the painting.

Existentialism Planning & Experimentation



Planning

I drew some compositions for the portraiture of how I want the painting to be orientated and portrayed.

Experimentation

I wanted to explore the technique and effects of scrapping oil paint with the pallets knife. I decided to create a small experimentation piece. I first painted the self-portrait to position the facial features and not in intricate details. During the painting process, I have deliberately painted with a thicker brush for more expressionistic strokes and applied a lot of paint. This is created a rich texture on the portrait that I had not planned, but I really like how the lights reflect off the uneven surface of the oil paint. The uniformed horizontal paint gave a sense of coherence in the messiness.

However, the rich texture in some areas where the paint was more scrapped across was a distraction to the overall aesthetics of the painting. When I was pressing down and scrapping horizontally across the portrait, some paint travelled further than others and some colours covered over one another. I need to be more careful in the pressure I apply in each area and where I want the colours to travel to.

It was a really enjoyable and fun small project of experimentation. I especially loved how the colours stand out from the black background and the aesthetics of this portraiture.

40.5 x 53.5cm



process before scrapping paint

intense lighting

Existentialism

Evaluation

Fear and Self Doubt

80 x 120cm

Oil Paint on Canva, 2019

When we are left alone, we reflect on memories, thoughts, emotions, and the choices that we made leading up to that moment. We drown ourselves into our minds. The mind that remembers and fabricates stories. We then start to question things. "Why did I do that earlier?", "What did she mean when she said that?", and "Where am I going tomorrow?". This portrait is an expression of feels fear and self-doubt. Overwhelmed by thoughts and questions that fades its existence.

Evaluation

This painting is the largest canvas I have ever painted on. From the experimentation, I knew I wanted to create brushstrokes that allow the paint to fade into the dark background. While that effect was successfully illustrated, the paint has over mixed and some tones have disappeared. This was quite disappointing because I wanted separated and distinctive strokes of colour paint to be visible. However, that was difficult due to my tendency to going back and forth with the brush. It is something I need to work on.

I liked the red tones appearing in the different sections of the face (forehead, cheeks and nose) that juxtapose to the emotionless expression of the face. The lips were my favourite aspect because it was the last facial feature I painted when I had realised my paint-layering habit. The colour blocks are more distinctive and the colour is coherent with the pink-tones from the cheeks. I had purposefully left it without a layer of glaze to decrease the reflection of the paint.

The facial proportion is also too long, the eyes a little too big and the neck a little too long. I hoped to have been able to delegate more time into this. I would also have chosen a more interesting angle or composition for this painting.



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"Four Ice Cream Cones Wayne Thiebaud". Micaela Marie., 2020, <http://michaelamarie.weebly.com/art-bloginspiration-digital-design/four-ice-cream-coneswayne-thiebaud>.

Slide 18:

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Slide 21:

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