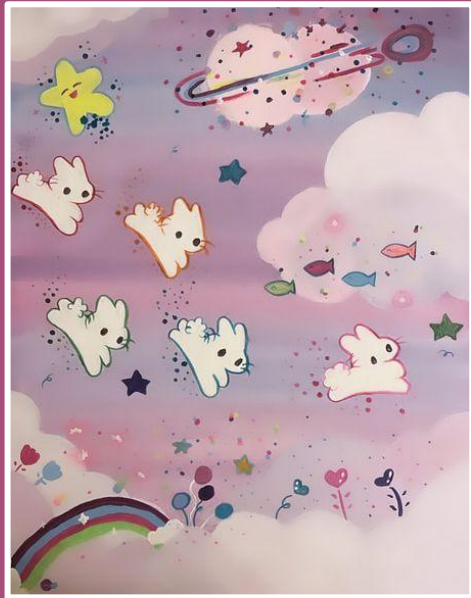
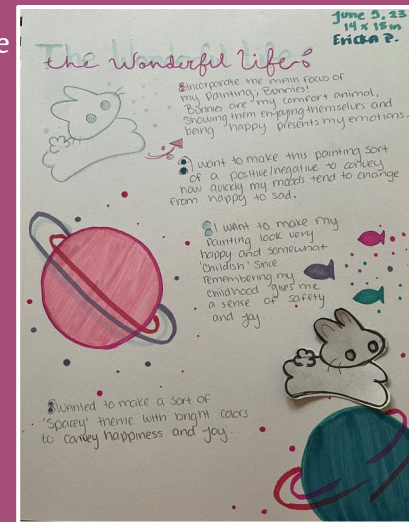


Development of Initial Ideas

You could say the summer before my senior year was when I finally figured out what my art style was, and was going to continuously be. The intention of my art style was to not only figure out how I would love to present my themes of Religion, Depression and BPD, but as well as finding an inclusion for my audience. I prioritized not only what I wanted, but what I figured my target audience would love, and appreciate as well. There is a limitless amount of ways one can portray their hardships, person struggles, the things we don't speak outwards about. We all have our own perspectives, our own interpretations of these topics. We feel depression differently than others, those suffering from BPD struggle with it in their own ways as well, but at the end of the day, we're struggling. Not only did I want to convey the struggle, but I want my audience to have that understanding of the struggle. We deal with these hardships in our own ways, so when figuring out my art style I knew I wanted to convey these struggles, but in a numerous amounts of ways because there isn't just one set way that we struggle. I consider my piece, "The "Wonderful" Life" to be one of my most "famous" paintings out of all my art pieces I've created. Of course, this piece



is actually meant to be with its other half, "The "Bad" Life. These paintings together are my most popular pieces of works I've created so far. The intentions I had behind them were to not only convey my own art style, a style that brought me comfort, but also to bring those who are struggling, comfort as well. Like I stated, we all struggle with our hardships in different ways, I wanted to convey the hardships of having a "Manic Episode High" and a "Manic Episode Low" but in a way that those suffering from BPD could understand. I didn't want to make it blatant, I wanted my audience to have to actually analyze, connect themselves with my painting. "The "Wonderful" Life is conveying the extreme outburst of euphoria, the overwhelming, over stimulating sensation of believing you are truly "on top of the world" and that the possibilities of doing anything are endless. This sensation is good, and it makes us highly productive, but after this episode crashes, we feel unembellished, weak, we feel the lowest of the lows. In this piece, I wanted to convey that overstimulation by painting multiple decorations at once with such bright, vibrant colors to make my audience feel the "overwhelming sensation.



The Wonderful Life

• Incorporate the main focus of my painting, "Bad" Life. Show me my comfort animal being happy presenting my emotions.

• I want to make this painting sort of a positive message to convey how quickly my moods tend to change from happy to sad.

• I want to make my painting look very happy and somewhat "childish" since remembering my childhood gives me a sense of safety and joy.

• I wanted to make a sort of "Space" theme with bright colors to convey happiness and joy.

Artistic Inspiration

My artistic inspirations were popular Instagram Artists. Firstly with Happi_115, her art caught my attention primarily because of her consistent use of using bunnies in a single line to convey her happiness and joy. Her art style isn't too overwhelming, but it's consistent in its use of conveying very intricate details that make her audience so drawn to her work. Her color palette contains a various amount of different hues of the same primary colors such as, navy blues, sea green, purple, and she dedicates her painting to her chosen color palette which made me so drawn to using her art pieces as inspiration for my pieces "The "Wonderful" Life" and "The "Bad" Life" Although, her paintings convey a different message than mine do, it's the interpretation I developed after viewing her work that suddenly allowed me to understand how I can relate, so I interpreted this and conveyed it into my own message for my specific target audience.

I also noticed how her work greatly ties into ChikuWamiels art pieces as well. These two works together sincerely brought me to a great understanding of what I wanted my initial art style to become.

On the right, is a piece that also inspired me. It's done by another famous Instagram artist, ChikuWamiel. Her pieces are somewhat similar to Happi_115's but her art pieces tend to somewhat stray away from the simplistic style. Her art pieces are much more intricate and contain a greater amount of small, intricate details. Most importantly, she leaves no blank spaces in her art pieces. When viewing her work I interpreted a very overwhelming, over stimulating feeling that truly made me understand how I felt during a Manic High. This main concept of her art inspired me greatly to proceed into doing my painting of "The "Wonderful" Life" as well as connecting the opposite emotion along with it such as "The "Bad" Life" The inclusion of mixing up these two artists very motivating art style inspired me to make my two paintings that I consider the most "popular" out of all of my paintings.



Experimentation & Manipulation



I first began by understanding the main components of both of my inspiration artists works, their use of intricate detail, the highly overwhelming use bright colors in connection with a great use of consist detail that gives me the over-stimulating feeling that I needed to convey. Focusing on my palette colors was a main priority, I needed to use bright hues of blues, pink, red, greens, etc. It was difficult to find the right shades, so I experimented with using different types of mixtures and blendings with other colors to create the primary ones I needed for my painting. Once satisfied with the colors I've made, I stuck with them and proceeded to lay out a foundation of the gradient I needed for my background. I didn't want a solid color, I knew I had to dedicate myself to the intricate details and the overuse of great details. After making the



gradient background that I wanted, I immediately went straight into the intricate details and made sure to cover every section of my canvas with an over use of details. While doing so, I made sure to keep in mind what message I needed to convey to my audience. It's meant to convey that BPD Manic High and in order to successfully accomplish this I truly needed to connect myself with my painting. Before beginning this painting, I actually did end up having a BPD Manic High. I felt truly motivated, I felt like I could sincerely accomplish this to the best of my ability without any type of mistake or accident. I ended up finishing this painting in exactly 4 hours. I felt a huge rush of happiness while doing this painting, I focused on my goal of creating intricate details everywhere that I possibly could, incorporating bright hues of my pinks, greens, baby blues, reds, I wanted this painting to pop and I sincerely wanted it to catch the eye of my audience. I made it very cheerful, childish themed almost. Of course, I was conveying a BPD Manic High but I didn't want to sort of "scare away" my audience, so I knew by incorporating a bunny would weigh my painting a bit down, and make it seem more "stable" and more comforting for my audience as well. So not only was my goal to convey the BPD Manic High, convey the over stimulation feeling those with BPD get during a Manic High, but I also knew that I had to incorporate a sense of comfort in my painting. My audience needed to understand that overwhelming feeling but I knew that as an artist, I needed to also comfort them so I was able to achieve that through the use of incorporating bunnies from the inspiration of Happi_115's artworks.

Reflection on Acquisition of Skills

Improvements:

I feel as though this piece was completed very successfully. It successfully conveyed my message that I wanted to get across to my audience. The vision and development that I had before creating this piece finally came out perfect, just the way that I had wanted it to. However, I feel as though I could've done some improvements when creating the small intricate details that my piece contained, such as the rays from the planets, the lines are too rigid, too messy and don't have an evenness to them. In the bottom left hand corner, the rainbow that I created had good lines, and I feel as though I did a good job at creating the rays of color, but when looking closer, we can notice that the lines are also very rigid and I could have done a much better job at trying my best to make those lines more straight, more dynamic and not too choppy, and rigid as well. I also could have improved with the dynamic of painting the stars, I feel as though I should have used a stencil when creating the stars, it makes the painting look too childish and although that was the style I was trying to aim for, I didn't want it to look an immature childish but more of a somewhat mature childish.

Glow:

Although this piece had some of its downsides, I did have amazing parts that I managed to complete successfully. I wanted to complete a 3D effect with the clouds that I had created, and I was able to successfully create layers to create a 3D effect with the clouds just like how I wanted. I also did a very great job at creating the bunnies in the line format that I imagined in my planning sketches.

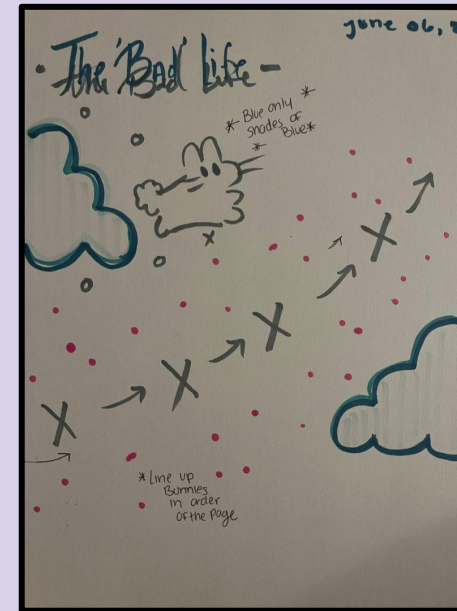


Development of Initial Ideas



Before beginning my other half of my painting “The “Bad” Life” it was essential for me to create an outline planning sketch to help me make sure I would make this painting come out perfectly just like how I was envisioning it. This painting, “The “Bad”Life” is meant to convey the BPD Manic Lows, the depressive episodes that those with BPD face that will usually last for days, weeks on end before we manage to reach that Manic High. It’s sincerely like a roller coaster ride of emotions and it sincerely drains us, makes us feel numb, empty. In This painting since it’s meant to depict a BPD Manic Low, a Depressive Episode I knew I needed to make this painting be very plain, not add too much intricate detail. I wanted those who view my painting to really understand the huge contrast between a Manic High and Manic Low. I began by painting the bunnies towards the lower left corner of the painting so when it would be set side by side next to it’s other connecting half of the painting, it would give off the impression that the bunnies are flying from one painting to the next. This effect alone I was able to successfully complete. The atmosphere that I created the bunnies in, I didn’t want it to the be the same atmosphere as “The “Wonderful” Life” because this painting is not meant to depict a Manic High. It’s not meant to convey an overwhelming atmosphere. It’s meant to only convey the plain,

depressing atmosphere of BPD. In order to successfully accomplish this, I made very little effort to add any intricate, or overwhelming details. I made it highly simple. I only created layers of clouds, in the colors of various hues of blues, using darker undertones to bring out a 3D effect. I proceeded to only use colors such as blues and greys to paint the outlines of the bunnies. I also only gave them white glitter instead of various colors like I did in it’s opposite painting. The major factor that makes this painting pop out more is the solid color background, it contrasts highly with The “Wonderful” Life which is exactly what I wanted my audience to take away, the major contrast, and how that contrast will majorly affect your emotions, how you’ll perceive them.



Artistic Inspiration

My main inspiration for this project was also Happi_115. She is a very popular Instagram influencer and artist as well. She primarily does digital artworks and has a consistent theme of using bright colors along with her use of bunnies or other animals in her digital pieces. Most of her pieces have no name, no titles. The pieces seen below are the pieces I used as my main inspiration in my painting “The “Bad” Life. (As well as “The “Wonderful” Life”. She is a Viet-Chinese freelance artist and a full time junior designer located in Naarm/Melbourne. As we can see, she tends to enjoy creating whimsical illustrations and graphic work that depicts spaces of the unknown. Bunnies enter from one void into another in all her paintings! She is another one of my inspirations for my paintings because since this painting has another painting that belongs next to it, I really wanted to convey her bunnies entering another void. When analyzing and viewing her work, I knew I’d be able to successfully use this in my painting of “The “Bad” Life.” Although, her digital artworks do contain a lot of movement, a lot of great intricate detail, I knew I’d just have to do the complete opposite of that.

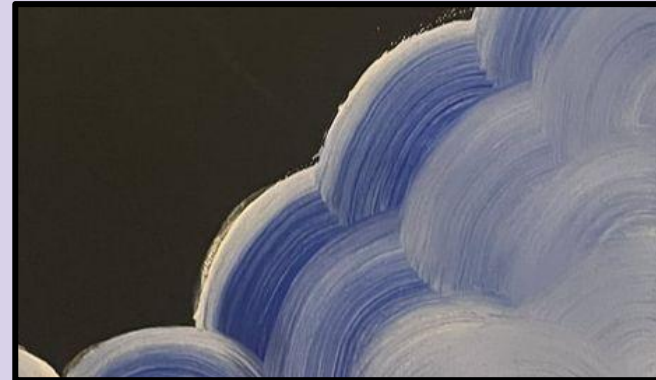
I took into great consideration the type of artwork she creates but I knew in order to successfully use this in my art piece as a main source of inspiration I had to greatly follow her art style. She uses a very preppy, outgoing, and somewhat childish art style. I knew this is exactly what would help in making my piece convey the message I knew I needed to convey. Childish themes truly bring my mood up, I needed to continue with the childish artistic theme but at the same time understand what mood I am trying to convey, a Manic Low. I continued to follow the theme of Happi_115’s art style but in my case, the work needed to be bland, very plain to convey the “empty” and “Plain” feeling I experience during a Manic Low. During the process of my painting it was indeed tempting to incorporate lots of designs, cover more of the empty space I had but I knew I had to stick with the mood, and keep my painting very plain and spacious.



Experimentation & Manipulation

Before beginning, I decided to again, closely analyze all the aspects of Happi_115's digital art pieces. Of course, I understood the fact that her pieces are digital, this was the main component that I needed to highly take into consideration or else I knew my painting would fail to turn out like my planned vision and I would end up failing to get that vision across onto my canvas successfully. I admired the fact her work looked very 3D, and I knew I'd be able to incorporate that factor into my painting, but I also took into consideration that I wouldn't be able to create that dimensional, dreamy effect that she had set in her digital art pieces. I weighed out the pros and cons of being able to successfully do this and after doing so, realized what I could successfully do and what I wouldn't be able to successfully do.

Since, I am doing the opposite type of mood in my painting than Happi's I decided that I wanted to make the background a dark solid color, to sort of bring that strong contrast between 'The Wonderful Life' and this painting. As stated earlier, during a BPD 'Low' episode, I usually feel very tired, and down so using these dark tones and shades of blues and blacks, would accurately depict these emotions exactly. After I completed painting my solid background for my painting, I then just went ahead to painting clouds and the bunnies. I wanted to give the illusion that the bunnies from the first painting are sort of flying into the next painting. So, I began by painting the bunnies coming from the left lower side of the painting. After that, I was pretty much finished. This painting was meant to be bland and not much abstract or colorful things included. This painting is meant to really contrast with the other painting, so I made it as simple as possible.



Reflection on Acquisition Skills



A similarity that we can notice between my painting and my inspirations work is pretty obvious, I used the same bunnies as she does and I painted them very similar to the way she paints her bunnies as well. Another similarity that we can notice is that my painting tends to use the same colors as the inspiration I piece I chose. Some differences that we can notice is that I didn't really paint the same mood as my inspirations paintings. Her mood in her paintings are very abstract and they seem very bright and happy, we notice that there is a lot of action and movement occurring in the painting as well. On the other hand, my painting doesn't have much of an abstract look to it and doesn't really seem to have the same mood as my inspirations, my mood of my painting comes off very sad and bland as well. It doesn't have the excitement as my inspirations work does.

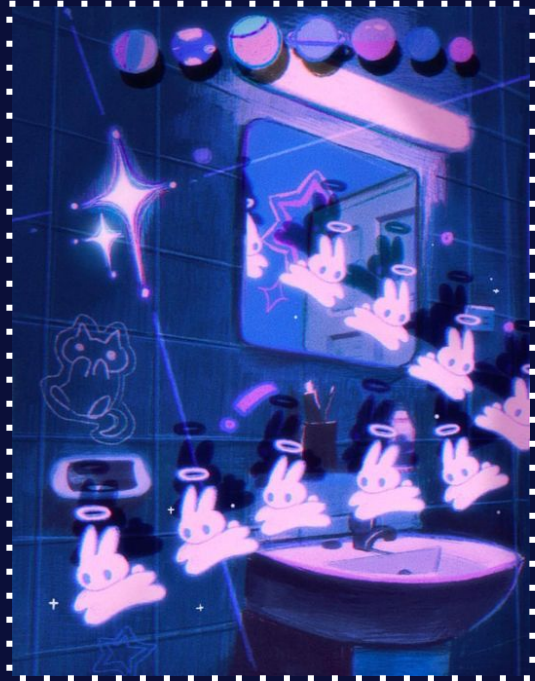
In all honesty, doing this painting as a way to convey my BPD 'Lows' was actually very interesting. I tried to make this painting during one of my BPD 'Lows' but I couldn't really get myself to do it, so I did it once I felt happy again. A couple of days afterwards, I looked back at my painting and noticed that I truly was able to convey my 'Lows' BPD episode but to a certain degree. Overall, it came out truly amazing, and I feel actually very proud of this painting. After putting up this painting next to 'The Wonderful Life' it truly surprised me of how you can notice such a difference, its extremely different and the contrast between the two is so strong as well. You can truly see the significant difference between the two and it almost makes the viewer very curious as to why it's this way. That's how I view my BPD, split in half and very contrasting sides. When presenting my paintings together to my friends and family that was the first thing they tend to notice, the extreme difference in vibe and motion, so much action in one painting and an extreme drop in that action in the next painting. I feel that the both of them together truly do convey my BPD 'Highs' and 'Lows' episodes.

Development of Initial Ideas



My acrylic painting, "My Nightmare" is meant to convey my nightmares. I won't go too in depth on this since it's a very personal topic, but I just thought it would be somewhat interesting to paint out my nightmares, which is why I have included some creepy hands you may see at the foot of the bed, back with the bunnies, I conveyed them very worried since when I have nightmares they tend to be highly lucid, and in them I'm always worried trying to figure out how to get out of it. I included myself sleeping in a dark room, in the clouds with bunnies flying overhead. Although, the message behind this painting may seem like it might stray away from my initial topic of BPD, it truly doesn't. I hadn't known that consistent, lucid nightmares was actually a normal factor of BPD. I thought this was very interesting to me, so I decided to turn this into a painting. Perhaps those with the same mental disorder could possibly relate, or perhaps those in general who may have nightmares from time to time, I thought it would be a very interesting concept to try and paint, laying it all out. There wasn't much to really dive into for this painting, I wanted to just focus on the theme of my nightmares and the way I managed to persevere through this tough moment of my life. Since, I am religious, during this time of my consistent lucid nightmares, I prayed highly. I would turn on prayer candles, and try to have myself be in comfort such as sleeping with my stuffed animals, leaving a little bit of light on to help me as well. Eventually, this phase did end up passing and I have sincerely been better ever since! I just wanted to generally have this painting be a reminder that yes, I did have hard rough setbacks that affected me greatly, but at the same time, I managed to persevere through and get better than ever. The bunnies I conveyed flying ahead are meant to convey my courage of getting through the dark times of my life, hence why I painted the background pitch black. Persevering through BPD, and setbacks in general make you feel like you're in a dark place, searching for a way out, which is what I wanted to convey.

Artistic Inspiration

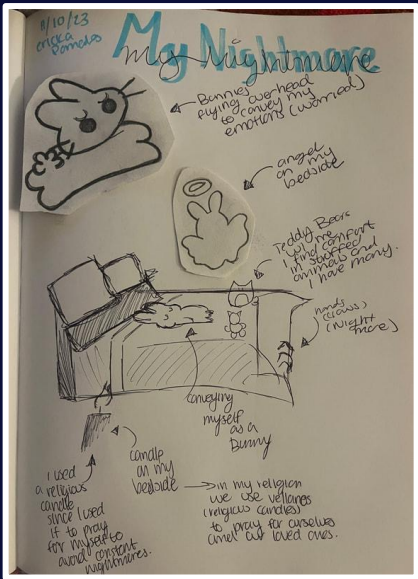


I again decided to stick with my main inspiration that I was sticking with for my past 2 art pieces, Happi_115. She is a Viet-Chinese freelance artist and a full time junior designer located in Naarm/Melbourne. As we can see, she tends to enjoy creating whimsical illustrations and graphic work that depicts spaces of the unknown. Bunnies enter from one void into another in all her paintings! She is another one of my inspirations for my paintings because since this painting has another painting that belongs next to it, I really wanted to convey her bunnies entering another void. In the case for my painting, “My Nightmare” I only used the image to right as my main inspiration. Happi_115’s work doesn’t have any titles. I used this digital work done by her as my main source of inspiration since it first of all contains the color palette that I sincerely wanted to use for my painting. It contains different hues of blues in coordination with different shades of purples, and blues as well. From her digital pieces I decided to also use her main focus of her work which is again, the bunnies that she always presents, I knew by incorporating this into my art piece my audience would also be able to understand what my inspiration was.

Experimentation & Manipulation

In all honesty, I didn't really plan out this painting at all. I knew I wanted to paint something similar to my two other paintings with bunnies but I was unsure of what to even paint. I can say though that about halfway through my painting I stopped and did some planning sketches, when I was doing my painting I began coming up with so many ideas it was hard for me to draw them all out on paper. I ended up finalizing my rough sketch into a more detailed and better one. After I had done my rough sketches, I followed them (finalized one) then proceeded with painting. After painting the background a solid deep navy blue, mixed with some black, I began painting the bed. It was difficult painting the bed since I had to do it in layers due to the solid dark background, using white I did layers to make it more bright against the blue and stand out more.

Finishing the base of the bed, I proceeded to just paint the entire bed blue, in painting I tried to incorporate many shades of blue to ultimately convey my stress and tiredness from consistent nightmares. I conveyed myself as a bunny, resting in bed with my stuffed animals since teddy bears have always given me a good sense of comfort. From this, I also painted an angel at my bedside watching over me. Of course, I have gotten help to avoid these nightmares but I also turn on religious prayer candles since it's a major part of my catholic religion. We turn these candles on and pray for ourselves and our loves from for protection from any evil or harm. In my case, I used it to help me get rest at night and not get anymore nightmares. so I painted a candle on the side of my bed since I actually do have one currently in my room. Lastly, I then wanted to paint the bunnies flying in order across the sky, since I did paint myself in the clouds. I began with sketching my bunnies again with some sketch cut outs I made of them. I painted them flying across the sky, but with a very worried expression since I use the bunnies to convey my emotions. I painted them worried and uneasy to convey my worry and feeling of unease.



Reflection on Acquisition Skills



A similarity that we can notice between my painting and my inspirations work is pretty obvious, I used the same bunnies as my inspiration but we just used them for different meanings, and I painted them very similar to the way she paints her bunnies as well. Another similarity that we can notice is that my painting tends to use the same colors as the inspiration I piece I chose. Some differences that we can notice is that I didn't really paint the same mood as my inspirations paintings. Her mood in her paintings are very abstract and they seem very bright and happy, we notice that there is a lot of action and movement occurring in the painting as well. On the other hand, my painting doesn't have much of an abstract look to it and doesn't really seem to have the same mood as my inspirations, my mood of my painting comes off very sad and bland as well. It doesn't have the excitement as my inspiration works.

Overall, I sincerely enjoyed doing this painting, I really loved the idea I suddenly had of painting my nightmare but in a indirect yet direct way for my viewers. It was a challenge in figuring out what I even wanted to paint to begin with but in the end, I'm glad I finally came up with an idea. I really wanted to show a strong correlation between my paintings since I began to notice that most of my paintings don't seem to correlate too much in style and the way I paint things. I decided using bunnies again would be a great way to connect this painting to my other two previous paintings, "The Bad Life" and "The Good Life" It was interesting deciding how I would format this painting, It was interesting just diving into a painting with no plan or idea until about halfway through the painting, I noticed then that not having any idea of what to paint but that going straight for it actually gave me so many more ideas along the way and it helped me sincerely in creating my final product.

Development of Initial Ideas



My drawing done on Sketchbook paper with colored pencils is meant to convey just me overall. It's meant to convey my different personalities, my different traits, and different little items that I feel represent who I am as a person and what has made me who I am. I included items I also just really love as well. I wanted this drawing just to convey me overall, what I'm like (depending on my mood) what things I like, what my religion is, what my personality is, and although not many people would be able to tell everything about me from this drawing, I at least wanted them to take away the important factors about me. For this piece, I pretty much just wanted to convey self love when it comes to mental health, and how one should accept themselves, who they are despite their mental health, mental disorders they may be forced to face, and just in general too. In my case, I painted this as self love for myself and how I've learned to love myself, and the part of my disorder that truly has made me feel bad about myself. As seen in my earlier works, I did "The "Wonderful" Life" and then I also did "The "Bad" Life" and in these paintings, you will noticed I did them on separate canvases and I did them contrasting one another separately. Now, with this painting, "I Love You!" I decided to bring union not only within my emotions, my feelings but also with myself with my disorder, and how I choose to perceive myself with my disorder. I brought union, and learned to love myself and to love my disorder which is why I decided to paint my positive and my negative side hugging, I created a happy atmosphere and used aspects from both my sad side along with my happy side to truly show acceptance within my disorder along with myself.

Artistic Inspiration

Inspiration: ChikuWamiel

My main source of inspiration was primarily from ChikuWamiel. She is an Instagram Artist, Illustrator, and Designer based in Japan. Her paintings primarily consists of very vibrant paintings depicting 'Kawaii' animals, towns, even people. I chose her as my inspiration because I had seen one of her paintings on Pinterest! I personally feel as though her art depicts happiness at such an intense level it was able to remind me of my 'Highs' and 'Lows' I get during my BPD Episodes. I felt using her as a source of my inspiration in my art to depict BPD would be very accurate for myself and others with the same disorder. I took into consideration her art style and knew I needed to incorporate her same style into my art work as well. Such as her use of intricate details, and her incorporation of lots of colors.



Inspiration:
Happi_115

My inspiration behind this piece was again Happi_115. She is an artist on Instagram, She is a Viet-Chinese freelance artist and a full time junior designer located in Naarm/Melbourne. As we can see, she tends to enjoy creating whimsical illustrations and graphic work that depicts spaces of the unknown. Bunnies enter from one void into another in all her paintings! She is another one of my inspirations for my drawing because since her paintings are highly abstract and very bright, so I decided to again use her as my inspiration behind this piece to get a similar theme among my art works all together.

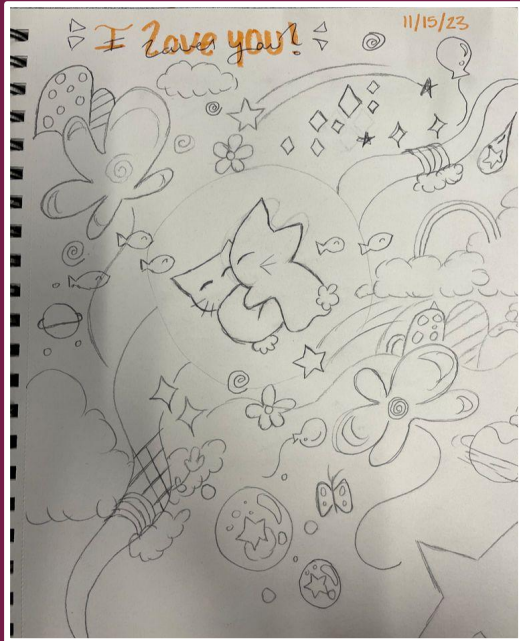
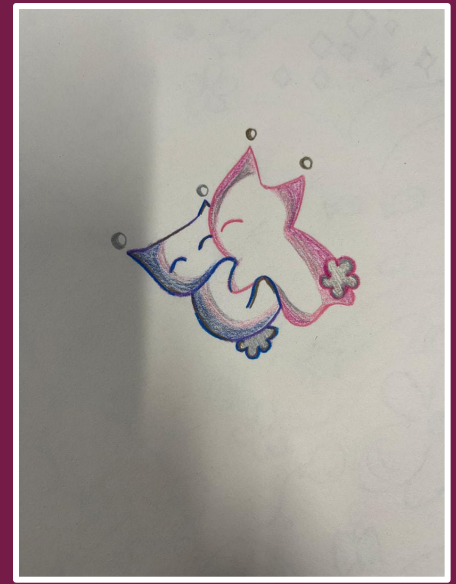


Experimentation & Manipulation

As for my sketches and planning I actually ended up sticking with my very first attempted sketch I made. I again, tried to plan out a sketch that would look similar to my previous works because when I have my works layed out all together I truly wanted them to be very similar and have a very noticeable, trending theme within all of them. I stuck with the usual bunnies I always do, but I made them very different this time, I made two bunnies hugging in the center. I wanted these two bunnies to convey me, I have a bad habit of seeing myself divided in half, having one side be my positive side and the other being my negative side. Sometimes I don't always get along with myself, but other times I truly am happy and love myself, so I wanted the bunnies to convey me loving and accepting both sides of myself.

Following my initial planning sketch, I had just decided to re-sketch it but as I was coloring along the way, I decided to add extra little doodles and designs. I incorporated more designs I felt I liked and made me happy such as bubbles, and stars, and flowers, I kind of began to go with a childish look with this drawing. It sincerely made me joyful when I noticed it began to look that way. With the colors,

I made sure to stay very focused with my plan of this drawing, I decided to make one bunny very bright pink, with happy colors to convey my happy, joyful side. The other bunny I established dysphoric colors such as blues, and grey with darker and lighter shades of blues too to convey my sad, more downside of me. But, when including the bunnies together I made sure to include these separate colors together, blending in together to show my appreciation for both sides of myself, and to convey me getting along with both of my sides. The Yin-Yang sincerely inspired this piece a lot. When I was finished with my piece, I actually decided to glue in some little things to convey me, the things I love, what things make me, me. I included a cross since I am religious, I am catholic. I incorporated some bows, since I absolutely adore bows and they make me joyful, along with a handmade piece of candy from clay I had made a while back. I felt that including these would make my piece much more personal to me and really bring out joy in other people when viewing this piece as well. I secured my drawing in a plastic film to prevent any damage and keep it safe since it is done on sketchbook paper, I was fearing any possible damage happening to it.



Reflection on Acquisition Skills



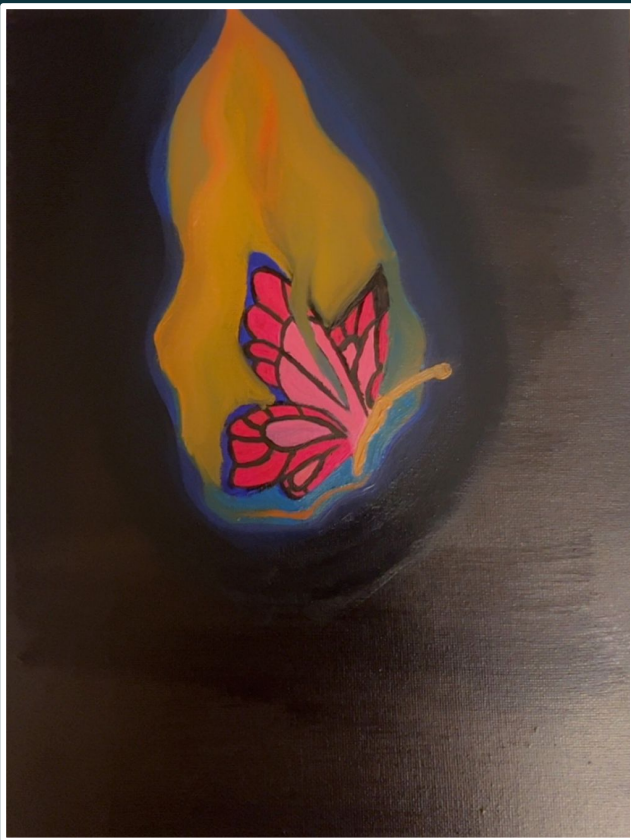
Some similarities that we can immediately notice is the same type of theme in my work and from both of my inspirations works as well! The bunnies are a major similarity from Happi_115's art so we can immediately notice this similarity. Another similarity we can notice is the recurring theme in my inspirations paintings and my painting, we can immediately notice that the intense abstract theme that occurs in Happi's and ChikuWamiel's always can accurately occur in my painting as well! Some differences that we can notice is that I didn't really paint the SAME way as Happi and ChikuWamiel but I did it highly similar. I made the bunnies the same, but I added the bunnies in a much different way, instead of including them following each other in a trail, I made two bunnies together, hugging happily in the center. Although my painting is similar to the paintings of ChikuWamiel's I don't feel as though my painting incorporated much detail as hers did. Her paintings incorporated many more details and it tended to really cover up her whole canvas, mine only somewhat covered up the entire sketchbook page, I included little charms as well. Overall, I sincerely enjoyed doing this drawing, I completely forgot that doing drawings in sketchbooks were also a medium and could be done as an art project as well. So, instead of doing a painting I decided to do a cute drawing in my sketchbook and submit it. It was really fun doing this project, I knew I wanted to stick to the concept of Bunnies, but doing a different twist on it was really interesting, doing the bunnies hugging was really nice and it was something new. I knew when drawing these two bunnies that I would want them to really represent me, and my personality and who I am. I see myself divided in half, one side of me loves everything and I'm endlessly happy, whereas the other side of me tends to be moody, more sad than usual, so I thought incorporating both sides of me but happily would be able to show how I feel when I truly accept both sides of me. I made it colorful, yet used dysphoric colors too to show that even balance between both of these sides of me. I included charms that I also felt conveyed who I am, what represents me and what I love.

Development of Initial Ideas

My Oil Painting done on Canvas “Doomed” is meant to depict pain and suffering, but trying to preserve through it and continue moving forwards. Throughout Junior year, leading into my Senior year now, I have faced some extremely difficult hardships and have endured a lot of sadness, and pain throughout these two years so far. Through those setbacks I still try my best to move forwards and continue with a positive attitude, although at the same time it's breaking me apart internally, yet no one sees that side of me. The butterfly is meant to convey hope, courage and strength, the preservation through the most challenging setbacks that one will experience and have to ultimately go through. The flames, convey the roaring pain, difficulty of those setbacks one may face. The black darkness in the background is a symbolism, of how when you are facing your challenges in life, people tend to feel they are in a place of darkness, with nowhere and no one to turn to. We feel that we are in the dark, and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. The butterfly is meant to be still flying through, despite the flames burning it alive, despite the pitch blackness, it's meant to overall convey triumph, preservation, courage, hope, through the darkest moments of your life.

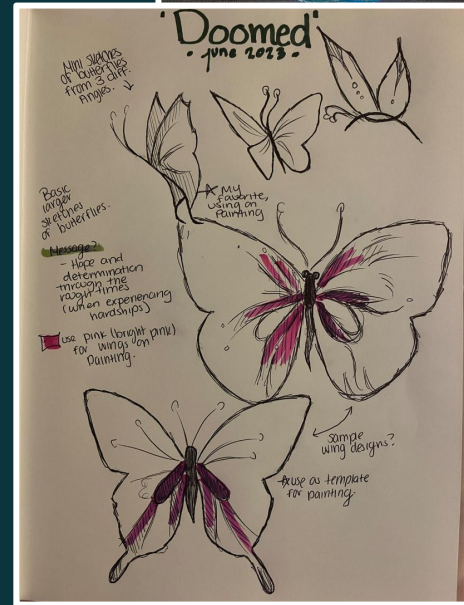
Artistic Inspiration

My main source of inspiration behind my painting was an Instagram artist named 'Nata Sin.' She is the founder of the direction of "sensual symbolism" She is also an art teacher based in Russia, she does workshops to teach techniques and paintings. She did a piece done in acrylic paints, she has no title for this painting but her meaning behind it is that she felt as though her freedom was being taken away from her. Conveying herself as a butterfly in a dangerous situation shows how her freedom is taken away from her and how much pain that causes her.



Experimentation & Manipulation

There wasn't much to really sketch or plan out besides the butterfly because I didn't want to free handily do it and perhaps mess up. In my sketchbook I decided to sketch out a basis of a butterfly and sort of use that as my template. In regards to the fire, that was the hardest part of this painting. I've never painted fire before, and I wasn't sure of how to even practice painting fire, so I just went straight for it when I began my painting. I was thinking of using markers to sort of practice but I didn't believe that benefited me much due to the fact that Oil Paints are much much more different than regular markers. So, for my sketches I pretty much practiced sketching out butterflies! I did multiple sketches of butterflies to understand how to paint it the right way onto my canvas. For the process, I first began by gathering all my materials; 9" x 12" canvas, my acrylic paints (red, yellows, blues, blacks and some pinks with golds as well.) and finally my template of a butterfly to refer back to when sketching out the butterfly onto my canvas! Firstly, I began by doing two layers of black onto my canvas. I wanted a very solid background, to make my butterfly (specifically the flame emit from the butterfly) to stand out to my viewers and have them focus their attention on the fire. I also needed the fire to be very vibrant and stand out a lot to grab the viewer's attention and perhaps get their interest. After completing my background, I then moved on to sketching out the butterfly I wanted in the center of my canvas. I then proceeded to outline the butterfly with black acrylic paints. I wanted to make the butterfly very bright, with happy colors! I used pink to depict the hope and determination I have to continue pushing through my hardships with a positive mental attitude. After doing so, I then continued onto the flame portion of the painting. This was the hardest part of my painting, but I managed to depict a flame fairly good. I first began by using light hues of yellows along with dark shades of oranges as well. I used a dry brush to blend them in softly to get more of a realistic flame effect. I then highlighted the boundary of the flame with a light blue, since flames emit a light blue around them. I was then completed with my painting and I was fairly satisfied in the finished product. I feel as though I was able to convey my message across to the viewers successfully.



Reflection on Acquisition Skills

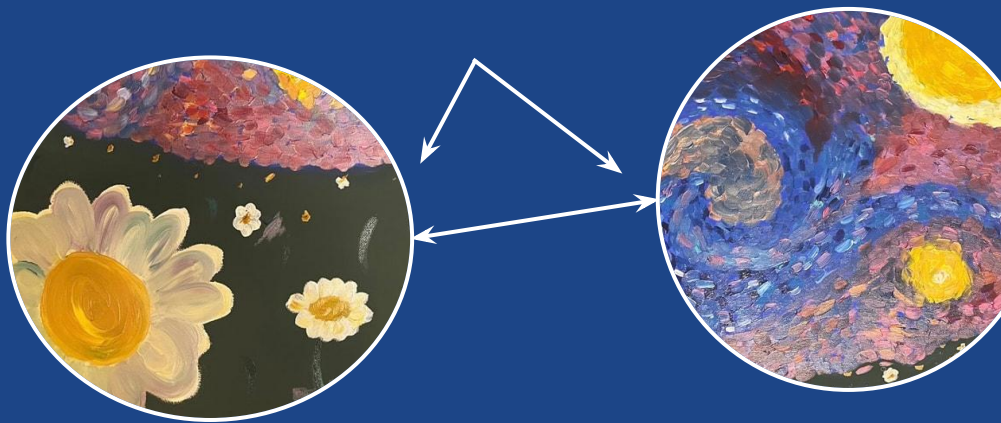


Some similarities we can notice is that when viewing my artwork you can pretty much see the same scene being depicted, the butterfly with the flame is exactly the same, and the overall message is very similar, they're not quite the same, but they are relatively similar to one another. We can also notice that the flame is painted in the same manner as Nata Sin. I tried to paint the flame similar to how Nata painted her flame, but I also wanted to try and make it as realistic as possible as well. Some differences we can notice straight away is the meaning/message behind the painting. the message behind Nata's painting is meant to symbolize how she feels her freedom has been taken away from her. In regards to my painting, it's meant to depict my personal struggles, and my battle to overcome those struggles to continue pushing forward positively. Another difference we can notice is color, in Nata's painting she uses very calm toned colors such as; browns, light greens blended in with some light blues, along with grays and tan. My painting, I used very vibrant colors such as pink, and a hot pink, I used very bright hues of oranges and yellows for the flame to make my flame more vibrant. Overall, doing this project was very interesting, and in the process of making it I felt very emotional, and even cried as well. I felt very connected to this piece, and for once I felt like I was actually being heard through my art. Depicting myself as a butterfly on fire, yet still flying, and still having perseverance and determination truly made me feel emotional. This has to be one of my most favorite pieces out of all my art pieces so far. This art piece, I felt truly connected to and I truly enjoyed the process of making this. After completing this painting, I felt a huge relief. I great relief, I felt very proud of myself and I was proud of everything that I've persevered through all on my own. I feel very proud of myself and where I am today. This piece shows the sadness and pain I wanted it to show, but it also shows the hope an determination the butterfly still has...

Development of Initial Ideas

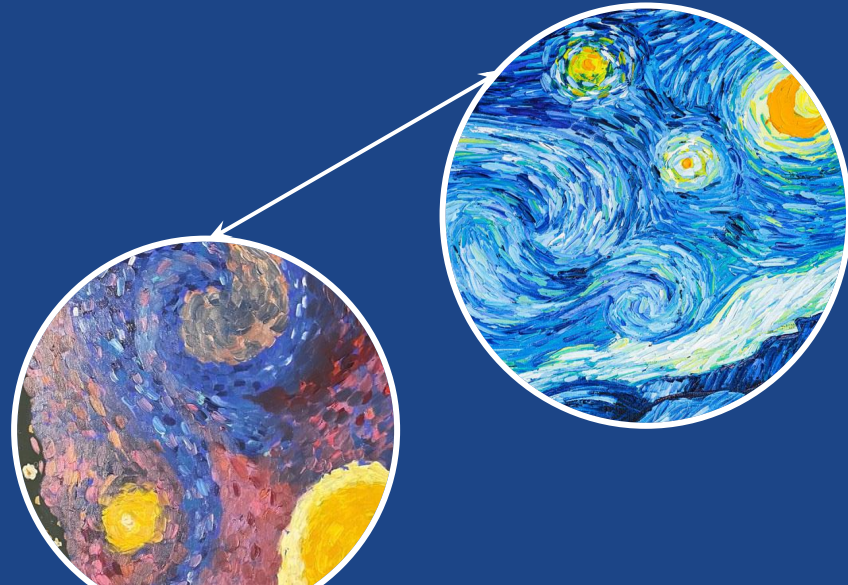


My Oil Painting done on Canvas is meant to depict my imaginations. When I'm under a lot of stress, I tend to daydream a lot to sort of as a way to cope with my intense and stressful emotions. When doing this, I usually imagine myself in a huge field of flowers with a sky similar to the 'Starry Night' by Vincent Van Gogh. In my painting, I pretty much painted out a visual representation of what the setting of my daydreams look like, the daydream helps calm down because I feel at peace in it. The only part of my painting that I was incorporating Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' was primarily only the sky. As we can see, in Van Gogh's painting he was able to create lots of movement as well as motion to really depict a abstract sky with many hues of different blues and baby blues. That was my primary focus for my painting. To depict this, I sketched out the movement that Van Gogh has in his to replicate into my painting. Besides the sky, I knew I wanted to create a large field of grass as well as some flowers. I wanted to create my entire painting with the same texture as Van Gogh has, due to this I understood that I would have to use oil paints instead of acrylics, that way my painting would look more 'Alive.' with more evident motion.



Artistic Inspiration

My main source of inspiration behind my painting was Vincent Van Gogh, more specifically his very famous painting 'The Starry Night'. The motion and movement that Van Gogh painted in the sky of 'Starry Night' correlates to the imagination that I have about his painting. When I day dream, I envision the sky with so much movement and texture similar to his 'Starry Night' painting. I used this part of his artwork to create the sky filled with many different shades of hues of blues, reds, yellows, purples and even some gold as well. Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" holds a very similar meaning as my painting initially has, such as the theme regarding sadness and depression as well, but also the beauty of the sky, and how he finds comfort in the night sky. Van Gogh painted this piece while being in a mental asylum, he peered through his window and found genuine contentedness and comfort in viewing the night sky, motivating him to paint the famous piece, "The Starry Night". From this, I wanted to paint my own version of Starry Night, so I painted a field of flowers, with a very similar sky to Van Gogh's since I find comfort in daydreaming of being in a field of flowers, under a beautiful starry night sky, inclusion with more colors instead of just blues like Van Gogh used, the colors for my sky are dependent on my emotions, angry being red, sad being blue, so on and so forth.



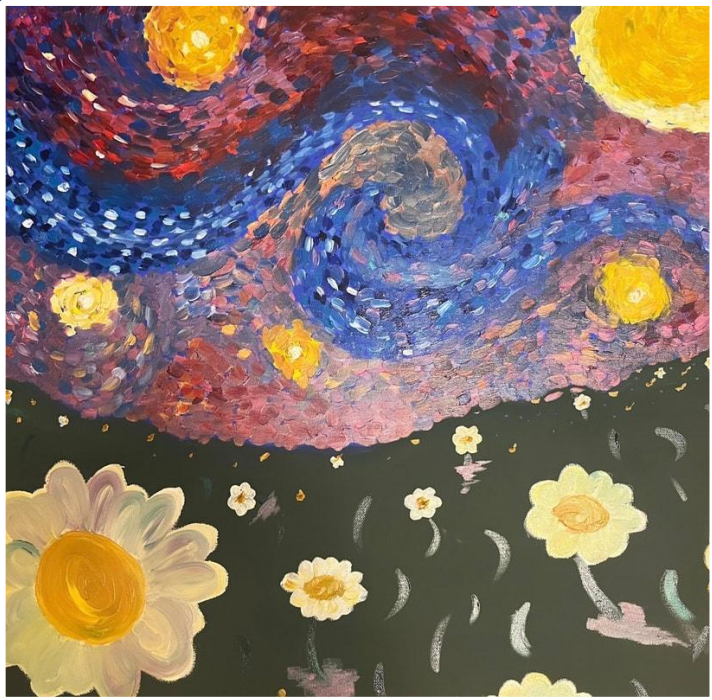
Experimentation & Manipulation



Beginning my process, I sincerely analyzed Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' I paid attention to his details as well as his brushstrokes, and how he uses his brushstrokes to create movement throughout the entirety of his painting. I began by planning out what acrylic paints I'd use. Instead of creating the whole sky with different hues of blues and whites, I decided to mix some other vibrant and intense colors into it as well, such as some hues of reds, yellows, and even some intense purples. I did this primarily to convey the different waves of emotions that I go through during my daydreams. I wanted the sky to represent my internal feelings of; anger, frustrations, and sadness. I was able to accurately convey those emotions in the sky of my painting. I did this by using a very thin and small brush to create the individual lines to create the motion of the sky, similar to the 'Starry Night.' After doing so, I then proceeded to create some daisies. I am very fond of daisy's and I absolutely love them. When I'm daydreaming, I envision a field of many daisies. For me, daisies symbolize joy and happiness, they remind me of happy times as well which is why I tend to imagine myself in them! I was focusing more so on perspective, I wanted to create some big flowers to have the viewer perceive themselves close to a flower, from that flower I then gradually created smaller and smaller flowers to show distance. Finishing the daisies, I then created a sort of highlight to show how the sky is sort of reflecting off of the flowers.

Reflection on Acquisition Skills

Some similarities we can notice is that when viewing my artwork, we can automatically notice that the style is extremely similar to Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' we can notice this due to the same motion I was able to create especially with the small brushstrokes I did. The brushstrokes I made are highly similar to his own brushstrokes. He made individual lines to create those waves of motion. We can also notice another similarity of the stars I painted. In Van Gogh's we notice that his stars are circles and have different hues of yellows on the perimeter of each star. I took note of this and did the same thing for my own painting, that way viewers can recognize that my inspiration was Vincent Van Gogh. Some differences we can notice straight away is the field of flowers I created. I made the field of flowers a very different texture and motion than the sky I painted. I didn't use individual strokes of paints to create any movement. I actually used a flared brush to create the roundness of the petals of the daisies. Looking back at the sky, we can notice that I also used very different colors than Van Gogh used for his sky. Van Gogh only used different hues of blues and whites. For me, in my painting I only used different shades of reds, yellows and some intense shades of purple as well and those colors are only meant to depict my frustrations as well as my sadness. Overall, doing this project was very interesting, I believe I did a good job at being able to convey my own daydream into a painting on canvas. It was hard trying to find an idea of exactly how I should go about conveying my daydream into a physical piece. It was a very hard challenge for me overall, but when viewing Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' I automatically got the idea that I should actually convey my emotions through the waves Van Gogh made in his sky. Since, my emotions come in huge rushes of waves, I knew that I would be able to depict that through the waves Van Gogh created in his sky. The only thing I'd have to alter is the setting (making it into a field of flowers) and the colors in the sky (using different colors of intense reds, oranges, yellows along with some touches of purples and pinks as well.)



Development of Initial Ideas

Overall for this piece, it has two meanings behind it; self growth and Childhood Trauma. For others, it may be specifically from inner challenges but in my case, it's more of a self growth from Trauma. The reason why I chose flowers as a way to convey this message is because each flower I made out of cardboard has a very specific symbolism and meaning behind them.

White Roses: Represent new beginnings and youthfulness.

Red Roses: represent love and courage.

Daffodils: represent a rebirth, new beginnings.

I chose to use these flowers all together into one bouquet due to their strong symbolism and the meaning behind them. I am trying to have a new beginning of self growth within myself to have the courage and strength of self love to move past my childhood trauma. Having these flowers all together in one bouquet is kind of representing how I need to have courage, self love, a new beginning, in order to grow as a person. I can't have one without the other, so I made them all together.

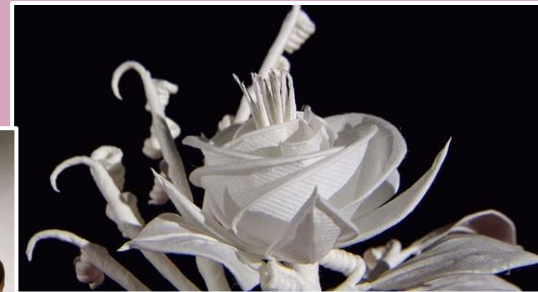
Artistic Inspiration

Arnold Drake World

Arnold Drake World has been making paper morning glories, calla lilies, roses, and other flowers from premium quality paper napkins. Although, he makes his flowers out of napkins instead of cardboard, using corrugated cardboard and peeling the outer layer off is sort of like a very very thin paper, which could be very similar to what Arnold Drake uses to make his flowers as well. He was my first inspiration when I began looking for an idea as to what I should make for my cardboard piece. Seeing his work and what he can do with napkins alone highly motivated me in believing in myself to work with cardboard the same way and make is very similar to normal flowers.

Chris Gilmour

Chris Gilmour is a famous cardboard artist, his cardboard sculpture are more geometric and they usually consist of popular manufactured goods recognizable by the average person. It is also notable that Gilmour uses colored cardboard or paints the final piece to complete the transformation from a piece of cardboard to a finished product. I used him as one of my major inspirations because I was more focused on how he really constructed his artwork and how I would be able to construct my sculpture in the same way as his art. Using Chris Gilmour as a source of inspiration for my cardboard project helped me greatly after I was done with my project due to the fact I was able to really compare my clean cuts and structure of my cardboard to how he cleanly cuts and designed his cardboard as well.



Experimentation & Manipulation

Firstly, my overall background plan was to, of course, create some large, oversize flowers! Not only because I love flowers, but because for me flowers are something I almost always have in my day to day life. Flowers hold a very specific and true meaning behind them, and I believe in those meanings they really correlate to my life and my feelings. I decided to do 2 Roses and one Daffodil. Red Roses signify courage and love. Daffodils signify new beginnings and hope. I chose these two specific flowers because I wanted my flowers to overall represent growing from past traumas. Fighting through those past hardships and becoming a new and happier person, Loving yourself, having the courage to fight through past trauma and knowing that you can have a new beginning and have hope to move past that and not let it put you down nor define you for the rest of your life. For my sketches, I had to deeply analyze these specific flowers and decide as to how I can really make these flowers look as similar to the real flowers as I possibly could. I began to really focus on the individual petals themselves because that's where most of the detail is, the curve of the petal, how delicate the petal seems. I focused on those main aspects and decided the shape to use for each petal and flower and used that on my cardboard to eventually cut out and duplicate. I gathered my cardboard pieces for each individual flower and began to make every single petal, trace it and cut it out. I overlapped them, and sort of curved them to really make them have the same structure as real petals on roses and flowers. For both of my main roses, I decided to do the same process of tracing one petal and then cutting those pieces out, curving them and creating a rose by overlapping and gluing the petals together like I wanted them to be. After completing the two main roses, I then wanted to begin working on my Daffodil. The Daffodil was a bit challenging, especially because I didn't really know how I would be able to create the Daffodil the same way a Daffodil really looks like so I began to just try my best to get it as precisely accurate as I really could.



Reflection on Acquisition Skills

Overall, I highly enjoyed this project. This had to be one of my most favorite projects that I have done so far. I enjoyed collecting colorful cardboard, creating the flowers, examining the petals and figuring out how I can convey this with cardboard. Although, I did face some really big challenges throughout this project. I had some hard times trying to figure out how I can get more colored cardboard, I didn't really gather enough. Since I didn't have enough colored cardboard I had to resort to using regular brown cardboard. It really ruined my process of trying to figure out how I can correctly make my flowers since I didn't have the proper colors I needed to make my colored flowers. Another challenge I faced was trying to correctly make the petals as closely related to real petals. Most of the petals were curved and it was highly difficult to do that, but I did try my best. Despite my challenges when making this project, I overall enjoyed it and I had a new experience working with cardboard. I've never worked with cardboard in my life nor made any sculptures with cardboard and I highly enjoyed it a lot.

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