

The Art in Me

60.96cm x 91.44cm

Digital Collage

September, 2016

For my first use of Photoshop ever; I decided to use a lot of experimenting with the tools, and just overall create something I found resembled the work of Peter Max, while still adding my own elements and not doing exactly what he did in his pieces. In my work, I decide to try and use that same idea of “using color for emphasis on the subject of the piece”, but in a slightly different style. I wanted to express the feelings of the artistic side of me that you don’t really see on the outside.

The Good

15.24cm x 22.86cm

Ink on Paper

October, 2016

Block Print is another first of mine; I attempted to make this something with more of a meaning than my digital collage. I focused mainly on just having a meaning, while still trying to make it visually appealing. To do this, and because of the extreme similarity of the two, I decided to sort of connect my Block Print and Dry Point. I used the Creation of Adam as inspiration help connect the two. The Good focuses on the good side (nature) of the overall message of man vs nature and mankind's effect on the world.

The Bad

12.7cm x 17.78cm

Ink on Paper

November, 2016

Just like my Block Print and my Digital Collage, Dry Point was a first for me, I have never even heard of dry point before this project. I mentioned in my Block Print how I wanted to have the two pieces (block print and dry point) have a connection or a shared theme. I really liked this idea of “Man vs Nature”. I knew that with the Dry Point it would turn out a lot darker with the ink, this drove me to use this side to represent the bad (mankind). The main focus is the greatly damaging effects against nature.

Self Portrait I

91cm x 91cm

Acrylic on Canvas

December 2016

With the self portrait I attempted to use "liquid-like" swirls and loops to give off a sense of continuity much like Nikos Gyftakis does in his work. The fluid motion of the swirls is supposed to represent the emotion behind the face and the restriction of using solid or straight lines will also deliver the continuity/emotion theme. I tried to use colors that you would actually see on a face and not add any additional colors for any other reason, to me this would keep the painting a bit more surreal.

Feelings

30.48cm x 60.96cm

Acrylic on Canvas

February, 2017

Feelings is a series that focuses on the presence of feelings within the body, but instead on the outside. The dripping paint along with their color represent the emotions of that subject. For example; dripping pink along the torso would be lust, the green and blue along the legs would be fatigued, the multiple colors along the neck would be confused. These colors aren't directly or obviously pointed out in the piece itself, allowing the viewer to think and have their own interpretations.

Madness

12.34cm x 20.32cm

Digital Illustration made on Photoshop

August, 2017

For the beginning image I purposely tried to get a dull color that would blend into a dull orange to create the tone of depressed or sadness, this dull orange transitions into an energetic and furious orange to red gradient which then plays into a "mad/crazy" red to a calmer pink. This was for the image to be easier to look at, which is important because the piece tells a story. It's about the effects of stress and work dropped onto students all of the world and the things that result from all of it. I used myself as the subject to make it more personal.

Men Don't Cry

47.74cm x 23.89cm

Digital Painting made on Photoshop

October, 2017

As a lot of men might know from experience; we've been told all the time that because we're men we don't cry, that if we cry we're not a "real" man. This inspired me to digitally paint an image that is commonly a sad or cry worthy scene/event, although instead of seeing the men's crying faces you see a big block that just says "MEN DON'T CRY" on every man. Just as Banksy puts the message in the open when emphasis I too used that same concept and placed the words out there in the open. The blocks show how the men in this image would be emotionless just as a man would be if he never cried just because he is "real" man. The variety of skin tones and height are my attempt at making the piece relatable to all men and not just one group.

Gabriell Suarez del Real

121.92cm x 91.44cm

Acrylic on Canvas

November, 2017

Gabriell Suarez del Real is a simple but highly detailed self portrait, inspired by the photo-realistic paintings of Chuck Close. The use of details help make the piece more realistic and engaging. The black and white monochromatic theme plays along with the almost obvious flaws. The flaws that would be considered to make someone "unattractive" or "not beautiful" like the messy and frizzy out of place hair, the thin and uneven eyebrows, not perfectly straight teeth, and even the sloppy/irregular facial hair. These are all flaws that Close would continue to throw out in the wide open to bring attention to and show natural beauty in his subjects even with all the flaws.

It Helps

60.96cm x 121.9cm

Oil Paint on Canvas

November, 2017

With the obvious connection to Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam*, you can see one hand reaching out to another hand holding a syringe. The syringe is a largely recognized for drug use, so I decided to use the syringe and bloody/bruised up hands show the results of drug abuse and shared needles. The similarity with the hands in *Creation of Adam* in terms of the laziness aspect show that the drug abuse was most likely in an attempt of coping, coping with personal struggles. You see the bruises and cut on BOTH hands to see how the people who abuse drugs share similar pains and scars that lead them to the unhealthy coping method.

Not Bad

152.4cm x 25.4cm

Digital Painting made on Photoshop
December, 2017

This is a piece that is all about the brutal and unfair crimes against people of color that are extremely overlooked. They still happen to this current day. The piece shows five men that were hung for crimes, four signs read “guilty” while the other reads “innocent”. The one who is innocent is of course the only one of color in the piece as well. The reason they are all hung in front of a wall with the light on them is to make it more local, which it is. I added street art to the walls behind them to emphasize this as well.

Pretty

30.48cm x 91.44cm
Acrylic Paint on Canvas
February, 2018

This is my final piece of my senior year and I decided to go back to one of my favorite techniques that I used in junior year (the dripping paint). The final product of the piece is not what I was going for in the beginning. I originally intended on having multiple hands at the top of the canvas and they were all going to be reaching down and have paint dripping of their fingers that would fall gently on the petals of the flower. I changed this to being just one hand, and then changed it again to the black nothing. The hands were meant to show the damage of man vs nature, this transitioned into just being about damage and ruining something that is generally “pretty”. The final product of this piece is all about that, about the damage on beautiful things.