

Process Portfolio

Cultural Inspiration and Investigation

The culture in which I was inspired by for my piece "White Dress", was the Japanese Shiro Rori, otherwise known as the white Lolita. The Lolita street fashion is a subculture in Japan that is known for its intricate Victorian designs and doll-like appearance on women. Lolita fashion and cosplays has expanded to national and international fame, and is not limited to just women, men can dress up as lolitas too. Outfits can be simplistic (casual lolita) or complicated. All Lolitas, no matter what category they pertain to, acquire certain characteristics, such as accessories, embellishments, ruffled skirts, and doll like makeup. There is some tension in the lolita fashion because some consider Lolita of encouraging things such as pedophilia and sexualizing young girls. Real Lolitas do not wish to be perceived as 'sexy' and do not wish to emulate little girls. Rather, the real reason is that Lolitas want people to look at them as cute or elegant.



Photo of
Shiro
Rori

"Shiro Lolita -
Page 2."
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Artistic Inspiration



Shiro rori Cosplayer

~*, Miih-chan. "06/27/12." *Made In Japan*, 1 Jan. 1970, madeinjapanx.blogspot.com/2012_06_27_archive.html.

Development of Ideas

Lolita Anatomy

Hair & Makeup
Hair is meant to look child like with over the top curls or straight hair if it is accessorized well. Makeup accentuates the eyes and eyelashes. The makeup should make the face look fair and childlike.

Accessories
Headwear contains a combination of bows, clips, barrettes, and hats. Less is worn with casual lolitas. There are also other accessories, like props used to give it a more lolita theme. Chokers are commonly seen as well.

Bell-shaped skirts
Skirts can be of long length or short. They are built through multiple layers of fabric, some of which can be used to give it more volume. The skirt is accompanied by accessories like bows, bells, clips, or other objects.

Socks
Socks can be of high length to be seen. Typically, they have layers of ruffled edges and can be worn fitted, knee high, or thigh high.

Shoes
Shoes are typically worn as bulky heels or Mary-janes.

Blouse
Blouses are used to highlight the Victorian theme. They contain ruffle trims and fluffy sleeves, especially by the shoulders.

Bloomers
These can be lace or satin bloomers or Petticoats. They are shorts or skirts used as an undergarment but meant to be seen. This adds to the child-like look.

This is a generalization of what lolita fashion is like. Keep in Mind there are many different styles. The basis of lolita fashion is to mimic Victorian style child dresses with an abundance in layers and accessories to look cute, cool, elegant, or all three.

Process and Experimentation

The photos on the right shows the first step of sewing the skirt, while the second photo shows the rest of the materials needed to sew the white dress together.



The photograph on the left shows how experimented with different stitching settings and tenses of the string on fabric when trying the sewing machine.



Idea Development



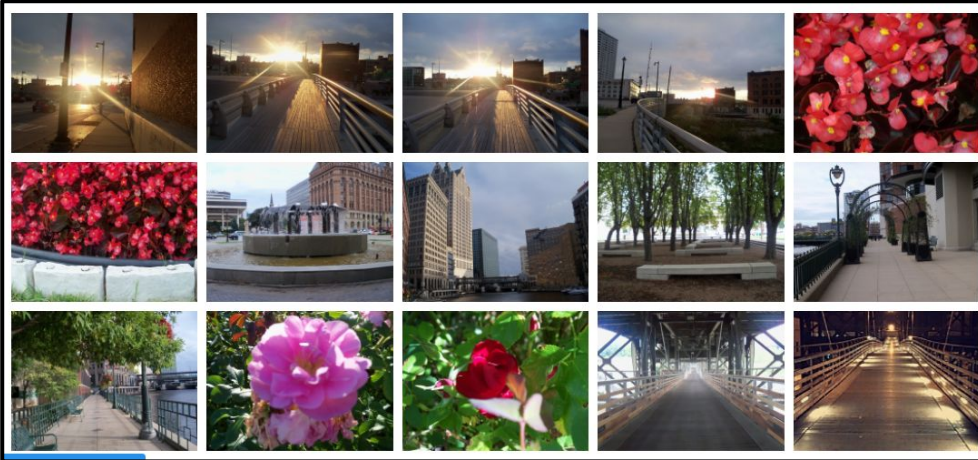
Robert Longo is my artist inspiration, specifically his series of "Men in the cities" created in 1979. He is a contemporary artist who has been fascinated with pop culture. This fascination has influenced his art greatly, heading into propaganda and transforming commercial and cinematic images into high impact billboard sized paintings and charcoal drawings. First, he took photographs of his subjects, and then he reproduced the image using the paint or charcoal. "Men in the Cities" was specifically created to project the violence of the city during the night. He did this through displaying the city through finely dressed people, people with class. The battle was portrayed through stop motion photo-like pieces. The positions are found to be in incredible, awkward, and almost impossible looking positions. However, the more you look at the piece, the less of a shock it becomes. This is the basis to my piece "Illness and Bliss of Innocence" which discusses the battle that my younger brother has with Autism and people.

Experimentation and Technique - Camera

I experimented with photographing landscape, scenery, and plants for "Illness and Bliss of Innocence. I experimented with things like lighting, angle, clarity, focus on subject, composition, space, and movement.



In thinking about photographing people. This was most difficult because of so many variables that needed to be taken into account. I used teachers that I considered were important to me, myself, my best friend, and my brother in awkward positions. First, it was specified how I wanted bodies to be positioned, but as I kept working, it seemed to be better if the contortions happened naturally and were instead photographed at that point in time.



Process and Technique- Photoshop

1 I was playing with different backgrounds and decided to stick with the flower background to represent myself.

2 I played with the direction that my brother was facing. I liked him opened on the right more than to the left. I kept him in the center to emphasize the fact that he is the central motivation and inspiration of my world.

3 These layers show the two directions. The first one of my brother is on the bottom. It is the original. The one above it is the mirrored image

4 Here I began to play around with the idea of putting the background in black and white. This seemed to be close to what Longo did, keeping it in black in white. I did this using an adjustment black and white layer as seen on the right. I had intensified and dulled the white and black layers through adjusting the blues, red, yellow, and green scales.

5 I liked the fact that my brother was kept in color in front of the dullness. This was when I had the idea of having color spills from points in which he seemed to have contact with the background. I selected these areas and copied them with color onto a layer above the background layer. This would show the colored area on top of gray. So that the copy wouldn't be obvious, I feathered it out, smoothed it, and shifted the edge.

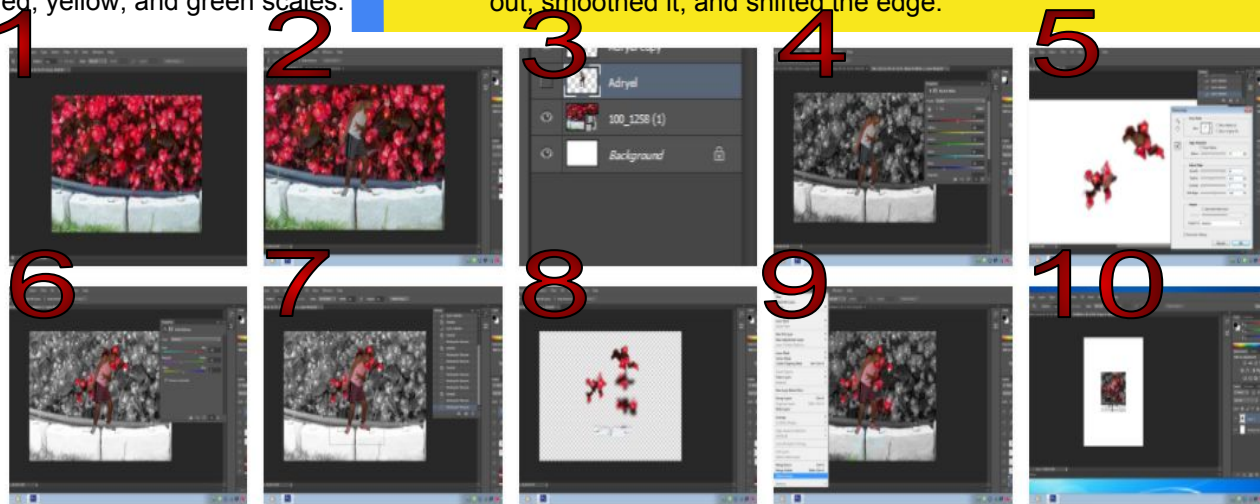
6 Here I decided that because his clothing contained the same tones as the gray background, so i used a color balance adjustment layer to add color to the clothing. I chose soft pinks in order for the viewer to infer he is spilling the red onto the flowers.

7 I felt that there was too much information in the piece to absorb that wasn't necessary, so I cropped it for a better grasp of what was going on.

8 After viewing the piece, I noticed that it was losing the idea of color being absorbed. There were more points in which he was "coming into contact" with the background. I selected the other areas that I wanted to display the color spill, and followed the same process.

9 I flattened the image. This would make it easier for me to copy and would take less space when I copy and place it. After I did this I would go back and undo it so that i can have my individual layers again in case I want to change or edit.

10 I copied the final and opened a new document and pasted. From there, I pressed ctrl t, and then pressed shift so that the image would keep its proportions. I dragged the edge to the end of the digital canvas and then saved.



Reflection

As for the process, it was difficult trying to adjust to Photoshop. I feel that with this piece, I learned a lot. There was too much information going on within the piece. Longo taught me that there is lots of meaning even behind the simplest looking pieces. They carry a lot of power in the most simplistic and elegant ways. Looking back at my piece, I really liked how it turned out. I wouldn't change anything. I feel that what I'm trying to convey is very visible. My intentions were to have the white bricks symbolize purity. In knowing this, you now understand that he stands on purity and innocence, which is a good thing if you have to deal with things like not being able to communicate or have people understand you, bullying, and having adjustments made so you can do things. The comfort clothing is his free spirit, light-heartedness, and his comfortably. The dull flowers represent life. They also represent my life and myself in general. The color being spilled and absorbed into the flower show how he adds vibrancy into my life. The contortion conveys the emotional, physical, and social battles he faces everyday. The position is almost comfortable looking, which would display how he is used to it and how he has survived and been able to enjoy his everyday life despite the battle he has with his disability. The reason he is centered is because he is the center of my universe, my motivation to move forward, and my hero. Overall, I'm very content with my piece. However, it would be interesting to do a series of different subjects and in different places.

Critique

Longo had inspired my piece in many ways. There is a strong connection with my artist. composition of my piece is centered much like Longos The subjects we chose are all in awkward body contortions. The head is tilt back and the arms are visible, much like the single figure 1979 piece up above. They both look like they're dancing and it brings that touch of beauty into both pieces. Both pieces display a personal battle and the emotions that they carry because of it.

However, differences are quite visible. Our subjects and the way they dress are very different. I wanted it to be a bit more light-hearted and innocent, which is why I kept him in comfortable clothes and socks True, the positions of the figures are very different, but with my piece the feet are facing out towards "life" and the viewer in an inviting way. The way he leans back contradicts the invite, which plays into that symbolic both social and personal battle, which with Longo, he displayed the violence in a city, not an illness. My background is obviously not plain white. Its a separate photograph with black and gray tones. My subject is in color, unlike Longo. The mediums are also different. He did photograph first, but then he reproduced the image by using charcoal.

Experimentations with Different Mediums



Lead

vs.



Water-based Ink



Plastic



Paper Mache
CDs, Eggs, Glue



Wood, Plastic plants,
Rubber Dragon, Glue,
Photograph,

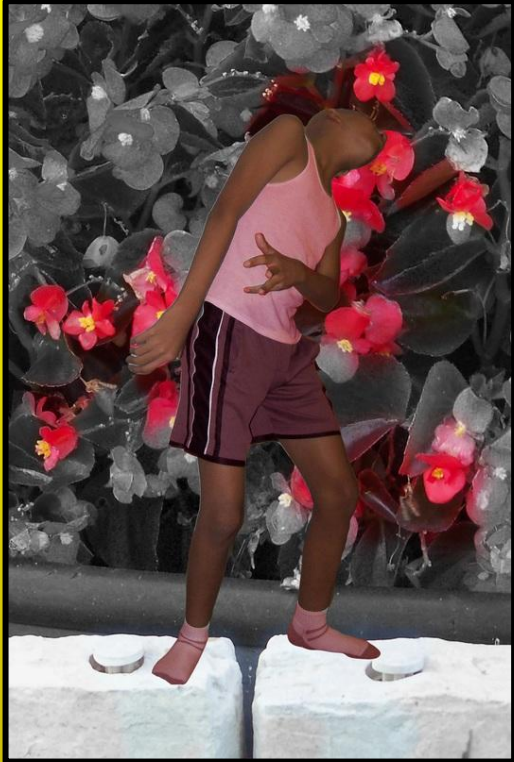


Rocks, Glue, Sand, Moss, Toothpicks,
Paper, Dried plants, Thread



Charcoal, Acrylic, Hairspray

Connecting to ACT



Clearly explain how you are able to identify the cause and effect relationships between your inspiration and its effect upon your artwork.

Longo influenced my piece somewhat. I mostly mimicked capturing body movement at awkward moments.

What was the overall approach (point of view) the author (from your research) has regarding the topics of your inspiration?

Longo views the city at night as pure mayhem of violence. In a way, its chaos is beautiful, and so he uses the body contortions to depict it.

What kinds of generalizations and conclusions have you discovered about people, ideas, cultures, etc. while you researched your inspiration?

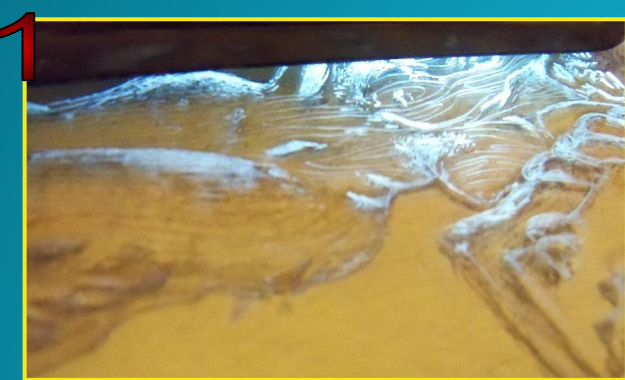
New York during this time was practicing different forms of propaganda due to the invention of the better camera. New York also at the time had carried a lot of violence, which was the central subject for Longo's series.

What was the central idea or theme around your inspirational research?

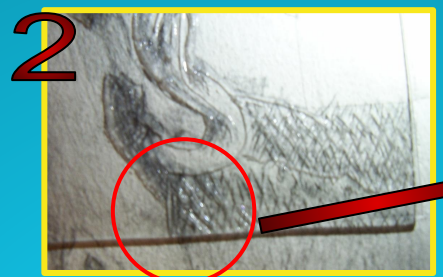
Movement that could portray feelings was something that I really wanted to convey in a single snapshot like Longo did. I wanted to show both sides, the negative and the positive.

What kind of inferences (conclusions reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning) did you make while reading your research?

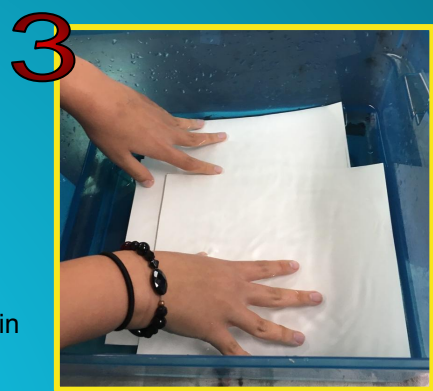
I felt that Longo had been mesmerized and had an obsession with capturing the capability of the human body at awkward angles and in movement. I believe that the seemingly inhuman contortions must have fascinated him because of how many photographs and charcoal drawings he created without even titling most. He created them at a large scale so that others would be mesmerized by it too at first, but the more you look at it the less remarkable it becomes, and feel as though he almost intends for that to happen.



1 I first carved out her face using cross-hatching and stippling. Then I carved grooves into her that would give a better illusion at how parts of her seemed curving. This is shown easily using a cellphone light, through light being absorbed by scratches.



2 I layered pointed ends to create wide looking grass that could easily be made to look as id there was more grass in certain spots.



3 Before printing, paper needs to be moist in order for the print to be transferable, so I placed the watercolor paper into a bin of water, and let it soak for five to eight minutes. Afterwards, I placed it on a rag and wiped off excess water.

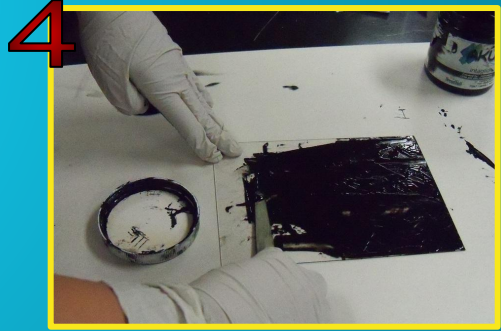
Process & Technique



6 Newsprint was folded in half, and on the inside was the water color paper with the plastic plate carefully placed on top of it. All of this was in between the wood board and the rubber slab. I cranked the lever in one direction until the whole thing went through the other side of the press.



5 I wiped the ink off in places that had too much ink and left more ink on parts that needed it. I did this until my scratches were dark and my empty spaces were left without any ink to the best of my ability.



4 I placed newsprint underneath the plastic plate. This would be easy clean up for the ink mess because it's thick and stains. Using a pallet knife, I put a small dip of it and smeared it across the plate, including corners, evenly.

Investigation and Ideas

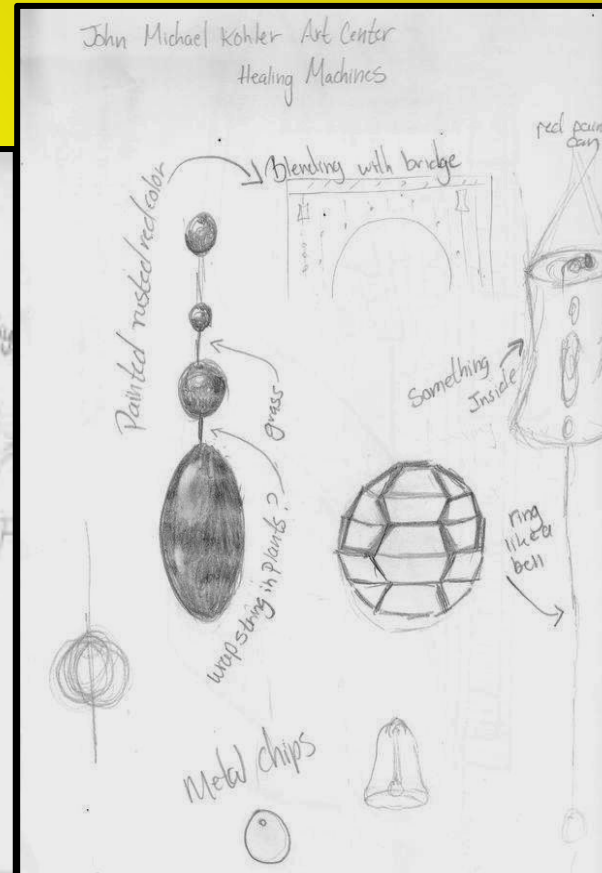
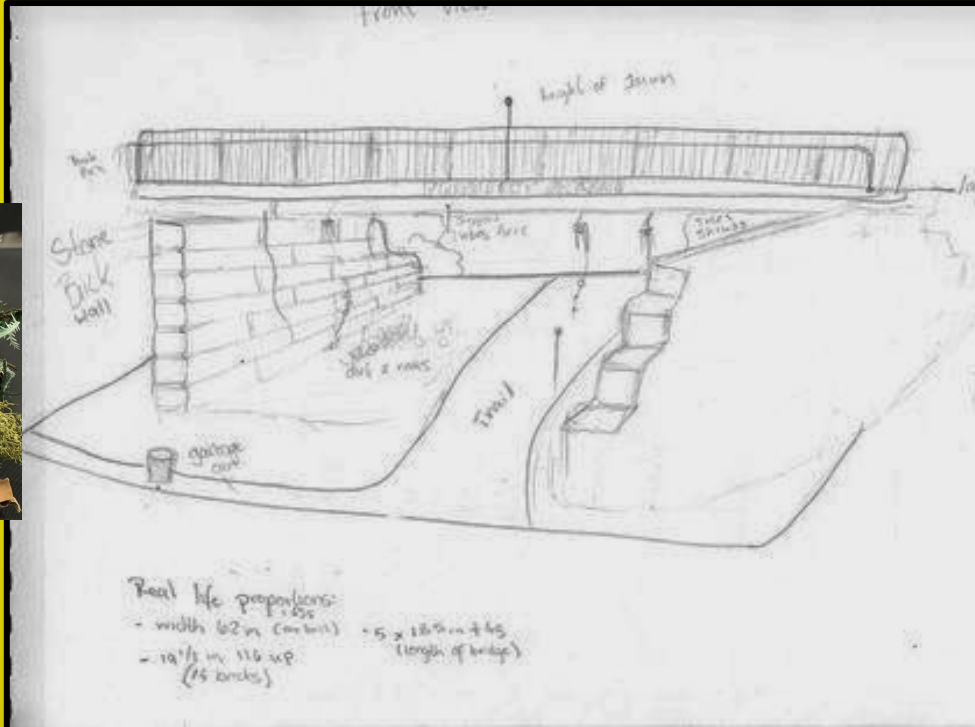
Emery Blagdon created complex assemblages of found objects and bent wires that created intricate shapes. Blagdon constructed wire armatures and attached a variety of things to them, including tin foil, jars filled with variously colored material and brightly colored beads. In some cases he wrapped wood armatures with copper wire and affixed cut tin foil to them with nails. He made other objects that resembled mobiles, with various linear elements hanging from a horizontal armature, attached to the ceiling by wire. He hung various amounts of these sculptures in hope to gather as much of this energy to cure illnesses. Although it wasn't Blagdon's intention, a number of pieces in which he limited himself to wire and wire-like structures functioned like drawings in space. It contained a repetitive pattern and sort of scribble to the organic shape itself. This sculpture was made of baling wire and aluminum foil. He would sometimes use brightly colored paintings, hand-painted lightbulbs, salts, and other organic matter. Blagdon worked for nearly thirty years on this constantly changing installation called "The Healing Machine" which was inside the tiny shed he lived in. His intent was to contain, concentrate, and channel the earth's energies to alleviate pain and illnesses.



I also went to the location to take measurements and reference photos for accuracy.

Ideas and Intentions

This is when I came up with the idea of helping people tune into the land. I propose to place wind chimes that will suspend from the bottom of the bridge. They will not be distracting or overpower the land, but will be used as a way of heightening the experience. The sound that the trinkets make will be caused by the soft wind or the vehicles passing above the bridge. This will draw them out and catch the attention of those passing through. In continuing to listen for them they will soon hear other things like birds. The high pitched trinket noises gives a very spiritual sense allowing for visitors to open themselves to other senses and take in the areas' majesty. This will provide a peaceful, calm, and healing experience that will attract more people



Ideas and Intentions

Frank Gehry inspired an abstract whimsical dream landscape or journey created through elegant curves and space relation. The walls are to embrace the lake by leading into it and letting people sit atop its wall or taking in the lakes beauty where water meets land. Walls let the person choose between two paths that bleed together through a portal and in end embrace the place of the lake view. The structure embodies the journey someone must endure in order to reach a peaceful and beautiful place. It's also symbolizes the difference between close minded and open mindedness of people. The third meaning would be the decisions in life can guide you to a certain place if you decide to keep moving forward.

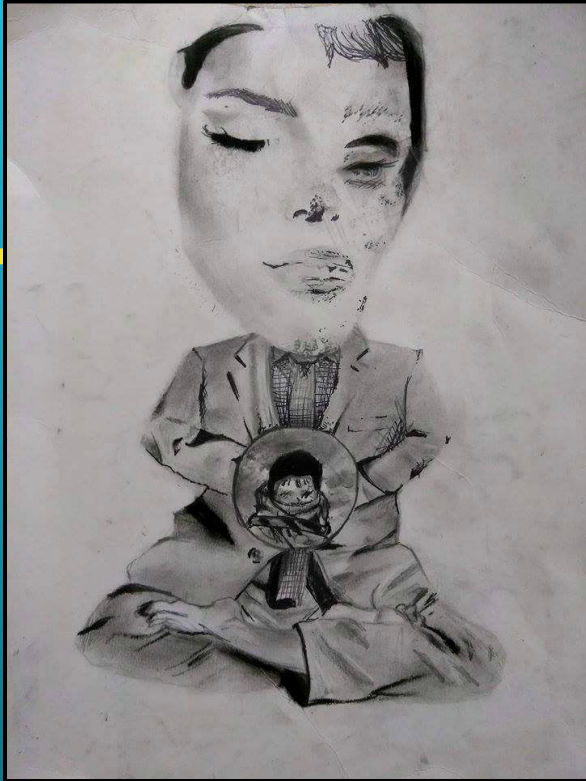
The architectural structures creates a relationship between the viewer, the lake, and the walls themselves. In constraining the viewer through walking through walls that are placed together, and then opening up, the viewer can take in the lake.

Through entering, the viewer experiences a sense of claustrophobia, going from openness and then to a closed in space. The person then is guided to an openness to experience the grandiose of the lake and should feel a sense of vast openness and bliss.

The structure of the wall recreates a whimsical dream landscape or journey, through elegant curves and space relation.



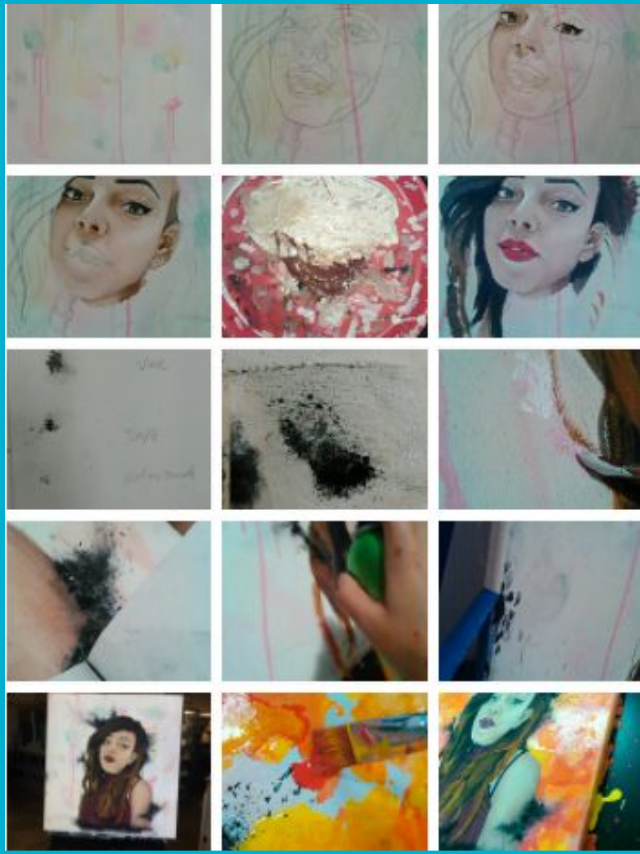
Exploration of Mediums and Techniques



This piece is a reflection on the political issue of abortion. It is a gray area in our society that sparks up much debate. This piece addresses both sides of being pro-life or pro-choice. The right side of the female head is pro-life and the left is pro-choice. I was inspired by Niki Johnson's approach to political issues and Romare Bearden's art style of photographic collage. I used a combination of photographs and glued them together. Afterwards, I used different mediums to recreate the image. These mediums were lead, charcoal, pen, and sharpie. With use of these different mediums, there were also different techniques used such as blending, cross hatching, and stippling, all to create different textures and line weights.

Skills, Techniques, and Processes

At first, I worked on color and the effect it would have with my painting. At first I chose very diluted, pastel looking colors, but went with more brash colors. Then I decided on the combination of different mediums and how to use them, such as blending the charcoal and acrylic together. It made it very interesting to work with.

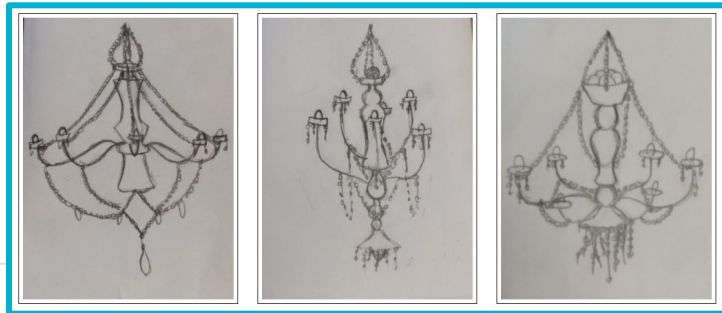


Research

With a focus on observing everyday objects, spaces and histories, local artist Kathryn e. Martin concentrates on formal characteristics, leading her to create her BFA Thesis. She had created tables, each representing a part of Maslow's Hierarchy of needs. She had constructed these tables herself. Often she found forms instinctively, making calculated decisions to dissect, interpret, repeat and re-assemble inspired parts into new, often times immersive sculptural landscapes. This allowed for her to design the space in her BFA Thesis. Each were designed of the same height, and had designed them to be tall so that the average adult would have to peer over like a child. She wanted that humble innocent interaction between the audience and her piece. Each individual table contained a vast amount of different found objects and placed meticulously in an interesting way to help the viewer guess which of Maslow's Hierarchy of needs the table represented.

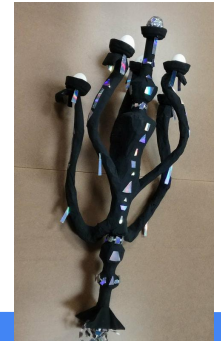


Process



Reflection

It was interesting trying to figure out what medium would be both cost and time efficient, as well as easy to work with. Paper Mache is a bit difficult to work with just because it is layer upon layer of paper. I wished I had been more vigilant in making sure that the paper was applied smoothly. I also wished that the forms I had created had been more symmetrical and not as deformed. I had anticipated this, and tried my best to keep it all as uniform as I possibly could in the amount of time I had. I had also had a lot of trouble with creating the arms. I would make them, but they would prove to be heavy and would break where they had been connected. After my fourth time, I realized that I needed to cross the bends with paper mache in an "x" form, as well as do this on the connected area to add more strength and stability. In terms of aesthetics, for my first attempt in working with something as complicated as a contemporary Victorian style chandelier, I feel pretty confident in my piece. I believe it closely resembles a Victorian chandelier with a contemporary twist. Its message isn't hard to receive. The eggs each represent one of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. This be physiological, safety, love and belonging (I made these separate) , esteem, and self actualization to reach the final stage of transcendence. I chose a chandelier because I felt it was the perfect way to picture a soul. As the chief light fixture in a home, it is a sign of wealth and beauty, and I wanted to present my soul as "wealthy and beautiful" for having these needs. The holographic CD color was meant to mimic the crystal shine of glass reflecting in light, while representing transcendence. The black and white were used as an aesthetic quality, to further add to the Victorian theme, as well as a meaning of elegance and purity.



Critique

The visual components that these pieces hold similar are in its color. I used the black of Chandelier Mori and To Die Upon a Kiss. I had also used similar structure in shape and lines. The structure in similarity to Muer's BFA Thesis, it is constructed to focus on each as an individual. Each arm represents a need. In similarity to Wilson, there are abstract forms such as in its center and similar elegant curves of lines within the arms and the center shape, just as Fred Wilson had used. Negative space creates a sense of proportions as well as gives balance when the chandelier contrasts with things such as white walls. The texture of the chandeliers are all are smooth. Balance is seen within the piece in creating the arms in opposite orders, where the arms fill up the spots in negative space so that they can be seen in all different directions., The emphasis is placed in the arms of the chandeliers to see what they are holding, which is followed by the movement in the curvature of the outline.



Dissimilarities within my inspiration and my piece can be found in the division of colors. The colors are all sectioned off by themselves and do not fade into one another like in To Die Upon a Kiss. I also kept the Victorian swirls minimal as to not overpower the chandelier and keep it simplistic for my taste., Wilson had used a variety of arm lengths and swirls to make his piece much more complex. Muer used different objects to create interesting implied lines. The form of my shape was much more closer together because it was difficult to keep it standing while having the arms farther laid out and apart without breaking. There are many more textures in Muer's BFA Thesis. She uses felt, plastic, rough and smooth texture, while all I used was a smooth surface.. Emphasis, was mostly placed on my one egg at the top, which is supposed to represent transcendence. My individual pieces are unified by repetition of use of items like the CD pieces and the eggs.



Connecting to ACT

Clearly explain how you are able to identify the cause and effect relationships between your inspiration and its effect upon your artwork.

I had created a chandelier based on Fred Wilson's to depict who I was as a person. I was also inspired by Katie Martin Muer by using separate sections that represent each of Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

What was the overall approach (point of view) the author (from your research) has regarding the topics of your inspiration?

Fred Wilson had wanted to use Venetian style and culture and had then used it to speak on race and ethics. Kathryn Martin had wanted adults to be like children, coming up close and personal with each table that represented what humans need.

What kinds of generalizations and conclusions have you discovered about people, ideas, cultures, etc. while you researched your inspiration?

Fred Wilson is a fearful about the past as well as saddened about the fate of society as it continues to expand, not keeping in mind of its history. Katie Martin wanted to raw attention to each component that humans need in their life.

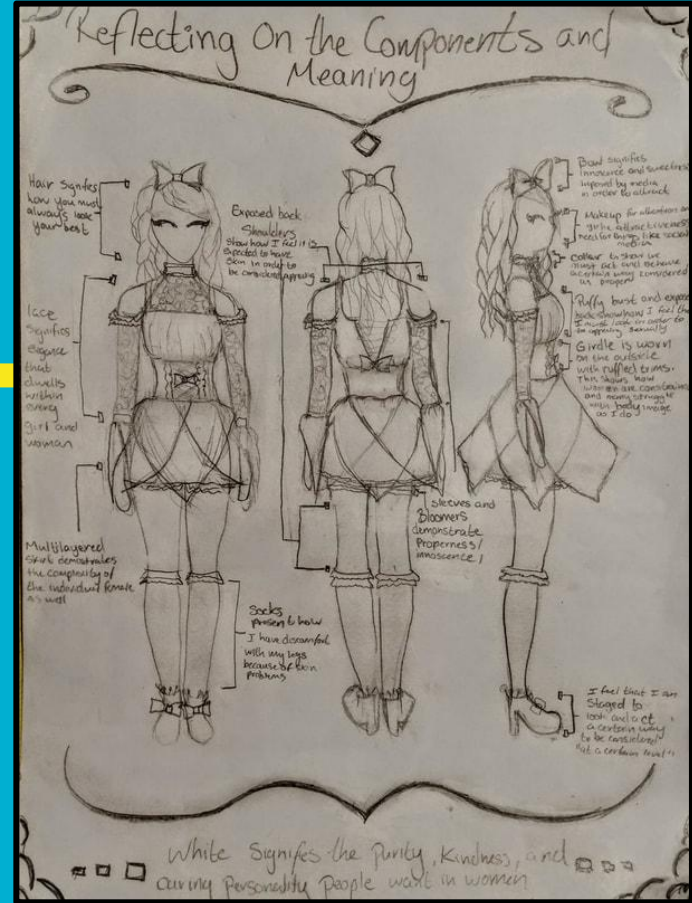
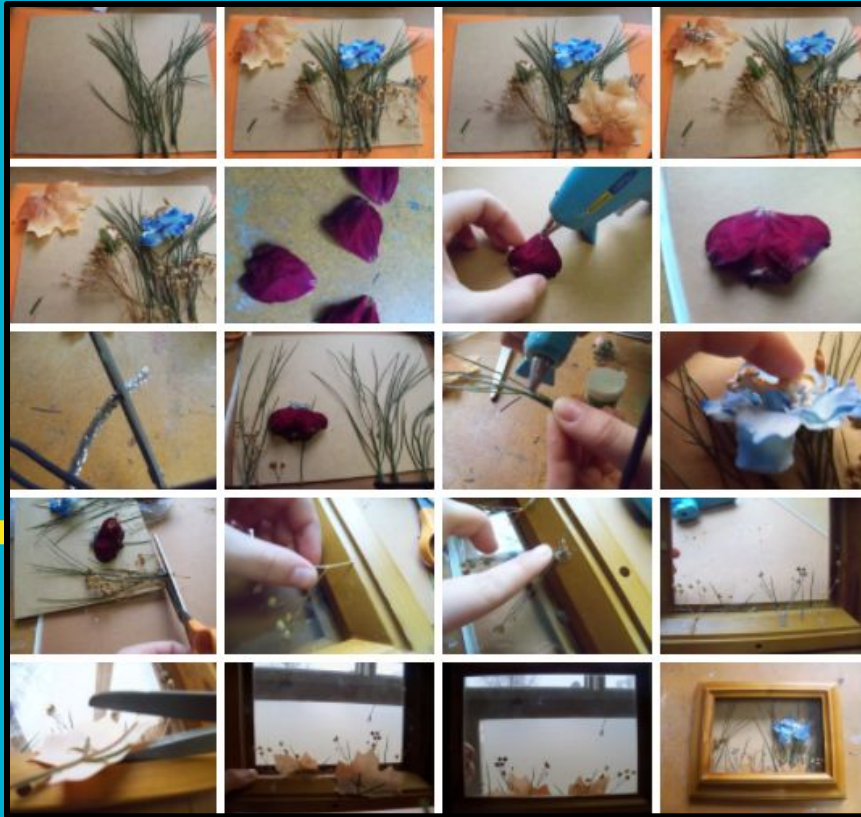
What was the central idea or theme around your inspirational research?

The central Idea around my artist inspiration was understanding self and why I am the way I am. For Wilson, it was history and ethics, but for Muer it was about the hierarchy of needs.

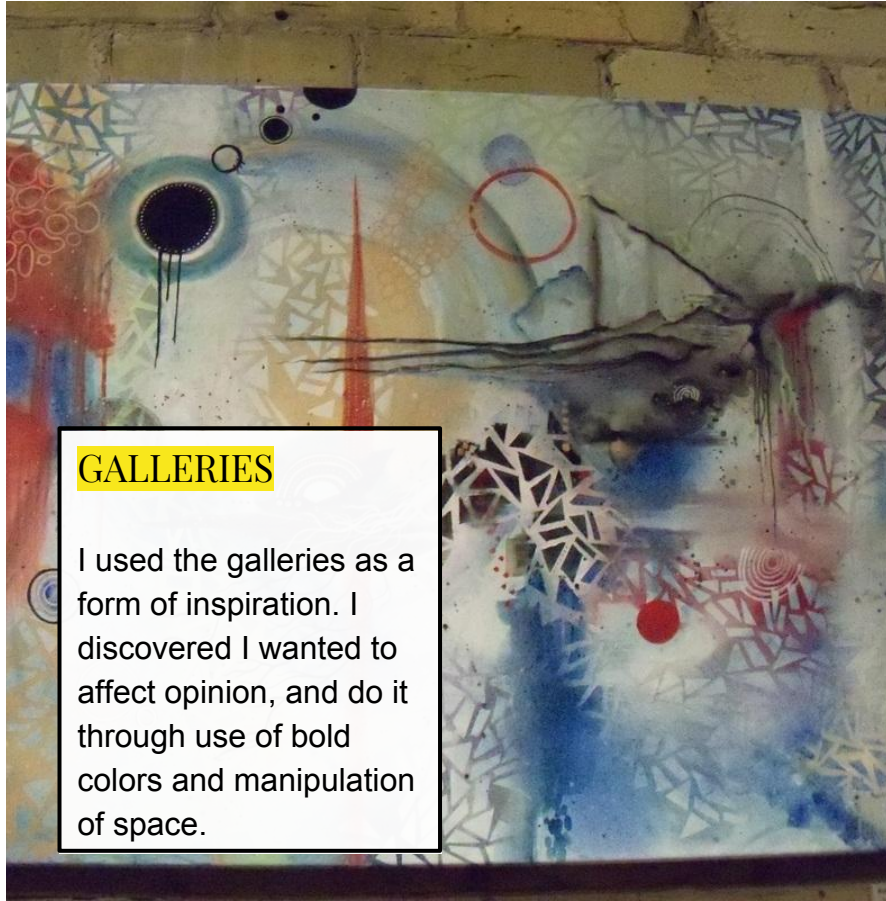
What kind of inferences (conclusions reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning) did you make while reading your research?

I had realized that the self, in order to reach a sense of peace or happiness, it needs certain things. These things are a necessity to all humans, which in turn also helped me objectify myself in order to understand myself more.

Reviewing and Reflecting



Experimentation and Technique



GALLERIES

I used the galleries as a form of inspiration. I discovered I wanted to affect opinion, and do it through use of bold colors and manipulation of space.

