

Practitioner's Statement

Self portrait

Lal uk cung Chin

Selecting the theme of portraiture, I also wanted to include a message in it, a quote from my mother, "Time doesn't wait for people." In order to present this quote, I decided to sketch a grey haired bearded old man with pencils ranging from 9B to B on an A3 sized canvas. For I believe, old people have an attractive and inspiring feature that young ones don't have. Wrinkles, they tell stories of regrets and experiences. However, not being able to find the perfect model, I decided to draw myself instead.

This self-portrait is a statement of my success in the world of art. As a child and refugee, art was always there to ensure that I was happy in any situation and circumstances. Drawing from my imagination and practicing almost every day with knife sharpened pencils on school note books. I believe, this is the best way to present the result of my undying passion and what I learned throughout all these years.

The medium I chose to use were pencils from 9B to B since I've been using them for a long period of time. However, experimenting was an essential part for this project and after having a discussion with my teacher, I tried charcoal as it provides a darker texture.

Since it was my first time using charcoal medium, researches were necessary. Through researching, I became greatly influenced by many known artists such as, Chuck Close, Kim Buck and Oksana Leadbitter who also used charcoal to produce their artworks. I started to get comfortable using charcoal through practices and finally selecting it over the pencil collection for my main medium.

Chuck Close's large artworks are astonishing and the visit at the Light Square gallery also had a significantly impact on me by the sized 1200x1500 mm art works, inspiring me to select a larger canvas.

Along the process of drawing, I struggled starting with charcoal because of its bold and strong texture forcing me to use pencils. The eyes were the hardest part, the concentration and minimization they require were off my capabilities with charcoal leading me to use pencils again. Understanding and measuring the length between the nose and eyes took me quite a while, I finally managed to successfully place the two parts to where they belong using rulers. Through an idea, I experimented with the left side of the face. Erasing it then covering it with a landscape picture. However, my approach wasn't very successful towards others and myself as the landscape picture was in color and my goal was to flow only with black and white. Through suggestion from my art teacher, I went with my previous theme and began toning the erased part. The process became very challenging as all the other face features were greatly toned. However, I was able to fix this issue by gently rubbing charcoal with my fingers on the erased part then stroking it along the way of the light and mixing the tones.

Throughout this experience, I learned many things. The difference between pencil and charcoal. The history of charcoal and its popularity. Lastly, the patience that an artist has to endure and the importance of time and its preciousness.