

Practitioner's Statement

Untitled

Sunny Yang

My topic is about environmental protection. I wanted to express the human destruction of the environment, and people's harm to animals. In their natural environments animals live in balance, humans, on the other hand, create conflict. This aim of this work is to appeal to humans to live in balance too.

I have selected whales because they are the biggest animals in the ocean. We do not often see them hence my curiosity motivated research on them. Inspiration came from an article for a news website, about a 15 meter blue whale stranded on the beach. People were taking photographs and touching the whale, but no one went to help this stranded animal, because after drying out the whale died. In contrast, when the opposite happens to people, it is not like that. I have seen news reports that talked about humans falling into the ocean and dolphins would save them. Why when the whale is stranded on the beach and do we not help them? Thus, I want to use my art piece to awaken people about their feelings and hope they protect organisms by not hunting them and damaging their environment. As artist reference, the colour and stroke work of Van Gogh was particularly useful. In my folio I have used a lot of pictures to montage the whale. I wanted to use some of those pictures both to express my opinion and explore various topics which will enable me to integrate my symbolism around whales in this topic.

In this topic I want to create new fantasy environments where the whale can coalesce with the human world and human life, to facilitate this I have selected a city to coexist with the whale, let whale world and human world combine to form a new world. I have chosen a busy city which is the epitome of the human plane then placed a huge whale above this mystical city. The whale is there because this creature is the king of the ocean. It can be representative of all marine organisms talking, so I put these two things together to make a new world; one which doesn't have war, where they will help each other.

In my first picture, I have used a whale and elements of the city. I want to combine these elements together in my own way. I have used the world of whale as my background, because I think people already have a very good understanding of the world of land, but they do not understand the marine world very much. Humans know how beautiful the land world is, but we do not have an understanding of how beautiful the marine world can be. Therefore few of us will really notice the pollution of marine environment and the damage we have done to the ocean. People do not pay much attention on the on the marine world because they do not see it as a place that we rely on, but just as the hometown to all the marine creatures. Through my paintings, I want to tell everyone about the beauty of ocean and how ocean terrible it is to contaminate this beautiful world. In this picture, I illustrated the coexistence of ocean and human because I wanted to make a good impression on the viewers about my paintings message. I have used blue as the main colour scheme to give a safe, soft and comfortable feeling to the viewers and thus to convey the message of protecting the ocean.

Throughout the process of creating these paintings I have acquired a lot of knowledge, initially my painting skills were not very good; I was a little bit scared to work in such a heavy textural way. In time it was obvious that painting was the best choice to express my idea as, it has the diversity to express the many elements of my theme very well. I want the feel of the various painting techniques I employed to convey the symbolism and meanings within the artwork. I want the painting to express a monumental, solemn, sense of power which will bathe the whale and the ocean, both much larger than the city emphasising the power and majesty of the king of the sea. I chose to work with a combination of thick textural effects and smooth glazing techniques to get my ideas across.

My development of the skills of colour control, various new painting techniques and mastering contrast and brightness have vastly improved, gradually I have mastered many different painting techniques, which have helped my painting, become better and better. The variety of brush strokes and techniques I used helped highlight and differentiate the many separate areas within each picture.

The idea for my second painting grew from the first. The blue painting talks about humans coming into the whale world, the second one talks about a whale coming into the human world. This whale can survive in the human world, the plants can grow on its body, it can fly in the human world and be very free. When you walk on a path, maybe you are walking on its back. I want to let humans think about this animal, it does not hurt us, we must not hurt it.

In this topic I gained so much experience creating the first work, that my painting style matured, as I worked on my first painting I organised my thoughts, already beginning to formulate my second idea. Apart from painting skill I have acquired other skills. Gathering information which informs what ideas, messages and artwork can convey was an important part of the process.

The most difficult part in this task is my language problem. English is not my first language, so my English skills are not very good, in this folder I needed to use English to explain the meaning of my idea, but because of my grammar mistakes other people can't understand what I am trying to explain, I have had help from the teacher with my language. This has helped me a lot and is also a great encouragement for me. As I plan to continue my studies in Visual Arts the language of art will be essential for me. I also came to understand that visual art is a universal language which speaks to all. Even though I may have had difficulty writing about my work, my classmates and teachers were able to comprehend the feelings I was trying to convey in my work.