

Practitioner's Statement

Three Little Words

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I was inspired to create a selection of leather book covers in the hope to upholster classic fairy-tale covers, showing the difference between the original dark classic and the Disney version. Intrigued by Ludwig Grimm, younger brother of the "Grimm Brothers", his illustrations for his brother's second fairy tale edition, are simply black and white, which appealed to me. After more exploration of media and research for inspiration, I came across a YouTube video on lightboxes. After watching this, I thought about stories I myself had written in the past and decided to use my own stories as a baseline to create artistic lightboxes.

I was interested in displaying the main theme from all the books I had written, however, as there were more than anticipated, I looked at the story I poured my heart into three years ago. I decided to create three scenes from the story, sketching rough scenes of what I wanted to depict. Sheryl Cole's children illustrations inspired my style of silhouettes and various features. While Matthew Broughton's minimal use of colour helped my decision in using only white paper to keep the shadow effect.

The focus of the scenes is the main characters, placed around the centre of the frame to draw focus. Initially I looked at white light to create the silhouetted images, but was intrigued as to what colour would look like. I explored this concept with cellophane, tissue paper and crepe paper, adding another element to my work.

The first scene represents the beginning of a friendship that turns into something more. The position of my female character evokes nervousness. The scene set on New Year's Eve, under the midnight fireworks. To represent a river, baking paper is used creating a blurred effect, allowing my fireworks and line of trees to look like a reflection. The river is the most significant scene as it is where the story begins, with important events occurring at this location throughout my book.

With the middle scene's source of light, I aimed to create a soft, romantic look. The firefly like lights cast a delicate shadow over the vines. More holes placed behind and around the characters, allow this section to be the main focus. For this particular scene I decided not to create a background, as I wanted the romantic feel to stay solely on the characters. I added a sunset light with tissue paper to create just the right amount of colour.

My third and final scene depicts the importance of friendship. The night sky projects a soft light to amplify the quietness of the evening and the simplicity of a true friendship. I used purple cellophane as it didn't dull the light but created a soft twilight hue. By punching holes through the cellophane where the stars are, the stars now twinkle bringing this scene to life.

This style of my work allows an artist's imagination to come alive in a 3D form, successfully portraying original scenes from my own story.