

Practitioner's Statement

Le Loyon

Tiarnie Edwards

My artwork is based around the environment and the impact humans have on nature.

To begin my folio ideation, I explored illustration and storytelling and how messages can be presented through forms such as comic books and comic relief. I personally love this style and my friends and I created a comic book based on outcasts in society. This can overlap with animals in our society in the way humanity takes advantage and can abuse them within the environment.

Whilst looking for artists to draw inspiration from I found Shaun Tan's clay sculpture book "The Singing Bones", a collection of short stories from The Grimm Brothers Tales, illustrated with Shaun Tan's sculptures that captivated me. They told a story through simplistic and minimal modelled forms that were easy to identify through basic features and colours. An example is "The Companionship of the Cat and Mouse" who are combined into one form but contrasted by black and white signifying each character.

Main focal points of my work is a young female human wearing a gas mask to represent the danger and destruction caused by humans within our environment. The girl is also half deer with golden antlers as I wanted to incorporate the damage that humans are doing to themselves. Deforestation is the destruction of large forests by cutting down trees for housing and corporations destroying the homes of thousands of animals but also the destruction of precious oxygen suppliers. I also wanted to incorporate different aspects of environmental damage such as ocean pollution, deforestation and global warming.

I decided to name the piece Le Loyon, an urban legend from Switzerland of a silent man like "creature" who walks through the Swiss woods at night. I used the name because of the appearance of the "person" Le Loyon who is known to wear clothing similar to a military Sargent and the most important a gas mask. As soon as I drew the sketch of the girl it reminded me of this story.

My final piece has many environmental issues that I wanted to capture caused by humans. The goldfish were not originally in the painting but I wanted to include the aspect of water and ocean pollution. The fish themselves are goldfish and as I was painting them they were too pale and not vibrant enough so I decided to use darker purples with light almost soft radiating highlights to create light flowing effects. The flowers represent the beauty of nature and the strength that nature has to recover and strive. Some of the techniques I used were black and white fine line pens to create highlights and details. I used acrylic paint because I really like the bold and easy application it has on watercolour paper. I used gold spray paint for the antlers by spraying it into a bowl and painting it onto the paper to make it stand out and symbolise the precious element of nature.

I really think this final piece captures the issues of environmental damage and the impact humans have on nature. I am pleased with the glowing radiance and bright colours against the black background.