

Practitioner's Statement

Milkshake Fantasy

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'Milkshake Fantasy' is a colour pencil artwork inspired by the current trend of over-the-top milkshakes available in cafes.

I initially looked at Marcello Barenghi for inspiration, who draws hyper realistic objects with a wide range of mediums. He focuses on the reflections in each object and the shadowed areas that create a three dimensional perspective. By over exaggerating the highlights on the lollies, straw and ice-cream, I found leaving the paper white where the highlights were located ineffective but by using a Posca paint pen on top of the colour pencil I was able to achieve a bright result much in the way Barenghi used markers to achieve this.

I also discovered Sarah Sartain, who creates acrylic painted artworks of realistic cupcakes and cakes. She illustrates strong textures and tones throughout the frosting on her cupcakes, showing dents, marks and uneven areas. Through trialling her work I realised this level of detail would be achievable with colour pencil, yet time consuming. By emphasising the reflections and detail in the frosting of the cupcakes I was able to achieve the same style of realism that Sarah has illustrated in her works.

The portrait of the face connects well with Morgan Davidson's realistic painted artworks. I was drawn to the expressions used in her portraits and by taking lots of self-portrait photographs was able to create a fun and apt expressive face. Initially, I created the self-portrait to be in graphite pencil, to make the coloured pencil area on the head and clothing, the focal point, however, the result created an uneven heaviness and drew attention to the lighter skin tones. By layering coloured pencil skin tones on top of the graphite pencil this balanced out the artwork. The flow of chocolate dripping down the face emits a sense of movement and by adding extra drips to the body I was able to create a visual composition that draws the viewers glance from the top to the bottom in the direction of flow.

When creating my piece I found it difficult to achieve the accurate colours but through layering colours and blending I attempted to create accurate representation of the elements. I found that Prisma colour pencils have a good intensity of pigment colour but I had to be careful in how many layers of colours I did as the pencil could wear out and tear the paper. The texture of the pencils are soft and waxy making them easy to blend, but I found it difficult to achieve accurate detail. After continuous sharpening I was still unable to achieve sharp lines and the pencil crumbled as soon as I applied pressure. By making my major a larger scale it made it easier to achieve noticeable detail.

The milkshake perched upon my head remained the most important element, with the balanced combination of bright colours and light and dark tones. I desired to create an eye-catching piece that was unique and illustrated my passion for drawing food and creating realistic works.