

## *Vandalism*

### **Kenneth Malthouse**

Vandalism is a deliberate action that expresses an artist's personal mark say this is who I am and what I've got to say about the world today. The 5 miniature walls makes a statement about any city street location as it records the marks left behind by visitors to that space.

A comment on how our environment becomes reworked through vandalism each crumbling wall is like an ignored throw away artwork. With many layers of name tags and a portrait this arrangement was influenced by Banksy's aerosol style and Nils Westergard torn poster portraits. I liked how they made the place more interesting so I successfully combined this large-scale realistic artwork (scaled to match my walls) and quick signature tags to make it appear like a Westergard or Banksy found on any street wall. Specifically Banksy's graffiti miniature walls was my main inspiration as I liked their mini aspect and made sure I added the sharp detail to match just like Kevin Peterson's fine art paintings of graffitied objects. We both have a busy style layering our marks to effectively balance the perspective using contrasting colours opposites to harmonizing colours. The highlights and dark tones ensured all my layers were consistent and found their right scaled placement, (perspective).

I began seeing how my landscape is being vandalized with smashed cars and tagged places like the skate park. I added my graffiti to photographs to indicate another presence. It was the colour and movement introduced by the style of font and colour contrast that I liked. Making miniatures I was able to show that graffiti can come in many different ways, and it can be something that is cute and would sell. This goes directly against the main idea of graffiti which is make a statement to mark something and not just sell it. Art for me is showing my beliefs and cultural perspective and when viewers see these miniatures and my artistry they will realise not all graffiti is bad, and in some way I'm challenging this idea of vandalism.

Artist Rafal Sliks' appropriation of 18th century masters like painter Jan Van Eyck portraits encouraged the development of my concept and style. I experimented and practiced in my folio to create similar works using historical photos of cultural icons, drawing over faces to be a vandal, to partly hide their identity yet you can still tell who they are because they are that famous. I learnt how to use the dripping slimed tagged magazine portraits of Richie Velazquez and Chad Wys aerosol sprayed blobs covering faces and had fun creating these. I liked the 3D detailing in the slime, and how the blob moved on the flat paper surface.

Vandalism allows me to talk about what's important in a way that reaches to youth. The successful warped and layered text over the portrait using each artist's fun approach as I refined my use of bright colours against in plain images to create a good aesthetic of my own.