## The Progression of Ignorance

## **Ethan Coleman**

The title of the artwork is "The progression of Ignorance" and it was greatly influenced by Corey Strader and Robbie Trevino. I was inspired by Strader's alien worlds as a starting point as they were visually appealing with mysterious subject matter and landscapes. Influenced by Trevino's use of sepia tones, imaginative and surreal worlds, and meek creatures, along with his obsession with recognizable human appendages. Furthermore, I was inspired by the rise in smoking and vaping. Therefore, this composition could be seen as a friendly reminder of the dangers of smoking.

Triptych's are often used to convey a progressive narrative to viewers, thus a triptych was chosen to convey the story of a thriving world and its progressive decline due to invasion of a explorer with a similar colour scheme to that of cigarettes. Perspective is often used to convey meaning to the audience about the subject depending on angle and zoom; hence the perspective in each frame progressively gets lower, conveying the downfall of this ecosystem and the rise of the invader. Central to each of the three compositions is the life force of the surreal world, the "lung plant" whose colour, texture and shapes were chosen to show connections with Trevino's work and to represent a human lung. The symbolism behind this choice of human anatomy is to convey the idea that plants are the lungs of our planet, just as they are literally in this instance. Therefore, the triptych was a vital to showcase the deterioration of such a visually plant-like form. This is evidenced by the charcoal splatters that infest the plants, also as the "lung plant" looses its own strength and falls over because of the invader's factories, similar to a human smoker's lung.

Different mediums could be suggested, perhaps to make it appear that they are the invaders notes or hand drawings of what they have observed. However, digital drawing, was chosen because refinement of these skills are essential for gaining a career in digital art. On the other hand, traditional drawing processes were implemented inside the digital realm to achieve a desired art style.

Sepia, is a reddish-brown colour, named after the rich brown pigment derived from the ink sac of the common cuttlefish. Sepia tones were most popular during the 1860s and the 1870s. For this reason, this may also help audiences interpret that this piece could be an old recount of what once was in this strange world. Hence, the invader's recording of the destruction of the ecosystem in sepia may echo this to the audience as well.

Trees and plants are referred to as the lungs of our Earth, which this artwork is the literal manifestation of that idea. Moreover, symbolism can be derived from the cigarette-coloured factories that appear in the last of the trio, where the atmosphere is darker with polluted air and remnants of the previous environment which contemporary viewers may assume have been unsustainably managed and consumed.