

Life & Wires

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The theme, which I decided to portray through my final, was fantasy and surreal art. This theme appealed to me as it allowed for a lot of freedom and creativity in terms of composition. It also allowed for me to explore different concepts and expression within my final piece, as well as in my folio. Initially, I intended to do a more detailed ink piece, as I enjoy working in that medium, however, as I progressed through my folio I decided I wanted to make my work colourful, which made using paint more ideal. For my final piece, I was inspired by technology and human anatomy. I was also inspired by artists such as Huang Po Hsun, who uses a variety of different colours to create aesthetically pleasing colour palettes for her work. I also admire her unique compositions which inspired me to experiment with different perspectives to create a balanced piece of art work.

This leads to the message within my piece; that technology impacts our lives in many different ways, whether this be positive or negative. While it can aid people by making tasks simpler or more efficient, allowing us to connect with others or even keeping people alive through advanced treatment methods, it can also deteriorate our health, both physically and mentally. I tried to depict this in the painting of the skull, which I used impasto for to create the appearance that it is decaying. I also displayed how it benefits life through the centre piece and the painting of the heart which depicts how it can assist with keeping people alive. I also made butterflies out of wire, with the butterflies symbolising life and the wires representing technology and how it is now a huge part of our lives. I wanted to create surreal images depicting the effects of technology on each part of us through a variety of different and unique techniques and mediums, such as paint (peeling), using a pallet knife and mixed media (charcoal, oil paint, impasto). I feel that I have managed to successfully create an aesthetically pleasing piece of work. I do, however, wish I made my work more surreal and distorted as I really admire that aesthetic.

When creating my final piece, I struggled to come up with multiple ways to express my message as well as developing the message. This caused some complications as I struggled to come up with an idea, which I could relate back to my initial piece, but after careful consideration I feel that I managed to successfully create a concept with I could further express through my final piece: the impact of technology on life. Another challenge I faced was creating the wired butterflies, which were very tedious and hard to shape. I also found drawing large images in unique, distorted perspectives extremely difficult. This resulted in a lot of trial and error with sketching my pieces to the right size, and a lot of redoing certain areas, such as the head of the skeleton, which I had to modify numerous times. While these issues made creating my final piece challenging, I believe they helped me grow as an artist and allowed for me to develop a variety of new skills.

Throughout this practical, I have learnt how to apply a variety of different techniques to my work and learnt to trust my initiative and not be afraid to try out new things, venturing out of my comfort zone and taking risks with my art. Rt0no, an artist on Instagram, also inspired me, with her unique and surreal creatures. This influenced me to create the skeleton figure with the television head, which is also surreal, like Rt0no's art.

I think that while I enjoy the aesthetic of my work, which I place significantly more value on, the function of my work is lacking as I think while it gets the message across, I could have done so better, which is likely a result of me drawing up some of the pieces without the main idea of technology and its influence in mind. When it comes to visual art, I personally value aesthetic, and the way in which a composition appeals to the eye, whether this be through balance, line or colours. I admire this as I appreciate how artists manage to use different elements of art in harmony to create a piece which looks aesthetically pleasing while still holding meaning to the artist. I believe that art is an effective way for people to express themselves, whether this be their emotions, their ideas/ thoughts, their personality or their culture.

As art is infinite, it allows for artists to explore ways in which they can express these concepts, without limitations. Through this assignment, I have developed an understanding around how artists all have different ways of expressing themselves, some which are more direct than others, many with hidden meanings or being left up for interpretation. I have also learnt more about myself and how I express myself through art as well as about my personal aesthetic and art style. I still feel however, that my style is still developing, especially when it comes to painting and that I still have a long way to go in terms of my art journey.