

Brandon Page

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Art Foundations 105

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Brandon Page's Final Project

In Art 105 I have learned about creativity, usefulness and color theory. In each of my projects I have used different methods of creating useful, non-cliché pieces. We also have discussed art themes and created our pieces around our theme of choice. In my collage I used the themes, power, protest, and humor. My final project uses humor as its theme, and excited as its adjective. For my creative strategies I used silhouettes relating to the theme, expressive use of line, and coded communication.

The painting I based my piece on was Francisco Goya's, *The Third of May, 1808* in Madrid, 1808. It was a little ironic that my theme was humor, as Goya's painting is depicting a mass shooting of people against a hill. A big part of my life was watching cartoons. I watched all different styles and developed my taste in humor. Watching new episodes of *Spongebob* with my sister was on the couch was extremely humorous. Viewing so many cartoons is what made me want to be an animator/illustrator. I replaced the row of guns men with my couch and two people watching the television. These two people represent my sister and me. The television contains silhouettes of Patrick, Mickey Mouse, and Bugs Bunny.

I created my silhouettes from hand drawing them onto paper, and then tracing them onto construction paper. I then used an exacto knife to cut out the images and collage them to the television. Behind them is a piece of construction paper that I colored with primary colors to symbolize wild and crazy antics that are in cartoons. It may seem weird putting Patrick Star,

Bugs Bunny and Mickey Mouse on the same screen, but I did so to represent the cartoons I love, and find the most humorous. I used silhouettes to signify these characters, because if I just drew their faces it would be cliché.

Expressive line is another key element to my piece. Excited lines appear to shoot out of the television and into the minds of the people on the couch. Those individuals also have lines coming from their mouths to indicate they are laughing at the humor on screen. The adjective, “Excited” was used because when I was little I was always excited to watch new episodes of a show. I used primary colors for my expressive lines because simple cartoons typically use very bright and high saturated primary colors in their design.

In the sky you can see stars. These stars are my coded communication strategy. I used braille to spell the phrase, “Humor is Happiness”. This was the part of the piece that I changed frequently. At first I had the stars in a straight, small line that only took up a little space on the sky. I changed this by expanding the distance between each star. To create depth, I changed the size of each dot, and also changed the color from white to grey to draw attention away from the sky.

The one element I kept from Francisco Goya, *The Third of May*, was I kept the style and color scheme of his painting. The colors do not represent humor at all, but it is what makes my painting unique and not cliché. I mixed green, yellow, and burnt umber to recreate Goya’s gloomy design, and also leaving shadows that were in the original. I also wanted to keep his sloppy style with the brush. I accomplished this by not making perfectly straight lines, and making my brush strokes clearly visible.

To conclude, I really enjoyed this project. I had fun with it, and I believe it is one of my most unique pieces. It is not cliché, and it is completely original. I was happy I could imply that

the piece takes place at night, with the use of my dark color scheme. If I could change anything, it would be to add more people standing behind the couch, as an homage to the original (which contains more people). Learning these creative strategies will really help me in the long run, because they help generate creative masterpieces that I will hopefully make in the future. To me, humor is about simply sitting on the couch, watching cartoons.