

Entering a world of creativity

“Go and make interesting mistakes, make amazing mistakes, make glorious and fantastic mistakes. Break rules. Leave the world more interesting for your being here. Make. Good. Art.”

-Neil Gaiman

Art is not by strongest forte, and I probably can't draw to save my life. Art does not come easily to me like others, and it most definitely is not my greatest ally. But the little that I do know about the art world is that there is always room for improvements and trying new things. There never is wrong that you can do in art, for when you put yourself to look at the big image, your art represents you and no one can really judge you on that. Some of the things that I struggle and need to improve on are values, contrast, rhythm, perspective and emphasis. I believe that in my journey of CE Basic Drawing, Jusepe de Ribera a Spanish Tenebrist painter and printmaker can help me with all my struggles. My plan to strive in this year's class is not exactly by trying to portray the artist exactly, but to get a better understanding on how elements in Jusepe de Ribera art work can be illustrated in my art work.

Jusepe de Ribera had a way of capturing an image and with the right number of elements, and it would turn out to be a masterpiece. I need to be able to fully understand all the elements that it takes to create an image to be able to create a decent image. Art must come to me like the way of memorizing math equations. With the right equations, and by doing the correct steps, you get the right answer. I understand that there are multiple ways of ending up in the same result, but for me I need a certain number of guidelines that could help me with values, contrast, rhythm, and emphasis.

If I apply these guidelines on my day to day artwork, there might come the day where I can go beyond the guidelines. In other words, I want to be able to not completely rely on the right elements for my artwork to express something. Jusepe de Ribera works focuses a lot on realistic looking drawn human beings. To get a drawing to look realistic, I need to overcome the fact that I probably won't get the first time, and possibly not the time after that. I need to make myself aware that I will need to practice, repeatedly, and even then, it still might need improvement.

When it comes to my long journey with Jusepe de Ribera, there will be the lesson of sometimes it ok to do more, but as I continue to learn there will be the time when I will know when my pieces of work are at their fullest. Jusepe de Ribera has drawings where the background looks like a bunch of lines, but with the right amount of lights and darks he makes them stand out. By studying his art, and noticing these details in his artwork, it will help me with making my pieces of art have depth within them. Depths within art pieces is created with values, by observing where contrast is emphasized more and where it's emphasized less, pieces of art will start to become more realistic. Perspective is another thing that Jusepe de Ribera really incorporates into his art work.

I understand that trying to learn all these elements from Jusepe de Ribera won't be easy, and I won't exactly learn them overnight. It won't be easy but it's also not impossible. It's been done before, but just learning something daily will help my art knowledge in the long run. I want to be able to leave with something new as well with a better understanding of at least a better grasp of one of my struggles in the art world. I know that I will not learn everything that I need to know from Jusepe, I will also need to put part from my side and look further into the

world of art. Because my struggles are just the surface, but with starting at the surface it will only be a matter of time before I'll need to start digging further into the world of art to find what you are looking for.

When it comes to choosing an artist that you want to learn something from or simply relate to their artwork, it can become difficult to try and identify yourself as an artist when you feel that your work is nothing compared to theirs. For me, the struggle that I keep facing is trying to place myself into a certain category (painter, drawer, sculptor, printmaker, etc.) when it comes to art. I want to be able to try a little bit of everything when it comes to art, but I'm not fully confident when I try something completely new or unknown. An artist that hasn't been afraid to try everything and anything is Yayoi Kusama. She is a Japanese artist she is known for painting, drawing, sculpture, installation art, performance art, film, fashion and writer.

From the couple of months that I have been in this class, I have realized that I do not like to draw anything that involves realistic features. I like to work with shapes in my drawings, more on the geometric side of art. Yayoi Kusama has many paintings that are revolved around a single shape, many images start off with a dot. She has a way of creating a painting that looks so complex with a simple shape. I believe that if she creates a masterpiece with a million dots, then there is nothing that cannot be done with a simple shape. By observing how the significance of the dots placement on the paintings, I can incorporate placement into my work and identify that how I place objects within my artwork can either stand alone or combine with one another to create an image.

I need to stop thinking as every art piece that I do is nothing but a doodle that is just not good enough to be shared with others. Whether it be doodles as I like to call my artwork, it is still considered art. Because at the end of the day what I think of my work is all that really matters. If I continue to be true to myself and work on art pieces that I want to do, not do what everyone around me is trying to do in this world. Then I believe that Kusama will help me in not losing my train of thought and help me always know that I've just got to so me, I can't try to be anyone else.

Kusama's art pieces help me with not only the motivational purpose that something that can be viewed so simple is a more complex image than you think. Her paintings I'm sure take a humongous amount of time and patients. With all the amount of time put into her work, details are key in her work. I need to work on not only the overall image, but I also need to be able to not lose the overall image by ignoring what the idea was in the first place. I want people to get the big idea as soon as they see my work, but I don't want to make it too obvious. There needs to be enough complexity to it, for it to represent me and my personality.

Out of all the artist that I researched to help me improve on my art work, Yayoi Kusama is the only one that I really relate to by her art pieces. I believe that she is the type of artist that doesn't make me overthink things when I am observing and admiring art. What she has overcome in her lifetime, art has been there to help her focus on the reality of the world she lives in." While producing art works, illusions appear from time to time due to my mental illness. Every day is a struggle for me." (Kusama). I will continue to follow her through her past and new art work, and I hope to continue to find new elements in her art work that could help me not feel so lost in the art world.

As I have looked at the past and the present, it is easier for me to acknowledge that there will clearly be a future for art. Both past and present artist helped me through the path of becoming a better artist than I was before, given I had no artist background. Now it is time for me to see how I hope art will continue to be not just for me but for society, the world and the upcoming generation. For a wise person once said, "The best way to predict your future, is to create it"- Abraham Lincoln.

No one can predict what the future will officially look like, but that doesn't mean that the decisions that are made now will not affect my future. I am sure that though I will not pursue art as a career, I know that it will help as an escape from my reality, if I ever need it in my future. After taking this basic drawing art class, I have learned that art isn't the easiest concept to understand, but it's also not the hardest thing that can be accomplished. Art is something that doesn't come naturally to me, unlike many of my peers that have worked hard to get where they are. Drawing I believe is a skill that you not only learn to do with your ability to create, but with the ability to focus upon a subject for the amount needed to accomplish what you are trying to create.

It takes a lot of concentrations and willingness to put in the effort to be able to create art that represents you, not just skills. From the beginning of this class to now, I have learned the value of art itself, yes, it's still not something that I can pick up overnight, but it's no longer an obstacle that I am afraid to face. Art now is a very popular, whether it's professional or commercial art, it highly respected by society, and it is highly encouraged in schools. Knowing how art is nowadays and how it affects people's lives daily, I hope that art will continue to be

such a big thing in the world that we live in today, not just for me but the upcoming generation that are soon to come.

How I imagine art to be in the future or in the upcoming years, is it will continue to be a major part of the lives of many individuals. Like now it is up to the individual if they want to be a creator, an admirer of art or both. If schools continue to encourage students that they do not need to have a artistic background or be good at art to take an art class during their junior or high schools. Students will be able to enter a world of creativity, where you can express yourself without feeling that there are wrong answers.

Art at times is downgraded for what it is since many parents prefer their students to play a sport to stay active while playing for a team. What some don't understand is that art is an exercise for the brain, and the mind of creativity. I honestly hope that in the future that those that are against or have different views on the subject will be more open minded about it, rather than underestimating it. I want to see a world in the future where those that have the passion and desire to do art but are unable to take an art class or are simply are unable to pursue the idea of doing art.

Those people I hope that they will be given the opportunity to express themselves to the world, without having to struggle to find someone willing to teach them art. A world where less judgement is expressed daily would be lovely for upcoming artists. I know that it is hard enough for them to come out and show their art work, and that they worked very hard to show the world what they can do. Entering the art world with judgement is hard enough, why not lower the level on everyone's judgment meter. With so many changes that are wanted in the

upcoming years, one thing that I want to stay constant is the appreciation that each artist has for each other and their own work.

What is next for me and my art you might ask, well I know it's not up there on my top three list of things I would like to pursue in college. Not because I do not think that I could pursue art, but because I have other interests in life that don't exactly require my creative mind, but more of a problem solving one. I hope to see art in the future as something that I can do as a hobby, or simply something that I can turn to when I am stressed from a long day, or when I simply have free time. Having this experience has really broken me out of my shell, not that I am completely confident in my art, but one day, when the time is right I might be confident to show my art without feeling like a complete failure. On that note, I want to continue improving my art, as the years pass by, because I don't think that anyone can fully leave art behind, once they have had the amazing experience of interacting with it.

I also want to explore new ways and techniques that I could use in my art. Continuing my education with art is something that I hope that will happen in the future. I will have to start with easy and as time goes by try to challenge myself with new concepts. I do not think that I ever will be an adequate person that will be able to teach art to others. But I hope that me taking art will show those that are very insecure with trying new things or simply going out of their comfort zone to try something that has such a positive, creative outcome. Since before taking this class all I would really do is admire others talent in the art field, but I never felt confident enough to try it out, since I was surrounded by many artistic peers daily.

In other words, I want to be able to encourage people into taking out, even if it's just to try out. I want to be able to say that I tried it out and that you do not have to be an artistic person to do art, all that helped me through the course was the motivation of seeing improvement from the very beginning class. I want to continue to see improvement in anything art related that I do, and to help those that think improvement is such a long way for them. I just want the world and society to see that art is something that can never be fully felt behind, art is something that will be carried to the future with us