

Modern World

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My theme for my artwork is "Modern World", aiming at how people live life in a city. The stylistic choices are derived from artists Tadahiro Uesugi, Scott Watanabe, and Alena Aenami. My final was greatly inspired by the artistic style of the "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" concept art and their "graphic reduction" art style.

The illustration is itself titled "Red Girl, Blue World" which shows a woman dressed in a red dress and a large red sunhat at the top of a subway staircase in the city. The final's intended idea was to interpret people's lives today. I decided to focus my illustration on a single woman about to go on her daily commute in the subway. I wanted to create a dynamic scene that included texture, depth, display of values, contrast, and composition.

For the piece, I leaned towards a pastel, traditional look. Using brushes with grain or chalk texturing, using brushes like charcoal pencils, pastel brushes, rake brushes, and halftones for texturing was a homage to the concept art style from the Spider-Verse film. I did not want my illustration to feel too digital, I wanted to make an image that bridged the aesthetic of traditional and digital art. This made the drawing seem rough with almost no clean edges, but it gave it a nice charm which I am fond of. I utilised graphic reduction by using shapes, strokes, and varying lines to imply reflection on the window of the buildings in the midground. To achieve depth, I utilised values. In the foreground, the surrounding elements have dark values creating a shaded gloomy surrounding within the staircase area and implying shade from the surrounding buildings. Further in the background, the values lighten as they become further away. The cloud in the background has one of the brightest values while being supported by its dark shadow to give it more form. To contrast these lighter values, the sky is more saturated and acts as a mid-tone to unionise the piece. Utilising my understanding of colours and theory, I brought vibrancy into the darker spaces by using different hues like desaturated pinks and greens in the purple environment in the foreground. I was able to achieve this by matching the values and hues so they would "blend" together. The pinks and greys of the pieces matched which doesn't drastically affect the depth of the piece but instead supports it by adding colour to the piece. The composition supports the woman, The railing and stairway are a leading line towards the lady which emphasises her as a focal point. The contrast was achieved by having the environment have cooler hues and the woman have warmer tones. The woman also had a darker value because of the shading which contrasted her from the bright background for further emphasis.

Overall, the project was extremely beneficial because I was able to practice art principles and elements I was struggling with and was able to exercise the styles of artists I admire. Though the idea has evolved, I believe the final illustration continues to encapsulate modern life.