

Desire

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Within my piece, I intended to portray the transformation that occurs when the dreamy feelings of desire morph into the unpleasant irritation that follows obsession. To encapsulate the euphoric nature of emotions linked to desire, I decided to illuminate my subject with vibrant pink lighting. This striking shade of pink draws immediate attention, and connects with my audience, by evoking positive emotions of excitement.

Furthermore, the pose embodied by the first figure emanates hope, as her hands are held over her glowing heart and she looks up with raised eyebrows and wide eyes in awe. In stark contrast, is the second figure –obsession personified. This figure is illuminated with blue light, symbolic of the confusion coupled with negative feelings of irritation when fixating on something unattainable, as the glow from her heart intensifies. The glow was further highlighted as I intentionally kept all other values throughout the piece darker. As the subject releases her frustrations in an everlasting scream, this figure embodies the helpless, vulnerable side of obsession. Her heart glows brighter, emulating the light from a flame as it burns for what she desires.

My work was heavily influenced by Miles Johnston's art and Jake Wangner's photography. Johnston's knack for telling stories in their rawest form, and Wangner's ability to amplify emotions with the use of lighting and distortion were my two greatest inspirations for this piece. Furthermore, the intense imagery used throughout the 2010 film "Black Swan", was a great starting point for my brainstorming process as it follows the story of a ballerina who becomes consumed by her obsession to be perfect.

During the ideation process leading up to this piece, I drew inspiration from various stories and visuals linked by dreamlike imagery and dramatic poses. I've always been drawn to vibrant colours and the specific emotions they evoke which inspired me to utilize them in my piece for the symbolic communication of a fragment of my personal experience with desire. This oil painting allowed me to confront the true extent of the consequences of my experience with obsession, as I portray desire in a physical form.

The movement and vibrant colours incorporated could not have been achieved without my reference photographs as the pink, blue and red lighting work harmoniously, creating smooth transitions between colours. Despite the issues I encountered, such as the proportions of various parts of each figure, I overcame them by working my way through very small portions of the painting, so I am happy with the results I achieved.

Moreover, using a limited colour palette allowed me to keep the piece uniform as I had more control over the mixing of my colours. This was also efficient as the complex relationship between colours within the piece were simplified, which ultimately made for a captivating piece.