

The Ancient Tarots, The Dealer

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'*The Ancient Tarots*', gods and goddesses describing your knowing state and unknowing future are displayed surrounding '*The Dealer*', an ancient being who controls the destiny of whomever approaches with bravery and will in their soul. In creating these artworks, artists such as Orphné Achéron and Hieu Nguyen inspired me to create artworks based off ancient Egypt, more specifically ancient Egyptian Gods. I was drawn by the purposes the gods held once and wanted to incorporate their meanings into my pieces therefore, I portrayed specific gods/goddesses to chosen tarot cards that matched the descriptions of the gods.

Each tarot card was drawn on an A4 multi-media paper and painted with black ink and gold/orange mont marte acrylic paint. Ink was selected as my main medium as I was mostly inspired by Orphné Achéron artworks. Orphné Achéron's use of grayscale colours help to show her themes of mythology and medieval time periods which inspired my choice of using the same medium and colour palette. Hence, I limited my colour palette by only using black ink and diluting the colour using water to create various shades that allowed me to add shading details which allowed for flexibility in using the medium. The shade range given through this medium enabled me to create depth and form using only one colour. The ink was used to colour the skin, hair, facial features and clothing of the figures as these areas were common in each card and I did not want to differentiate the styles throughout the process. Using a grayscale colour palette allowed me to give my artworks an aesthetic of mystery and ancient which reflected Orphné's style as well helped show my own them greatly.

Each card did appear different as the gold/orange acrylic paint made the gods unique from each other which allowed for variation in the final display. I utilized the acrylic paint in accessories such as bracelets, chains, wings, staffs and necklaces as well as some backgrounds of the figures to add the elements of contrast and emphasis in an otherwise 'dull' palette. The use of contrast allowed me to reflect the theme of ancient Egypt as royal and god figures were dressed in gold to show their authority to lower citizens. The gold paint I selected was metallic rather than flat, adding to the contrast as well as implementing the elements of unity and harmony in my artworks. Metallic paint appears differently depending on how light is displayed upon it. If light is place in front of the art, the paint will not appear different to any flat colours yet, if the light is placed at an angle the shine of the metallic will become visible to audiences. This affect was necessary for my pieces as I wanted different areas of detail to appear depending on how the art is viewed which added a more complex visual to my works.

Being scaled to a smaller canvas, to paint the cards fine brushes ranging from sizes (brush) 1 to 4 were utilized in order to keep the details refined and viewable to audiences. The ink was similar to watercolour and using finer brushes allowed more liquid control as less water/ink was absorbed into the bristles, decreasing my chances of an unwanted splash on my artwork. To finalize the cards, a thin border of non-diluted ink was painted to mimic the layout of a tarot card. At the bottom of the cards, the border was thickened as I needed to add the titles of each card as well as a symbol relating to both the god and meaning of the card. The text details were drawn with a thin white POSCA marker for more control in writing which created more refined lines.

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'*The Dealer*' was sketched onto a 40x80cm canvas and painted with mont marte acrylic paint. To complement the cards, I limited the colour palette for my second artwork varying through shades of black, brown and yellow. Similar to the cards, yellows and golds were constrained to the accessories (headpiece, bracelets, rings, necklaces) as focal points for the artwork while the darker colours spread across the skin and clothing of the figure. Smaller details seen in the headpiece and robe of the figure were drawn using golden metallic sharpie marker(headpiece) and thin white POSCA paint marker(robe). I had decided to use markers rather than paint for these details as the paint would not provide me with opaque strokes and brushes would not allow for precise control regardless of how thin the bristles were. The white pen created an element of contrast into my piece as it was used above the darker shades which as well made it more visual to viewing audiences.

The figure contained various areas of small detail therefore, the brushes I utilized were similar to the one I used for the cards showcasing sizes 1 to 4. The thinner brushes allowed me to paint precisely and give the visual of a clean outcome. The elements of symmetry and line were demonstrated through the accessories of the figure. Created through the use of fine lines and with some added shading, I believed that geometric shapes complemented the Egyptian theme as well as symmetric patterns. The background painted was chosen to be a lighter shade to again implement contrast as the figure was mostly painted with darker shades and I wanted it to appear as bold and opaque as possible.

I decided to portray this grand figure as the centre piece because she is meant to represent power greater than any god. The design of a hidden face reflected on themes of mystery and authority as her identity is not to be shown, but rather feared and respected by lower beings much like the higher powers in ancient Egypt.

In completing my art pieces, I believe I successfully portrayed a historical period and assets through a modern version of art and creativity. The art was created to impress audiences with a variety of detail to view but, also to inform about the various figures who were once believed in. Not many individuals are familiar with ancient Egyptian gods therefore, in sculpting the history to a more familiar visual would allow viewers to inquire and gain knowledge on a topic they could develop an interest from. I am satisfied with my final results and know that I have achieved an artwork I will admire and learn from for the coming future.