

Don Quixote De La Mancha

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Don Quixote is a fictional character created by Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes in 1605. The character is delusional and obsessed with becoming a knight. I think Don Quixote is significant to myself as he upholds his values in the pursuit of his goals regardless of the mockery he receives from others.

For my major piece I depicted Don Quixote De La Mancha in the art style of semi abstract/cubist, as it mirrors the character's unrealistic view of the world. Eyes looking upward and his hand on his heart reflect his honesty, sincerity, and unbounding optimism. Blue and Purple colours are employed for his colour scheme as they represent loyalty, faith and royalty which reflects his idealism and his desire to honour the code of a knight's chivalry. He is portrayed wearing makeshift armour and holding a jousting stick as to reflect his desire of being a knight.

For this practical, I wanted to expand upon my existing skillset by using new techniques and mediums. Previously I have created artworks in the style of Byzantine iconography, realism and caricature; as such, I wanted my second major to be more whimsical and abstracted. For my folio, I looked at semi abstract artists such as Gevorg Yeghiazarian, Otto Dix, as well as Sacrocubist artist Jorge Cocco who helped to influence my final piece.

Gevorg Yeghiazarian had a profound impact on my artwork as he creates dramatic portraits in an abstracted style. Yeghiazarian painted his portrait of Don Quixote with a monochromatic colour scheme various shades of blue to create semi depth/ tone. Don Quixote is portrayed with pale skin and a ghost like complexion. He employs various abstracted techniques such as elongated facial features and small eyes. Vignette lighting is utilised to create a focal point focusing heavily onto Quixotes face.

For my final drawing, I practiced drawing abstracted faces with similar characteristics, also focusing on powerful use of colour, geometric shapes, pose and positioning. To reflect on Quixote's ideology of deontology (demonstrated through the characters behaviour and chivalry that a lined with his morals and duty to be undertaken as a knight), I also focused on stance, pose, positioning on the page and the inclusion of the jousting stick when constructing my portrait.

Otto Dix influenced my work with his use of sharp and strong contours outlines, whereas Jorge Cocco on the other hand influenced me through his choice of subject matter/genre and cubist art style.

For my final choice of medium, I decided to use chalk pastels to further expand my skillset. I found that this medium was quicker and easier to apply than oil paints. Before my final artwork, I experimented with chalk pastels to successfully achieve blending gradients and creating a strong depth of tone.

Overall, I am extremely pleased with my final drawing as it portrays Don Quixote De La Mancha standing on his own and standing strong for what he believes in.