

Mice Craze

Grace Etherton

I've always loved pets ever since I was small, so it was a dream come true when I got my pet mice, I was ecstatic. I called them Cheese and Crackers and they meant the world to me and not a day went by where I didn't love them as much as I could. Crackers passed away in June of 2022, and Cheese passed away in March of this year and I miss them both terribly.

The passing of pets can be devastating to anyone, especially if it's your first pet. I was broken when Cheese and Crackers passed and I wanted to memorialise them in a way that I saw them, as both fun creatures who would always brighten up my day whenever I saw them. I wanted to use bright colours to show that they were the light of my life and to help them stand out as they first did when I first saw them in the pet store the day I got them.

I used my own photos to get the patterns on both mice correct and tried to draw them in a more cartoonish style, similar to my own style. I knew from the start that I was going to make this a digital print as it would be a lot cleaner and give me a wider range of colour options. I did experiment with different colour schemes, trying a pastel and dark colour palette as well as more vibrant and bright colours. I also tried experimenting with different compositions for the placement of the mice and background, before landing on that iconic pop art style of layout. I was torn between a lot of the colour options as I loved quite a few, but decided to stick with the classic and more recognisable colours used in pop art.

I was heavily inspired by the style of *Andy Warhol* for the layout and colour of the artworks as seen in almost all of his pieces. I was also inspired by *Keith Haring* as he uses bold lines to outline his main focal points in his pieces.

I achieved creating two digital prints representing how I feel about my pet mice, and I was able to achieve this by a lot of experimenting with compositions and colour palettes. I did go through a point where I was considering adding a third piece with acrylic on a canvas, combining the two artworks together, but decided that the two digital prints were enough. My final piece is very successful as it turned out exactly the way I wanted it. Losing pets can be hard, but by deciding to remember the best moments I had with them when they were alive has helped me a lot.