

*Lucinda*

## **Harrison Chow**

For my first major artwork, I decided to begin by looking at the work of Agnes Cecile. Beginning with the figurative. Works like "Drawing Restraints" and "Lines hold the Memories". Her images are monochromatic watercolour works. I liked her use of medium, ink on canvas. I then moved onto other artists like Meevi Choi and Samantha Rueter. Meevi Choi works with coloured pencil and sketches the human figure. "Male Model Standing" and "Male Model Leaning" are free and loose approach drawings. Rueter uses large canvases with acrylic paint to paint female figures. Some of these that I studied were "After Rain" and "Work in progress". I was interested in these due to the abstract style. Upon further investigation, many of these images were particularly stylized and not really what I wanted to emulate.

After further research I discovered Robert Longo's work. I very much liked the bold black and white simplicity of Longo's "Single Dancer" or "Untitled Frank". Because of this, I tested what it would look like, so I completed a photoshoot of myself in a suit posing in similar positions to Longo's figures. However, I didn't want to create a replica of Longo's paintings, but I wanted to keep the black outlined figure. This led me to look at Bromley's work. His paintings like "Mallory" use this black outlined figure, layered over various coloured and geometric backgrounds.

Using inspiration from Bromley, I decided that I needed to gather various background images. These ranged from me photographing rusting dumpsters in the city to old paint that had dried on pallets in the Art Centre. I then began to look into the use of photoshop and editing the textures and backgrounds that I had photographed. I decided to use Bromley's approach and take portrait photos of members in my family. These were then edited via photoshop to create a black stencil. I was then able to layer the textures on top of the portrait. During this process, I found that my youngest sister, combined with bright vibrant colours from an old paint pallet, suited the artwork the best. However, upon placing the stencil of my sister on top of the background, I found that it felt too compact and cluttered. Because of this, I diluted some colour contained with the centre of the image.

Referring back to Bromley's images, I noticed the use of various animals as a complimenting feature in the background. An example of the are the horses in his painting "The Young Artist". I wanted to make sure my image represented my sister, so I chose to surround her with various monarch butterflies. The butterflies represent her bright and colourful personality.

The creation of my final image was a culmination of new techniques I learnt on the way. I found working with photography and photoshop to be exciting. It enabled me to creatively combine drawings, paintings, collage and photographs.

#