

Lexi Crockett

“Familiarity”

For this work, I was challenged to create a drawing using the cross-hatching shading technique, one I had not used before. Our class was instructed to draw a still life that incorporated fabric. Confined to the scenes in my dorm room, I settled upon my coats that hang on the back of my door as I knew they would provide a challenge for me. Our instructor also provided an example of an artist who drew clothes hanging in her closet, and while I did not want to copy her work, I found the idea of drawing something that was hanging intriguing. I started this work by drawing an outline of my subject and working from the darkest article of clothing to the lightest. This allowed me to establish my scale and make sure that the colors reflected their real shades. I cross-hatched the base shade of each clothing article and shading the shadows from there. Once I had cross-hatched all the clothing, I found a doorknob reference and outlined and cross-hatched it. My final step was simply cleaning up the edges and adding the words.

This piece has an appealing composition as the diagonal nature of the bottom of the coats and jackets allows the viewer's eye to travel along the subject of the piece. Additionally, this piece is balanced because while the diagonal line of the bottom of the coats is asymmetrical, the doorknob balanced the piece by grounding the right side. One weakness in this piece is the proportion of the words on the left side of the coats, as it is simply a little small and can be difficult to read. However, the sizing of the words was an attempt to not draw attention away from the drawn portion of the project.

As I started to outline my subject, I realized that even though I had yet to wear my winter coat, I was still grateful it hung where I could see it to remind me of all the winters I wore it in my hometown. This is how I settled on the theme of familiarity because we can find it in the smallest of places. I struggled to adjust to school life and found that things that reminded me of home comforted me, like peanut butter, my bike, or my clothes. I was thankful to pay homage to my life back home through this project. One piece that inspired me was “The Clothes Rail” by Molley May. I admired how her piece showed us a small area of her life, but it still felt intimate. I created my work in the hopes that it would give off the same feeling of intimacy. I can think of no better piece I have created this year that shows the skills I have learned as well as the discoveries I have made.

A-S 130 Drawing

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