

Campbell Fair
2020

Name: Crowded Cranium

When creating this piece, I was given a skull in front of me to try to replicate. I was allowed to create this drawing at any angle I wanted, so I decided to go for a slight profile. I thought this angle would add emphasis on this piece if it wasn't straight on or straight on its side which is why I put it at an angle. When creating this, I was deciding on if I was going to make it abstract or keep it realistic. I decided to keep it as realistic as possible so that I could really emphasize the dark and light tones this skull had. When determining what medium I was going to use, I picked charcoal because I thought it would look best, and it would be a good medium that would help highlight the dark and lights throughout. When using charcoal it was easy to blend and create a texture of smoothness that the skull had in real life.

I think this is one of my best pieces because of its realistic scale and proportion. The texture I created using charcoal made the piece look very realistic which I also liked. My weakness of this piece though may have to be the lack of background. Though I feel like the background adds contrast to the piece since nothing is there, I agree that there needs to be something in the background that creates unity. The line and shape are really emphasized in this piece because of the value. They are emphasized by the darks and lights that are created in this work. All in all, though I wish I would have put something in the background, this piece has lots of unity and balance because of the lighting and value within which I really enjoy.

This piece is really special to me because I had never drawn a skull before it, but during it, it made me think of all the things that go on inside my head. It consists of the thoughts I have throughout the day, whether that positive or negative and it made me realize that my mind is so powerful. It can determine my feelings on any citation. It made me realize how precious it is even though it is such a small object physically. Now when I look at this picture, I realize my attitude and my look on life is up to me and my brain that is within my skull. It is a really good reminder for me when I'm having a hard day especially during coronavirus. Recently in one of my classes I have been learning about the work titled "Vanitas Still Life" by Pieter Claesz. His artwork consists of a lot of skulls in his still life which inspired me to try to draw one of them. He does a really great job with his shading and texture which made me want to see if I could get the technique in mine. This was my main inspiration because his work is so profound but very simplistic which I think is so beautiful. All in all I really had a great time creating this work and it has inspired me to go out of my way and create things that aren't usually in my comfort zone.

A-S 130 Drawing
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