

Name: Sofia Guichard

Year Piece was Created: 2020

Title: Sleipnir and Winged Dog

When I was figuring out how I was going to present a more updated version of the *Bay Horse and White Dog* painting, I thought I'd experiment with a more stylized interpretation; for example: the background consists of layered colored card stock while the two figures are made up of textured elements such as felt and furred fabrics. For this particular piece, I again decided to look into a subject that I have a very strong interest in: mythology. I mixed a few references to ancient folklore; which include elements of greek, eastern slavic and norse myth. The horse character is meant to represent Sleipnir; the eight-legged steed of the god Odin, and the winged dog is Simargl; an eastern slavic deity. In the background, I also made sure to make reference to the golden apple tree that the dragon Ladon guards in greek myth.

Aside from the heavy references in the piece, there are a few technical design choices that are both new and very familiar to me. The most apparent one of course is that I translated my cartoon drawing style into very carefully cut out pieces. While I have done this before, it was still a very challenging thing to do given that I wasn't really able to write directly onto the fabric without it catching on the fur or staining the felt. I also decided that I would use another technique that I personally really love: breaking the border. With this, I really was striving to create a more intriguing composition as well as to differ from the original painting. The only reason I have slight reservations about this choice is because the white dog tends to blend into the white border of the background

and in turn loses a sense of perspective and depth. The last thing I decided to incorporate was really new to me. In a few pieces I've seen by paper craft artists, they will layer different colored paper in order to accomplish a sunset effect in the sky. I'm not completely sure if this was entirely successful since now that I'm looking back, I would add a lot more layers to differentiate the sky from the lake since, again, the sense of depth could've been pushed more.

This piece really allowed me to explore my love of the Classics and see if I'd like to continue to create work that is inspired by the timeless stories I love to study. This was a stepping stone for my work in terms of gaining the confidence to really push a narrative in my artwork; this is mostly referencing the interaction between the two figures in the composition. One inspiration for this piece on an artistic standpoint would have to be Dana Terrace's show, Owl House. While this piece isn't animated like the show, I still wanted to incorporate the same cartoony style you'd see in the characters within the series.

Course Number and Title: A-S 102 2D

Instructor: Paul Rodgers