

Name: Kara Hucaby

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Title: A Girl with a Pearl Earring Collage

This artwork is of a collage of the Girl with a Pearl Earring, originally by Vermeer then modified by modernized collage artist, Jane Perkins, who used pearls, which she most likely found at the beachside, and buttons. She also used jewelry, such as the yellow beads of the hair on the girl with the pearl earring. Therefore, I decided to use buttons as well, and jewelry, except I was limited to store bought resources only. In addition, she used lego pieces in the background. I was limited on time, so I just did oil pastel for the background. This also reflected Vermeer, and his use of oil paint on canvas. I wanted to recreate the glossy texture and rich color, while staying true to the original which included beads and Lego pieces for the background. I did a small bit of jewels, which I painted black, and added them in the bottom left corner. This also added some contrast to my background, although it ended up looking unfinished, since I ran out of time, and did not at least fill up an entire section with jewelry pieces.

I focused a lot on light versus shadow. The buttons on the girl's face ended up giving her a very soft, almost pastel look. This reflected the sweetness and beauty of the original, by Vermeer, and also remained true to Jane, who used buttons for the face. For the lips, I decided to add contrast. I used oil pastel, just like the background, which was like Vermeer in how he used oil on canvas. At first, I attempted to use jewels for the lips, but it ended up looking very strange and unclear. For the hair, I decided to add my own spin into it. Just like Jane, I used jewels, but I used ones with smiley faces on it, and animals, to add a playful flavor to my artwork. I reproduced both the classical style and the modernized style of my collage artists, which I will discuss next.

Jane Perkins is a British artist who works with recycled materials, such as plastic toys, buttons, which was one of my primary materials, and even trash found along the beachside, as she grew up near a beach, in her home country, England. Alongside using recyclable materials, she also incorporates drawing and painting into her intricately detailed work. This is part of what inspired me, both her attention to detail, since I am a detailed person, and also her variety and adaptiveness to different mediums and styles incorporated into her work. The other artist that inspired me is classical artist, Vermeer. Vermeer was a Renaissance artist, well known for his love and appreciation of humanity, which I found to be very inspirational. He lived in the city of Delft, and much of his paintings reflected the scenery and surroundings of this city. But he also painted people and portraiture. His works do not contain much narrative, as he was more focused on capturing the beauty of people rather than being focused on their personal background. Some important classical elements of his artwork included chiaroscuro. I personally learned this term in art history. He used something called camera obscura, which is a box with a hole with a lens in it. The inside of the box is white, and it reflected the outside image, through the use of attached mirrors. By doing this, he enhanced both light and shadow on his portraits, so that the reader could fully appreciate it. This was also an important part of the baroque period, creating an interactive experience, where the reader felt they could be a part of the artwork, instead of just observing it from a distance.

The baroque period is the artist movement that inspired me to create this artwork, and the use of tenebrism. I was also inspired by my art history class, in which I learned about this particular time period. I felt very inspired the use of oil on canvas, which I turned into oil pastel, and also the use of tenebrism, which I manipulated using different objects of various shapes and sizes. I chose my collage project, because it took much time, and outside research. I used very personal and sacred items to me, to create this.