

Madison Wittrock

2020

Screaming: Mental Illness

For this project we were to recreate a historical painting out of collage materials. I wasn't sure on what historical painting I wanted to do at first, so I decided to research on the internet. I typed into my search box famous historical paintings. Once I found a few that I liked and seemed like it would be a good idea to create, I wrote my options down on a piece of paper. After I then narrowed it down to 3 pieces and tried to come up with materials, I could recreate them in. I came up with things like different types of paper, beads, crayons etc. I wrote down those possible materials that I could use. I had to then choose between the 3 options. I wanted to do something in relation to me and what were problems in the world that interested me. I chose *The Scream* by Edvard Munch. Once I decided the painting, I was set on recreating it out of crayons, however I then came to the realization that crayons were expensive, and I would have to buy a lot of pack to get the certain colors I wanted. I walked around hobby lobby trying to find some inspiration when I came to the fake flowers. I could use the flower petals! Studies have shown that those who grow flowers at their homes have a reduced rate in anxiety and I think it will be the perfect material to use for this piece because of the significance. I also used beads throughout the piece, at first you might not be able to see them but once you look closer you can. Kind of like mental illness, it's not always visible by looking at someone.

I think my recreation of the scream has some strengths and weaknesses. I think it has a lot of variety in the different uses of colors. The colors also all connect with each other and are used repeatedly in different places throughout the piece which creates some unity. There is some movement in the piece with the different boxes, but it could be stronger. I also could have layered the flower petals more to create more dimension, but I ran out of material, time and money. There are probably some places that could be a bit neater, I have some splotches of hot glue that could have been avoided but was accidental. Overall, I think I updated my piece to fit modern times pretty well and explained how forms of self-care like taking care of flowers can help mental illness.

The main subject of the painting is mental illness which is ongoing in our world today and I want to recreate this painting for that specific reason. A lot of people like me who suffer from mental illness or know someone who has a mental illness can relate to this painting as it conveys the suffering and hardship of mental illness. This painting to me describes how enclosed one can feel, like being in a box, which is why I recreated the painting by drawing out different boxes. I want to one day be an art therapist and help people with mental illness through creating art and I recreated this painting to spread awareness to mental illness and how doing art and other forms of self-care can really help improve one's life. The artist Bridget Beth Collins from the Pacific Northwest uses flowers and other plants to create her own pieces of art which was a little inspiring.

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