

Aria Summers
Year Created: 2020
Title: Caged Beauty

For this piece of artwork, our assignment was to draw part of a skeleton from a model and reinvent the insides by adding our own choice of objects into the center of the rib cage. The process that I went through to create this piece was beginning by choosing the angle that I wanted to draw the skeleton from. I decided to choose an angle that showed the face as well as an area that would be visually interesting. I began by sketching out the parts of the skeleton on black paper using a drawing pencil. The materials that I used for this artwork were white and black conte crayons as well as colored chalk pastels. Using the white and black conte crayons, I created highlights and shadows on the drawing in order to develop contrast and bring out the bone structure of the skeleton. This process took the most time because I had to build up multiple layers for the finished product to be more saturated. In order to come up with ideas for the inside of the skeleton's rib cage, I decided to think of objects or words that contrasted with a skeleton. I ended up with the idea of butterflies and caterpillars. I used the colored chalk pastels to add color to the inside of the skeleton where the butterflies and caterpillars are.

The use of value in my piece seems to be a strength, overall, as the white conte crayons on a black surface, as well as the highlights and shadows within the bone structure of the skeleton help to create depth and contrast. Although these elements and principles are working well in the work, I feel that there could have been a better use of balance between the butterflies, caterpillars, and skeleton. Possibly a greater number of caterpillars and even butterflies could overall make the composition balanced and more satisfactory to look at. Also, if there was a better use of value on the caterpillars, I think that could have made them stand out more and not as difficult to spot within the composition.

What inspired me to create the composition of this piece was the idea of life contrasted with death. For example, one might associate a skeleton with death, decay, or even horror and one might associate butterflies and caterpillars with change, beauty, and life. The butterflies and caterpillars represent the inner beauty of life while the outside or skeleton represents the more grim or unwanted parts of life. This piece to me means that although life may be going bad or not going the way you want it to on the outside, which is represented through the skeleton, you have to remember that deep down there is still good in the world and purpose, which is represented through the metaphors of the caterpillars and butterflies. My inspiration for this was looking at 17th century vanitas paintings as well as memento mori paintings. Vanitas are related to memento mori's which are reminders of death. Vanitas typically show life, pleasure, the certainty of death and are often contrasted with wealth and or things found in nature. My drawing is related to vanitas because it is showing a contrast of life and death through a skeleton and butterflies.

Course Number and Title: A-S 130 Drawing
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