

Name: Joshua Wicker

Year Created: 2020

Title of Work: Spooky Space

This piece was made in my Drawing 1 class. We were given the prompt that we were to draw a skeleton and then place it into a different environment with some interaction. I immediately had several ideas including plant life, day of the dead themes, space, and animals. I wanted to try something I was personally attached to, so I eventually decided upon the theme of space. For this piece we were given a specific set of mediums to use being chalk pastels and white conte crayon. Initially, I began imagining a sun in the middle of the skeleton's ribcage that illuminated everything around the skeleton. I was not completely sold on the sun in the ribs, so I eventually settled on creating several planets within the skeleton. I then began to move out to the rest of the scene where I wanted to really create a strong setting for my skeleton and make the viewer feel like they were looking into space. I began by creating a nebula-like structure behind the head of the skeleton and then tried to create a large variety of other objects you would find in space such as asteroids, stars, and other planets to finish the piece.

As far as strengths for this piece, first thing I notice is the accurate depiction of the skeleton. I think it is rendered quite well other than for some awkward shadows. There is a clear sense of depth and the proportions make sense. The use of a wide variety of colors contrasts well with the skeleton in the center, but I would have liked to see that pushed a bit further with an even more busy piece to create a stronger sense of being in a massive universe. Also, the use of objects in the foreground in front of the skeleton would add depth and made the space seem more expansive. The planet inside of the skeleton has a nice detail and texture to them, but they are hard to notice and observe behind the ribs of the skeleton. In hindsight, I would have placed those highly textured planets outside the skeleton with the more simply rendered planets on the outside of the skeleton. The asteroids in the bottom right are a unique feature in the piece that add a high sense of contrast, but since they are the one element using earth tones, they carry a heavy weight and keep the viewer away from the focus of the piece. Using those earth tones in other places in the piece could have balanced this out.

This was my favorite piece from my first semester in the SAVS. It was my first time drawing a live skeleton subject and it was informative to me and exciting to draw and create the baseline structure of human anatomy. The space theme is close to me because I come from a family full of nerds and science fiction geeks. I love all things space from Star Trek, Star Wars, aliens, pretty space pictures from NASA, etc. My inspiration for this project was a Fantastic Four comic cover #210 by comic artist John Byrne which features one of the Marvel Comics archvillains Galactus. Basically, I was trying to mimic a being who is massive enough to treat planets like baseballs. I think I was somewhat successful with the scale, but there is a lot of room for improvement.

Course Number and Title: A-S130 Drawing

Instructor Name: Amy Hadden