

Ella Wilson

Year Created: 2020

Title: *Houseplant Jungle*

This artwork is made completely out of cardboard and is named "Houseplant Jungle". The cardboard structure represents a playing card set box with a little twist on the theme. I went with the plant theme because it is something that I am passionate about. My local family business, which I work at, is a greenhouse so I have spent extensive time working with plants. This time has allowed me to recognize and memorize details in design of this different form of life: plant life. This unexpected theme emerged as I was creating the structure of the box and was an interesting change in my plan for the artwork. The imagery I used when creating the plants was meant to be whimsical while still being life-like and comparable to real plants.

In terms of formal elements, each plant on the card box has its own unique patterns and features, just as real plants are unique. The differences in each plant's surface design creates a distinctive embellishment that wraps around the entire surface without repetition. Yet, there is a form of unity among the plants because it is evident that they belong to the same family although they are different. There is also a strong use of implied lines in this art piece. Some sides of the plant leaves were intentionally left exposed, while still leaving specific elements of the leaves, in order to create implied lines that are visible to the viewer. A strength of this piece is the sense of movement created by the cards wrapping around the corners of the card box, which gives the piece a dynamic effect and gives the eye a path to follow. The only material other than cardboard used in this artwork is paper tape. Although the use of paper tape is minimal, it creates a contrast on the side edges of the card box which allows the embellishments to stand out. The paper tape trim lining the box gives enhancement to the entire piece. I used a substantial amount of additive sculpture because I felt it gave the sculpture more depth and dimension. The additive elements of corrugation brought the piece to life and made the plants feel like they are real. Concerning the actual stack of cards inside the card box, I aligned them unevenly as if they are real cards coming out to play to emphasize the whimsical and flirtatious feel of the piece. This gives the piece movement and a sense of playfulness. A challenge and weakness that I faced in the creation process of this piece was manipulating the cardboard. It is a difficult material to work with and one that I was completely unfamiliar with. I also faced struggles when trying to create the words on the front of the card box because I found it difficult to cut out intricate shapes from cardboard. The thing I struggled with most was the scaling. It was challenging for me to work out the numbers, bends, and folds of an actual card box in order to scale it up into a four-foot card box.

To me, this piece was a learning experience and pushed me to problem solve through the logistics of the project and also through the creative process. As explained previously, the theme of the project is also something I am passionate about: growing & plants. I was inspired to create this work by Artist Rómulo Celdrán, who turns everyday objects into oversized sculptures

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