

James Schaffer's Portfolio



Observational Drawing



“Paper Bag”

This was a homework assignment that was to draw 5 objects from observation with complete shading. I choose a paper bag because of all of the wrinkles and difficult texture of the crumpled bag.

This was done in graphite in an 8.5x11 sketchbook.



“Untitled (Balloon Weight)”

This project focused on drawing a magnified object and using photographs to create the best composition possible. I went with a very zoomed in picture of a balloon weight because of the super fine detail and the challenge of recreating the shiny texture of the material.

This piece was done in charcoal on 18x24 drawing paper.

2D Design

“Weave #1”

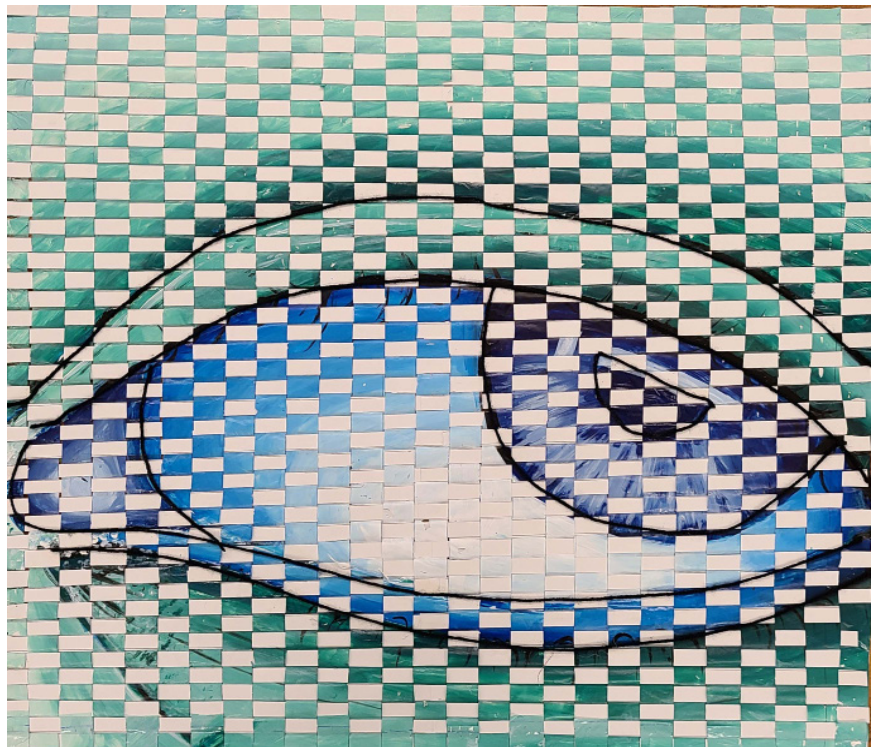
In 2D Design, we learned how to weave with different materials like newspapers, strips of magazine pages, and even 3D materials like cardboard and plastic wrap.

This piece consists of newspapers and strips from magazine pages. I went with very aesthetically pleasing photos so that the composition would have a calm, serene feeling to it.

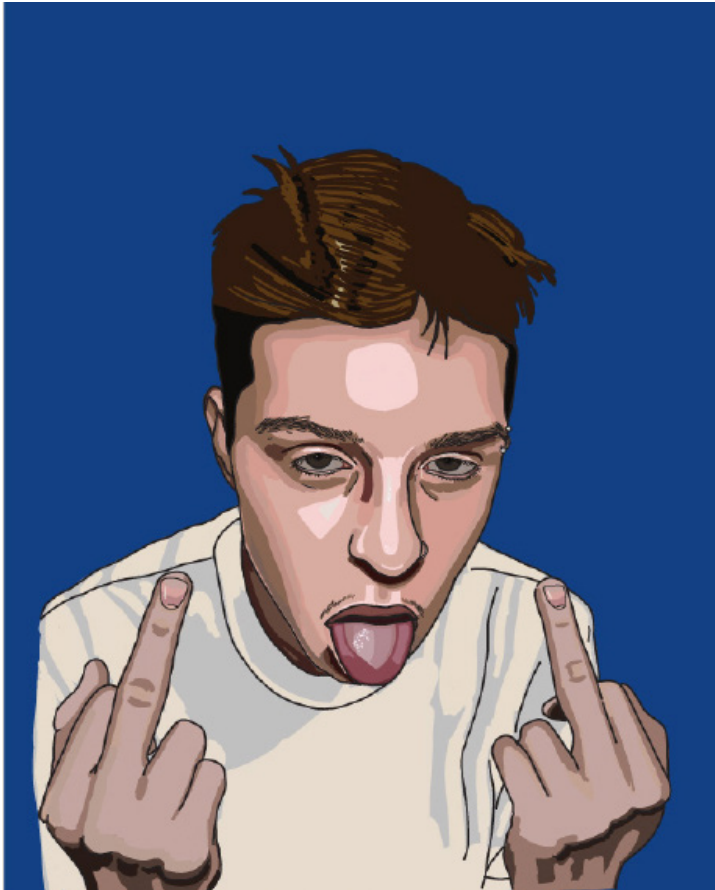


“Weave #2”

This piece was another weaving project, but on a much larger scale. I painted strips of plastic wrap to depict an eye and then weaved it with strips of white paper to achieve the patterned look. I then used black yarn on top to outline the main structure of the eye.



Digital I



“Vector Self Portrait”

The assignment was to create a vector portrait in Illustrator using specific techniques, so I made this slightly impolite portrait of myself.

This represents the hopelessness and insecurity that we all have felt at some point, some of us more than others, hence the hunched over shoulders, the expression-less eyes, and the hands with the middle fingers up.

Sometimes, we all just want to say “F**k you” to the world, and this is a depiction of that.

“Self Identity Project”

This digital mash-up project features photographs, vectors, and digital painting. It represents my struggles with being transgender and how that has impacted my mental health.



Studio Discovery

“Nature or Nuture”

This piece focuses on the famous psychological question of nature vs. nurture in determining human characteristics and behavior. It features boxing gloves, which are seen as “tough,” and somebody’s hands in a very vulnerable pose. The juxtaposition of these elements are supposed to represent that question and the nuances of the argument on both sides in an aesthetically pleasing way.



“Self-Made Man”

This is a depiction of a trans penis (a penis post-phalloplasty) being used to pee for the first time. I wanted to focus on the reality of trans bodies and show that they can be just as beautiful and desirable as cis bodies; and even if trans bodies aren’t conventionally attractive, they are beautiful in their functionality.

