



1.

Title: Model Student?

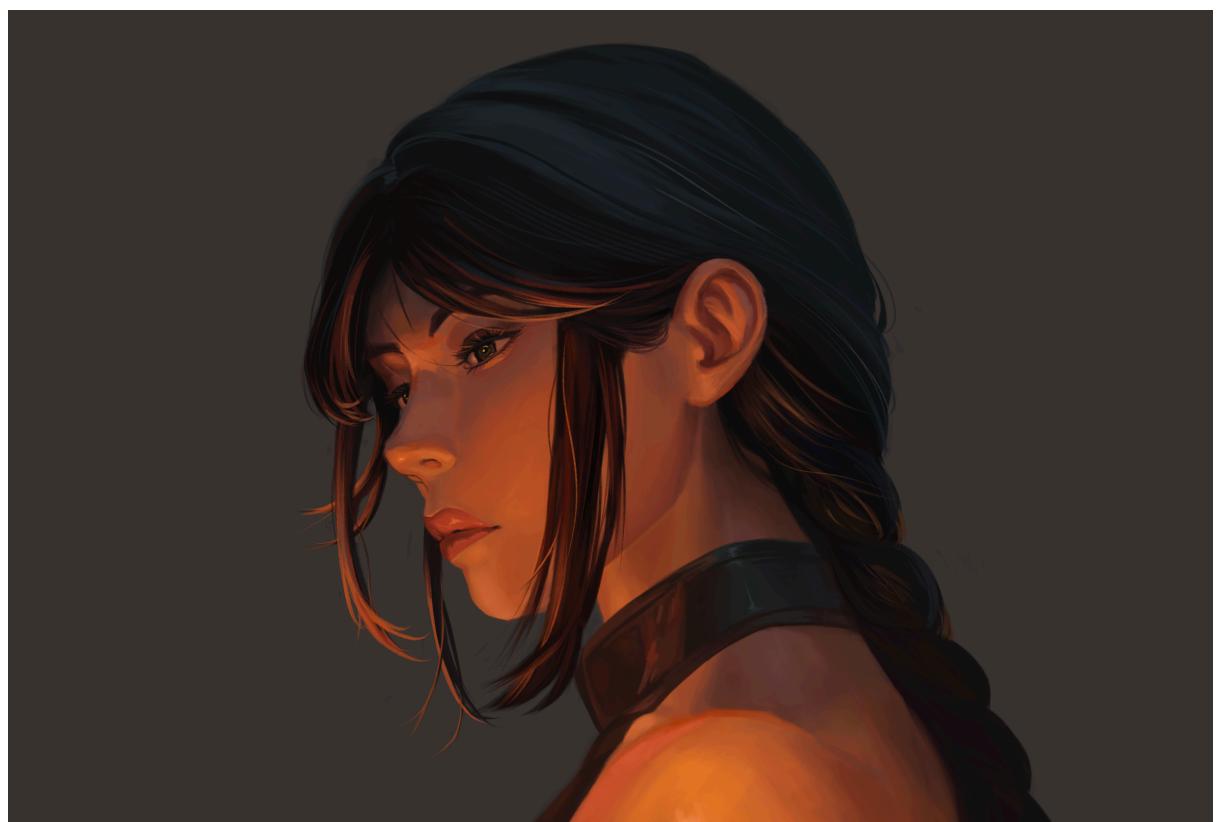
Year: 2023

Dimensions: 594 x 841 mm

Medium: Charcoal on paper

Description:

A commentary on the excessively competitive education systems present in some parts of the world. Students in these systems are so busy hunting for perfect test scores that they have no time to discover who they are and what they truly want to do. This inevitably leads to youth becoming ‘test machines’ that, once released into society become lost and demotivated.



2.

Title: Guweiz Study

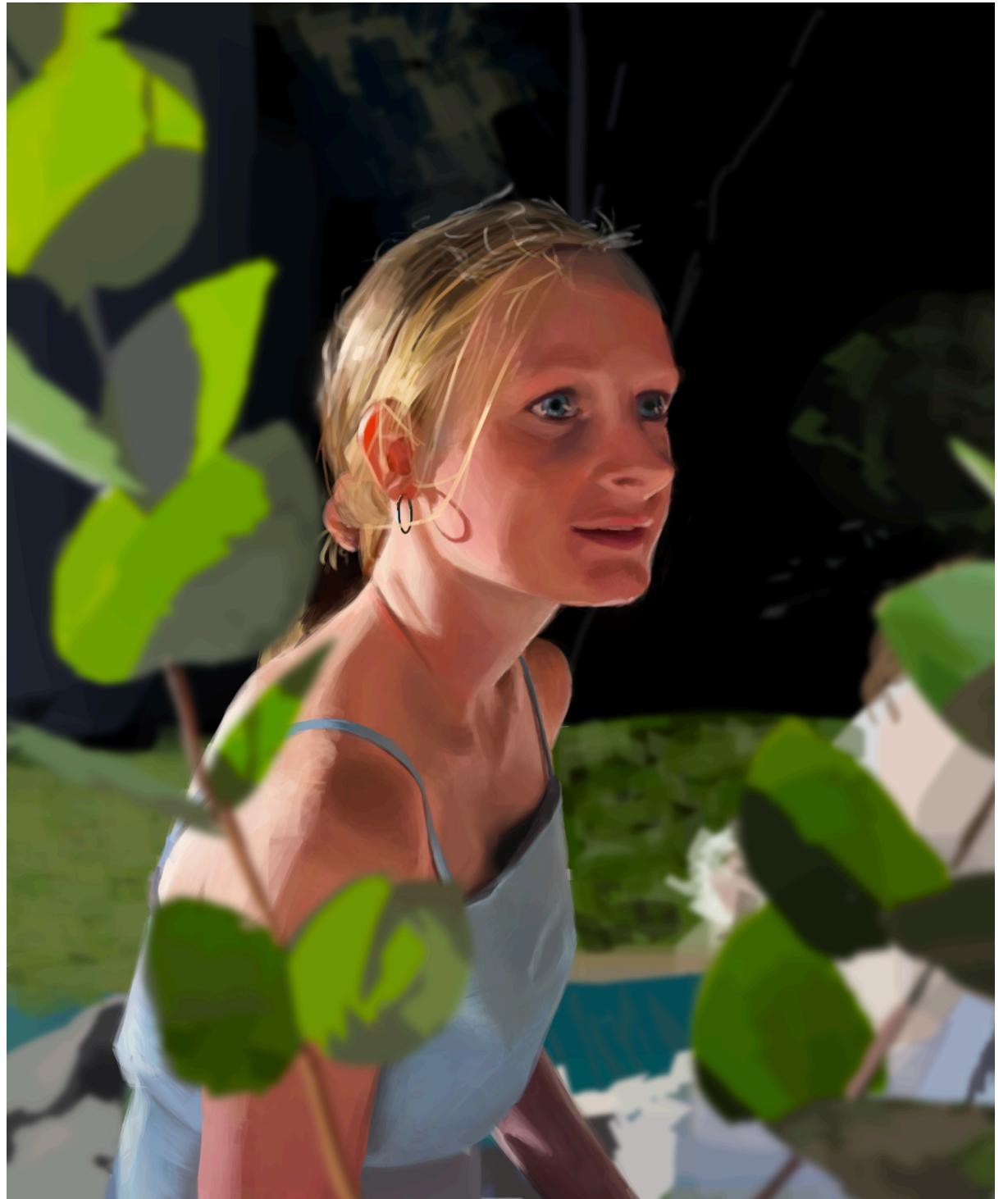
Year: 2023

Dimensions: 3975 x 2700px

Medium: Digital

Description:

Guweiz has always been an artist I deeply admired. Through this study, I learned valuable lessons on how light interacts with different surfaces, particularly skin, as well as how to transition from 2 different colored light sources. I also learned how Guweiz paints hair by gradually building up detail from a base.



3.

Title: Jay

Year: 2022

Dimensions: 2199 x 2674px

Medium: Digital

Description:

I studied the effects of lighting on various materials such as skin, clothing, and hair here.



4.

Title: Helen

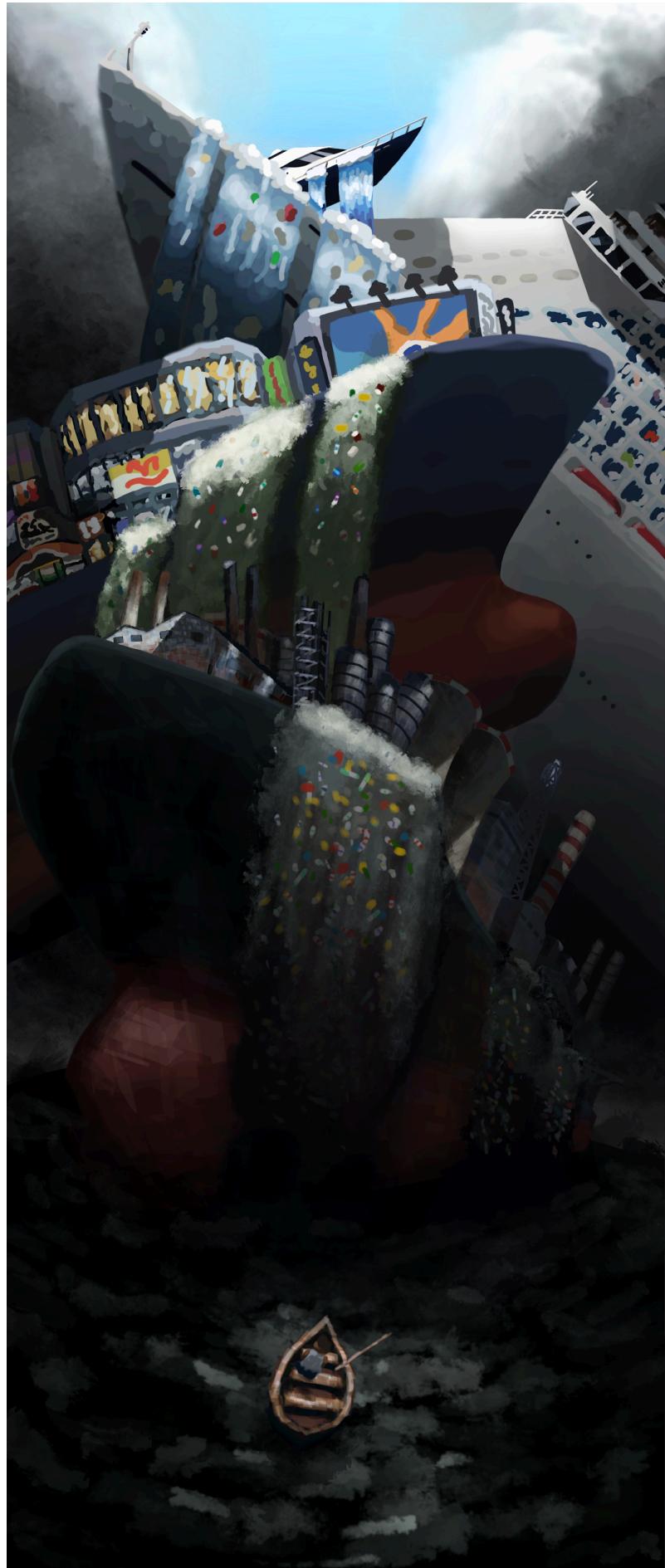
Year: 2022

Dimensions: 2458 x 3000px

Medium: Digital

Description:

In this artwork, I experimented with many methods to try and capture the vitality of skin and the style of traditional oil portraits using digital means.



5.

Title: Cascade

Year: 2021

Dimensions: 3003 x 7159px

Medium: Digital

Description:

This artwork comments on the disproportional impact that climate change has on disadvantaged communities. While the rich and powerful in the yacht can afford to live green, it should be their responsibility to stop the rest of society in the other ships from polluting the Earth, yet they remain silent. The under-resourced communities in the wooden boat take the brunt of the ecological effects, but can't do anything about the situation.

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Throughout the years, I have read many articles reporting on incidents of environmental disasters. Although these articles came from all across the world and reported on many different types of disasters, (oil spills, plastic pollution, overfishing, etc...) they all had one thing in common — other than the local wildlife, the most adversely affected group was almost always the poor, disadvantaged, or indigenous communities in the area. This struck me as extremely ironic: The ones polluting the Earth do not suffer the consequences, but the ones that do suffer are powerless to change the situation. Thus, the central message of this artwork materialized in my head: a portrayal of our world's inequality using our effect on the oceans.

This artwork consists of many ships and boats stacked on top of each other, each representing a 'level' of society, as well as a different aspect of our world.

The yacht at the top represents the rich and powerful: these people can afford to live a healthy and clean lifestyle, leaving little pollution, (as shown by the blue skies in the background and the clean water flowing out of the boat) but with this much influence and such a clear view of the global situation, it should be their responsibility to step in and correct the situation, yet they remain silent, living within the safe haven of the yacht.

The following two ships, namely a cruise and cargo ship, represent middle-class citizens. These people make up the bulk of society and are therefore the main polluters to our Earth. The cruise ship faces towards the small pocket of blue sky, with the tourists inside marveling at the last little fragment of unpolluted Earth, all while leaving a trail of plastic waste flowing down its part of the waterfall. The cargo ship holds a bustling shopping street, where everyone is too busy engaging in the pleasure of consumerism to realize the catastrophic impact they are having on the environment. Amidst the part of the waterfall that is found here, many one-use items such as bottles and plastic bags can be found.

At the bottom of the stack, an oil tanker holds various factories, warehouses, and other industrial buildings, representing the industrial aspect of our society. The once-blue water becomes blackened by oil spills and other contaminants and

plummets into the sea.

Near the bottom of the artwork is a fisherman with a small fishing boat. They represent the poor, disadvantaged, and indigenous communities, who are the only ones to realize how humans are slowly killing the world around us. Of course, they too want to block out this grim reality, but the boat they have is too small to offer a place to hide. Some of them want to change this reality, but the gap between them and the rest of society is too large, and the walls of the other ships are too high, leaving them unable to climb up and alert others to this situation.

One may also notice the shift in style from cartoonish at the top of the artwork to more realistic at the bottom. This is to portray the fact that the world in which the upper and middle classes live is but a facade, created by money and misinformation. Sooner or later it will crystallize into the more realistic depictions at the bottom, showing the real state of our world.

Although the general mood of this artwork is dark, and perhaps a little hopeless, this is merely to emphasize the severity of our current situation. On paper, many people are aware of the pollution problem, but because we don't feel the consequences of our actions just yet, not a lot of us are actually doing something about it. Moreover, among those who do want to take action, the scarcity and prohibitive price tags of eco-friendly alternatives often make it impossible for one to truly live green.

Luckily though, our world can still be salvaged, and I want this artwork to serve as a wake-up call to all who view it, so that they may properly think about how they can change their daily routines to help save the oceans — and the world.



6.

Title: Flowers or Weeds?

Year: 2021

Dimensions: 594 x 420mm

Medium: Charcoal and markers on paper

Description:

This piece was made as a commentary on the racial divide within South Africa. The roses and blackjacks have been used as an analogy to race. While in the wild, these 2 flowers both serve the same purpose, but society treats one as a prized decoration,

while relentlessly purging the other as a weed.

I drew this piece in an effort to evoke thought regarding the values of society, and how we should make an effort to reevaluate those that do not have a sound logical basis.



7.

Title: Cozy

Year: 2021

Dimensions: 4000 x 3000px

Medium: Digital

Description:

Toilet paper is a simple yet necessary object we all rely on in times of need. I found it as an interesting way to depict feelings of comfort and familiarity.



8.

Title: Self Portrait

Year: 2021

Dimensions: 2332 x 3454px

Medium: Digital

Description:

In this self-portrait, I wanted to explore value distillation. In this spirit, I tried to use fewer colors without sacrificing the sense of form of the artwork.