Nathan Hallam

Potter

COM 230

January 5th, 2022

Exercise 1 Reflection

I am not usually one to try and express emotion through my work as I am more analytical, more of a realist than an optimist. Trying to find words of emotion and creating lines to express that emotion or vice versa was an interesting task to say the least.

The first example was a simple one to create as it was how I was feeling, “Perplexed.” I felt as though I was running in circles trying to make something that I do not completely comprehend or find much value in. This led to “Rebellion,” partly out of humor and partly to “fill a box.” I see rebellion as not following the rules, or the lack or rules thereof. No one said I had to draw inside the box as far as I could tell. Thus I did not conform to the mess that was the rebellion inside the constraint of the box. The third is “Overwhelmed,” a sense of gushing out, overflowing emotion, wanting to throw your hands up and give up - to fly away and to forget. The lines are curved and point to the top edges of the box to represent this desire to escape, reversely you can see it as a pressure pointing down into the bottom-center of the box. Fourth is “Empowered,” the ability to act upon, to achieve despite odds. The multiple lines represent motion, the swiftness of action when empowered, while the U shaped line can be a magnet, a cup, a general vessel for achievement once you have attained it. The one straight line is the determination to stay on the path to achievement, the straightforwardness of it all. Fifth is “Vulnerable,” to feel weak and alone. All lines point to the center, as if to be made fun of or pointed at, a weakness exposed. The swirl is to be in self loathing, regret, endlessly spiraling upon the negativity of that which is around it. Last is “Guilt,” sadness and dread at one's own action or inaction. 4 lines point upward like an arrow or a mountain, the decision you have made, the choices you have taken. 2 lines lie beneath the 4, pointing downward. The 2 lines are the regret and the true incarnation of the guilt, much like 2 steps forward and one step back.

When it came to using shapes I found the task simpler as the shape study was a task more about defining concepts rather than arbitrary emotion. Rhythm can also be seen as a pattern or sequence. Thus while it is not creative, an alternating square and triangle is easy to see and understand - there is a pattern, it goes square then triangle, then back to square. For symmetry I wanted to have the center focal point, and wanted to use a circle, and as such a circle was placed into the center of the canvas. To represent the symmetry 4 squares were placed in each cardinal direction. The same shapes were used for asymmetry, but instead the circle was placed in one corner, 1 square in the corners next to the circle, and 2 squares across from the circle. Due to the size of the circle the weight of the piece is more to the bottom left, with minor weight on either side of the circle and more weight across from the circle than on the sides. I originally had all four squares opposite of the circle but thought that symmetry could be made diagonally across the canvas, and as such move the 2 squares from the one corner to the opposing empty corners, giving the illusion of symmetry. Isolation is easy in that you have one group of objects and an outlier. 3 stars were used in a group on the bottom right corner with one outlier in the top left. A great deal of whitespace is between the group and the isolated star helping to add emphasis to the group. I took similar concepts from the earlier symmetry and changed the shape to stars. One large shape in the center surrounded by smaller shapes. I wanted to try using the alignment tool at this point so I put stars in the bottom corners to help test the tool. The 3 sizes of star was simply to add some amount of visual appeasement on my end. Last was value which I felt could be defined by a black hole, light gets sucked into the center and despite how dark it is you still look into the abyss. Similar to a dark hallway or hole in the ground you have the sense of mystery on what lies beyond the darkness. This is represented with a basic grayscale with black at the center and whitespace around the outside. Squares were chosen for testing the alignment tool again, and the canvas was a square as well. Perhaps you can say that the edges of the square create emphasis towards the center along with their value.