

Artist Statement

This piece was inspired by the 1978 album *Hemispheres* by Rush. In the album, the concept of ‘left brain versus right brain’ is portrayed as two Greek gods fighting for influence over mankind. This concept of left brain and right brain is a pseudoscience theory that says that individuals who are more calculated and logical are ‘left-brain dominant’ referring to the left hemisphere of their brain being more influential on their personality. And, on the other hand, people who are more expressive and creative are said to be ‘right-brain dominant’. The original album cover portrays the concept of ‘left brain versus right brain’ well, but doesn’t illustrate any of the story elements, such as the Greek gods Apollo and Dionysus, or the different attributes of the left and right brain. So, with my revised album cover, I decided that I was going to incorporate symbols and imagery of these gods and what they represent, while still sticking with the idea of ‘dividing in half’. Because of this, I made sure to use symbols that were associated with each of the gods, such as the lyre for Apollo and the bunch of grapes for Dionysus.

In order to create the piece, I used Illustrator to create the artwork itself, and InDesign to export the finished product. In some cases, I used reference images found online in order to accurately draw certain objects, but the majority of the design was made from my own imagination. In particular, the lyre, grapes, and tulip flower were made by tracing and modifying reference images, whereas everything else was done from scratch. I also used quite a few different built-in textures and graphical effects. Angled Strokes and Water Paper were used for the metallic texture on the left-hand side, and Drop Shadow was put on most objects to make them stand out against the background. I also made frequent use of the Blend Tool in order to make the more repetitive elements, such as the strings on the lyre or the individual tubes on the metal coil.