

The background of the image is a rich, textured painting of a pond. A large, vibrant green lily pad with prominent veins dominates the left side. To its right, a blue dragonfly with intricate patterns on its wings is perched on a small green plant. Several fish are visible in the dark, rippling water, including a brownish-gold fish near the top right and a silver fish with orange fins at the bottom. The overall style is that of a classical oil painting, with fine details and a sense of depth.

# *Digital Skills for Visual Media*

*Annette Brecheisen*

# Visual Media Design 105

---

I am taking this class because it is a requirement of the VMD Foundation certificate. I have an English degree from University of the Pacific, but I have never known what I want to do for a career. I hope to get a better idea as I take more VMD courses and will then pursue a second, more specialized certificate. I have learned a lot in this class! I lost track of time working on projects and thought about them in my spare time. This class has provided invaluable preparation for the Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign classes I will take in the future.

## Fonts

*Chapbook*

JMH Legajo

*Chris Handwriting*

I used fonts that look as if they could have been inked with a quill to correspond with the Victorian or fairytale feel of my class projects. Chris' Handwriting is very close to my own handwriting, so I used it for my signature.

The parchment background was taken from the book used in my raster project. All other images are from class projects.

# Raster Project

---

The assignment was to create a “selfie” using Photoshop. I really enjoyed the challenge. I created a composite of a woman reading, placing her in a fairytale setting. The image is meant to show my greatest strength and greatest weakness. I have a deep sense of wonder and imagination but when I look up from my dreams, so much of life seems to have passed me by. This gives me a feeling of unreality, or of life being a dream within a dream. But, even then, as the rest of the poem states, noticing the passing of time does not make it any less gone.

*“...You are not wrong, who deem  
That my days have been a dream;  
Yet if hope has flown away  
In a night, or in a day,  
In a vision, or in none,  
Is it therefore the less gone?  
All that we see or seem  
Is but a dream within a dream...”*

-Edgar Allan Poe  
Excerpt from A Dream Within a Dream



○

All that we see  
or seem

without a dream  
within a dream.

-Edgar Allan Poe



# Vector Project

---

The assignment was to draw a creature using Illustrator. I utilized my raster project and added an octopus to the scene. It was intimidating because I didn't have any experience drawing or illustrating. The perspective is off, and the octopus is more cartoonish than intended, but I was happy with the result. The octopus represents the spectre of time that creeps up when we fail to pay attention to our surroundings. My final image is in portrait orientation, so I have also included part of my original sketch which is more sinister than the illustrated version.

*"...The bright day is done,  
And we are for the dark."*

-William Shakespeare  
Antony and Cleopatra





# Animation Project

---

The assignment was to create an animation using Animate. I loved making my animation even though it wasn't necessarily a success. The animation is of my raster image: the woman still preoccupied with reading on her lily pad. The vector octopus emerges from behind, but instead of pulling her down into the water, wiggles around playfully. Tragedy was only narrowly avoided because I couldn't animate the pull-down to my satisfaction. The unintended outcome ended up serving as a suitable metaphor for how, despite my ever-present existential dread, life is still wondrous and there is much joy to be found.

*"Einmal ist keinmal, says Tomas to himself. What happens but once... might as well not have happened at all."*

*"If we have only one life to live, we might as well not have lived at all."*

- Milan Kundera  
The Unbearable Lightness of Being

