

Nadia Lynch

Professor Leily

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Digital Art & Me

Art came to me naturally as it did to me and my siblings, we were born wrapped in interest and expression with a lifelong desire to create. We were shown cartoons and variations of animations, it came naturally to draw what I saw and try to imitate the art style; what I saw were great pieces of art in a style so grand and amazing - thinking the more I learned it I could have my own cartoons and book illustrations. To me, digital art is my haven - I can't really imagine if I would be an artist as much as I am, had I only been given traditional mediums. I've found myself realizing I'm an illustrator yet I don't design books or posters. The journey of exploration never ends.

I've always loved cute things and sweeter designs like Sanrio type characters, but there is still a very Hot-Topic type teenager will in my heart, that enjoys the edgier things. With that interest in mind I try to not take it too seriously and just have fun with

what I make instead. I took a year to develop a style of drawing and coloring for monster designs, identifying as a monster horror artist but I've felt myself transition into being a softer person again. My work with



monsters was linked with handling difficult emotions - trying to define myself in art and express different depths of pain. But I'm happier now! So it's naturally harder to make scarier art, so while through monsters I explored my masculinity - this year I would like to explore my softer art side to then create a harmony.

The project I would like to highlight the most in class would be the collage project; I turned in a piece that was reminiscent of my early 2000's math textbook from the first grade. It made me feel like a designer for the first time - having always been an illustrator I now I felt like this pro-designer who was showing signs of being capable. While the artists I will take a brief survey over aren't specifically collage artists - they are digital media artists that have given a sense of influence or goals to explore. It's worth noting that the artists I will feature will be primarily on Twitter and other platforms so I will respectively post their information below the rest of the essay.



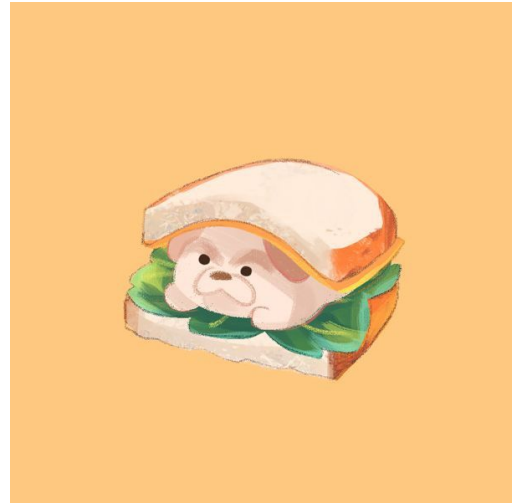
I would like to highlight Natasha Allegri, the creator of Bee and Puppycat, Allegri previously worked under Pendleton on

Adventure Time. When the pilot was released it was an instant hit - after the pilot, a Kickstarter was funded to kick off the first season of Bee and Puppycat - with a total of \$872,133 - breaking the record for Kickstarter's most funded campaign. The style of the show features rich backgrounds of beautiful and careful detailing with color palettes always



changing but retaining their harmony. The character designs sport varying costume designs. This show and Natasha Allegri influenced me in terms of celebrating femininity and creating softer designs, however the show mostly influenced me to create more stories and to consider my color choices more.

Continuing looking at digital media artists, Louie Zong is a fabulous digital media artist who is a storyboard artist for We Bare Bears; Zong specializes not only in storyboarding but also in background scenery and creating beautiful music. I found Zong through the animations he did for a podcast and through his Youtube work. Zong's



inspiration to me is to really just slow down and enjoy the process of creation. Zong's

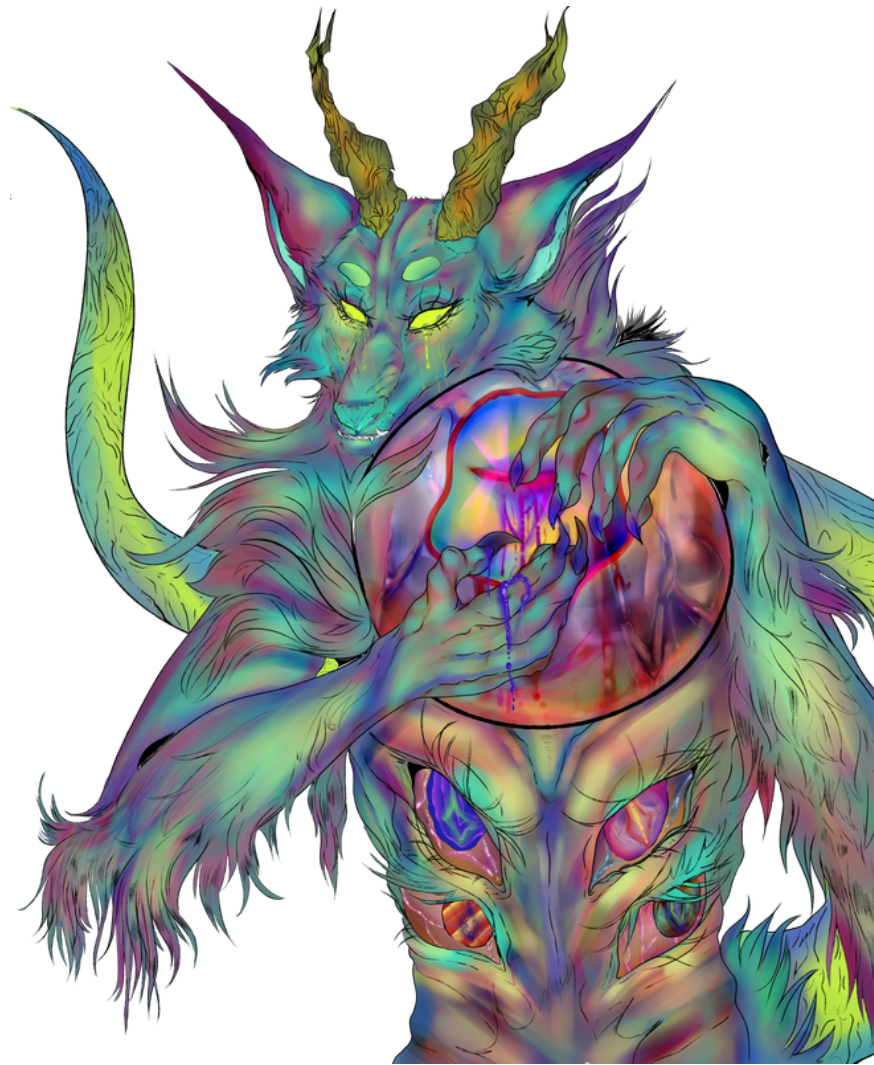
passion is evident through his tutorials and explanations - despite his busy work schedule Zong always takes the time for everything he does. Zong is not only an exceptional artist but he that has influenced my work, but he has also affected my work ethic.



The last artist I would like to feature is Nadia Kim, (yay same name!) who does a lot of sweet and adorable digital illustrations. Kim's subjects are usually of cats as ice cream or other types of treats. However, when taking a closer look at their portfolio there, Kim

creates rich world within every illustration with a series of color palettes that all sync well together - not one color falls out of place. Kim also runs their own store selling goods of their art, which is where the real inspiration begins from me. It's been an aspiration of mine ever since I was young - I've managed to sell commissions consistently however a store of goods its my ultimate dream. Kim's store is not only ethical and well cared for, Kim also takes the time to acknowledge people over social media and leaves them handwritten notes per package. Being and ethical and sweet shop owner of cute goods is all I want to be.

When taking my own work into closer consideration for technical abilities as well as conceptual; This year has centered around experimenting with new processes. This meant finding new ways to do lineart as well as play with colors. The main thought behind these changes was to create a more enjoyable crafting experience - to find what would encourage me to take my time rather than to rush a piece and fumble to upload it. Looking back at some of my



earlier pieces I can see where I've already surpassed that level of skill or see where my color usage was weak. For example the drawing above is one I'm still proud of but it's far easier for me now to see color matching mistakes than it was when I first made it. That was a drawing I spent ages having fun coloring; Looking to see how I can make a 2d image look like it had depth or some sort of textured feeling.

All in all, to close the paper I would like to say that this art class has refined my comfort with certain programs and helped me create visions more akin to what I would like to be consistent in the future - as well as create a closer to connection to the software I use to produce art. While I complain about HTML, I don't actually hate it; I'm just a lazy problem solver. I think this class was perfect for my needs and level as a digital artist. I'm fascinated by glitch art still and coincidentally my friend is really into it too, so I can't wait to see where we go with that. This class made me realize what kind of artist I consider myself, an illustrator - I don't feel limited in the slightest if not more invigorated to explore my path. Thanks for reading!

LINKS:

Natasha Allegri: <https://twitter.com/natazilla>

Louie Zong: <https://twitter.com/everydaylouie>

Nadia Kim: https://twitter.com/nkim_illustrate

My links: <http://avscportfolio.weebly.com>