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Midterm Reflection

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For my still life drawing, I decided to draw my MacBook laptop, my soccer cleat, my intro to programming textbook, a pair of headphones, and an Xbox, controller. My MacBook Pro represents the student part of me. Most of the work I do involves the use of my computer. I take it everywhere I go and has become an important tool in my everyday life. The stickers on my computer represent some of my interests. The sticker of the ghost, also known as Haunter, is my favorite Pokémon character. Pokémon was a huge part of my childhood. I grew up watching the Pokémon TV show series and playing the video games. The bottom right sticker that reads, “Training Mask” represents the importance of fitness in my life. The sticker came with a fitness mask mimics high elevations while doing exercise. This fitness mask has had a significant impact on my fitness throughout the last couple of years so I made sure to include in it in my drawing. The inclusion of my soccer cleat represents my passion for soccer. I have been playing soccer since I was ten years old. I have been using this specific soccer cleat since my freshman year of college. It has been through two tough soccer seasons and it still shows little sign of wear. I drew the right cleat in order to represent my dominant foot in soccer. I also decided to include my Freshman year computer science textbook, JAVA Early Objects because I am a computer science major. This intro textbook is special to me because it represents the beginning of my computer science journey. On the right-hand side of the textbook, I decided to draw my Xbox One video game controller. Although, I am not a hardcore gamer, I still enjoying playing a lot FIFA. FIFA is a soccer game that almost everyone enjoys. If I could, I would have drawn the FIFA video game cartridge instead of the controller but I downloaded FIFA from the Microsoft store so I hade no cartridge. Finally, I decided to my apple headphones. Music is a big part of my life—whether I am working out, going on a car ride or doing homework, music always makes my experiences better.

The arrangement of my objects emphasizes the importance of my career, education, and experiences at Willamette University. If you look closely you can see that all of the objects I drew surround and connect to my computer science textbook. My computer science book is like the heart of the drawing. I arranged my objects around my computer science book because my career as a computer scientist is important to me. Building applications, designing software and building websites is what I plan on doing for the rest of my working life. The objects around my computer are in some way tied to my experiences at Willamette University. I need my MacBook to finish programs and complete school work. I am part of the men’s soccer team so I need my soccer cleat for practice and soccer games. Music and video games help me relax and relieve stress when the school workload gets too heavy. All of these items are important tools that I need in order to do well in school.

My drawing process was exciting, fun and at some points stressful. I began by brainstorming objects that I would included in my drawing. This part was easy because I already had ideas right after reading the midterm directions. Then I decided to do a grid drawing like we did with the self-portrait photo-realistic enlargement projects. I chose to go this route because I really enjoyed the photo-realistic enlargement project; it was fairly straight forward and easy to stay consisted with proportions. After I arranged my objects, I took a photo and printed it out. I divided both my18x22 inch drawing and photograph into 6 even grids. I proceeded by sketching all of the shapes first to make sure they were proportional size. I did not draw my objects one-by-one, instead I would spend time on one and then jump to another one. I used this technique because it allowed me to take breaks and see things better. I used different hatching techniques and my 8B pencil darken the darkest areas. For lighter areas and shadows, I used my 4B pencil, sandpaper and the chamois cloth. Putting all of those techniques together allowed me to create a successful drawing.

Over the course of my drawing process, I came across some issues. I had a difficult time making the top of my computer look round and stand out. I also had a hard time with the values of the Xbox controller because of how dark it was compared to my other items. To resolve the Xbox controller and computer issue, I used my 8B pencil to darken the areas that needed darker values to make it look more realistic. The biggest issue I had was drawing the headphones. The cord was really small and difficult to draw. After I received my malleable eraser however, drawing the pair of headphones was a breeze. The precision of the malleable eraser made it easy to erase the thin lines of for the cord of the headphones. Overall, if I could go back and change anything from my drawing, I would increase the amount of grids to improve precision. I would also incorporate some shading techniques that I did not use to improve the texture on my soccer cleat.