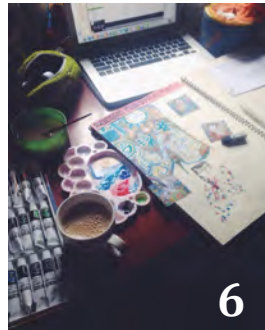


IB Visual Art Process Portfolio

I am Chinese and in my research of Chinese Folk painting I discovered the work of Tian Yong. Of all the Folk artists I studied I liked his work, because he was able to blend a traditional Folk style with a modern approach and I wanted to try this idea myself.

The style of the Chinese artist Tian Yong has influenced me. Although my personal style is that of a Realist Tian Yong opened up new ideas to me. His elaborate backgrounds with lots of pattern and rich decoration attracted me and I wanted to better understand his style of painting. I also find his range of colours interesting. He uses mostly primary colours. In the painting 'Mandarin and the Hat' (fig 1) he even suggests Mandarin in the use of a grid of primary colours on the shirt.



Chinese Folk Art Painting.

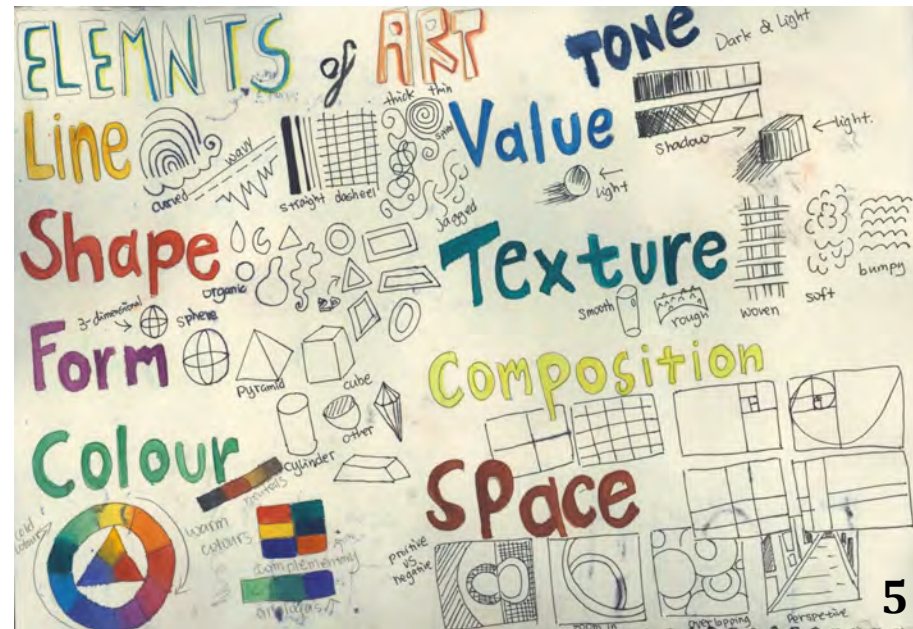


Figure1. "Mandarin and the hat" Tian Yong, 2006

Figure2. "Storytelling And Ballad Singing In Suzhou Dialect" Zhang Wanying, Gouache on rice paper, 16 x 16 inches.

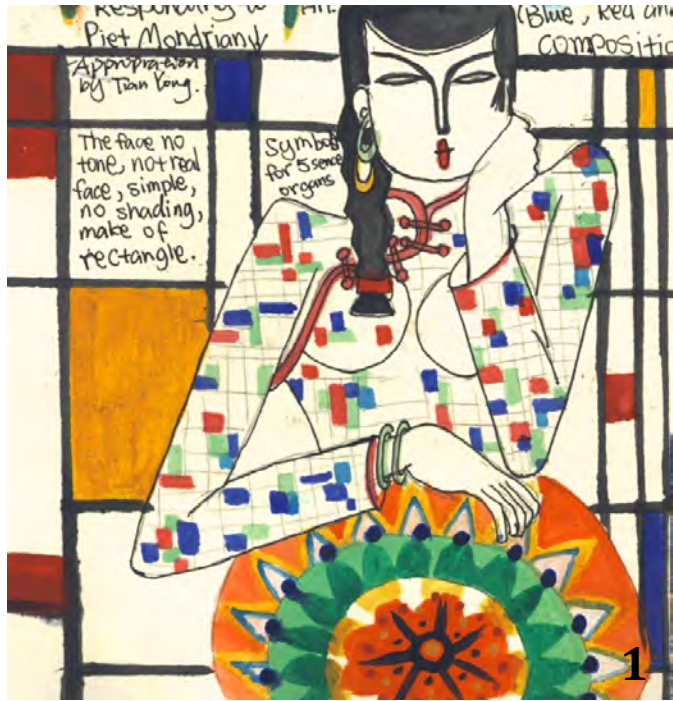
Figure3. "Maiden with Chick" Tian Yong, 2006

Figure4. Detail of my sketchbook. Tian Yong style of culture pattern painting. Acrylic paint on paper. 2014

Figure5. Page of my sketchbook. Understanding of formal qualities. Watercolor on paper. 2014

Figure6. Photo of my work place.

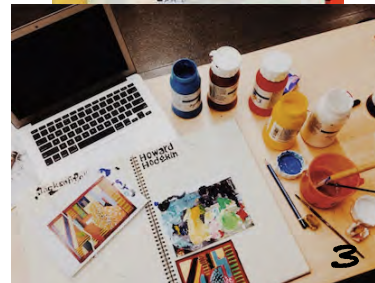
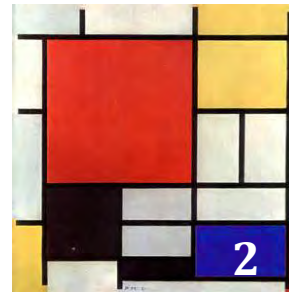
Analyze of Tian Yong's works.



I liked Tian Yong work. He works is typical of modern Chinese folk artist because we can see the following things in it:

- Painting the face and body in stylize, naïve, elegant and simplify way.
- Color, edges, detail, and overlapping, using acrylic paint to blend in two different colors together.
- A lot of Chinese patterns at the background.
- Area of interest with details in the pattern.
- Similar color between the pattern and figure.
- 2D effect in his work. (he uses a lack of tone to suggest forms.)
- He uses overlapping of shapes to suggest perspective and depth.
- He uses a simple palette of colour. Often restricting himself to the primary colours.
- He uses a lot of pattern.
- He created contrast between busy and quite areas.
- He uses stylization to represent the figure by distorting and/or elongating certain facial feature or body parts.
- He uses a naïve approach in showing life- through a combination of all the above.

These are the things that I notices Tian Yong does in his painting, I decided to use all or some of these things in my work too. I also thought of appropriate from Piet Mondrian who also used only primary colours and reduced simplified. His subject matter to create bold, graphic patterns for my backgrounds.



At the same time I tried to use patterns and images from other cultures (not Chinese), such as ancient Mexican Motifs and again painted with simple bold colours.

Figure1. Detail of my sketchbook. Tian Yong style figure drawing. Watercolor on paper.

Figure2. Piet Mondrian. Composition with Large Red Plane, Yellow, Black, Gray, and Blue. Oil in canvas 1921.

Figure3. Photo of my work place.



1

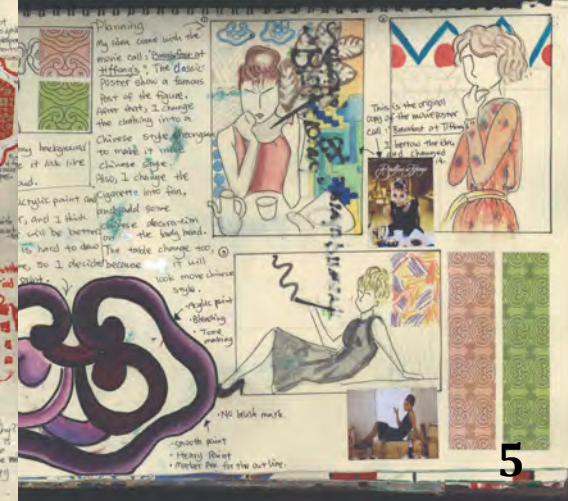


2



Learning of Patterns

7



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In Chinese cultural patterns there are many recurring motifs and symbols which are used repeatedly in most decoration.

I selected:

- Peony flower. (This symbolizes prosperity)
- Stylized cloud with lines. (Which depict the heavenly realm)
- Geometric lattice (Which shows the Chinese respect for age)

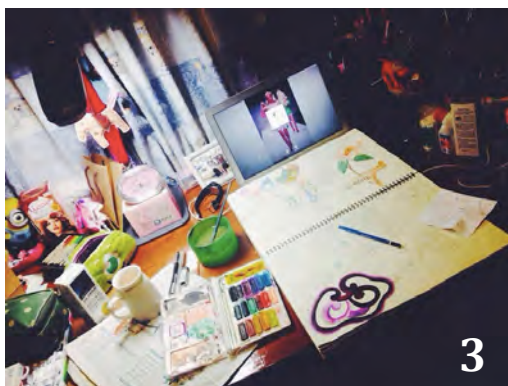
I used these as my main decorative themes in the background of my work. I don't like repeats patterns because they tend to flatten out the space, so I made some element in my work larger and more striking partly to create an interesting composition (which helps tell a "story") and partly to make the blending of colours within each element more interesting and rich.

I liked to combine some of the western style of painting along with the flat colour style of Chinese folk art. It also gave me the chance to mix up geometric with organic.

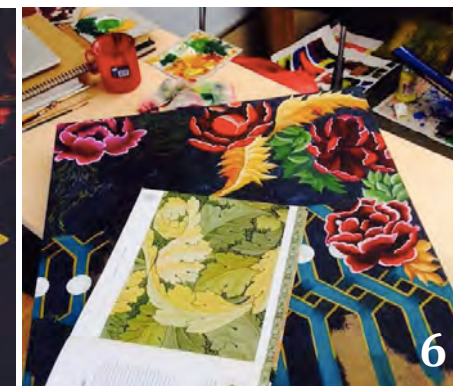
Patterns studies.



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6

Figure1. Detail of my sketchbook. Culture patterns drawing. Acrylic paint on paper.

Figure2&7. Detail of my sketchbook. Chinese patterns studies.

Figure3&6. Photo of my work place.

Figure 4&5. Pages of my sketchbook, Planning of composition and object. Acrylic paint on paper.



1

I used a variety of media to experiment in painting the flower motifs and other element in my composition.

I explored using:

- **Acrylic paint:** smooth texture, strong colours, hard to blend and strong visual impacts.
- **Watercolor.**
- **Photo release:** flat, quick, printing texture.
- **Collage**

I explored flowers and other objects from Chinese culture because I wanted to create highly decorative, colourful and patterned effects similar to Chinese folk art.

Acrylic paint was my preferred media because:

- It has stronger colours which can rather remain opaque or become transparent (to paint in layers) with water.
- I find that it blend more easily and dries quickly which helps me make changes if I need to.
- It can be applied in thick layers and works well with impasto media when I want to produce a painterly textured effect on the paint surface.



4



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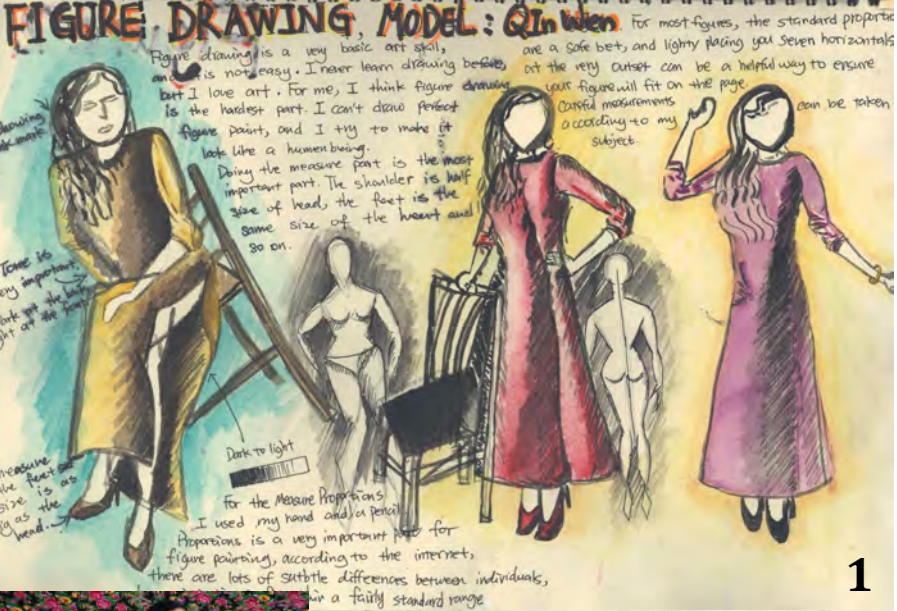


3

Figure1&4. Pages of my sketchbook. Flower drawing. Watercolor, acrylic paint, colour pencil, collage, ink on paper.

Figure2. Flower pattern from Internet.

Figure3. Photo during drawing flowers portfolio.



Drawing the figure was something that was going to be important in this project. I used:

- Life drawing from first hand observation in a variety of media.
- Studies from photographs taken in the studio.
- Copied of existing figure by other artists.

The life drawing was done from a Chinese woman posing in traditional Chinese Chi-pao and hair style, , sitting or standing in a traditional Chinese “scene”. (A set with Chinese furniture + props, the props help with composition for example the umbrella would surround and frame the head. The chair added to the Chinese decoration and was used as a seat or a support when standing)

The role of drawing was to study proportion and to explore some poses that might be useful in my final work. Tone also became important as it gave the figures solidity. My approach to the strong tone contrasts was influenced by looking at the Drawings of Henry Moore. I especially liked his use of different media in the same drawing. Eg Crayon, and ink washed with water colour. I created tone with pencil, water colour and crayon. The background was made by a darker colour and brush marks to help the figures stand out from the background. The different media support the messages and gave different textures.

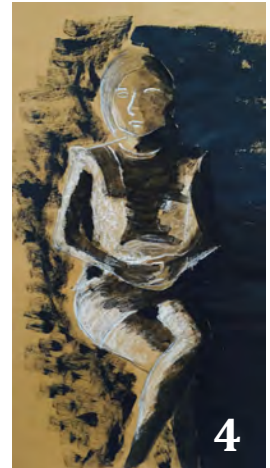


Figure1. Pages of my sketchbook. Life figure drawing. Watercolour on paper.
 Figure2-4. My figure drawing on paper. Acrylic paint on paper. 54*39cm
 Figur5-6. Life figure photos taken by me. 54*75cm
 Figure7. Figure drawing. Pastel and watercolor on paper. 54*75cm



Some of my working drawings for composition



Planning of composition of my drawing:

The idea of different composition comes from some a movie poster for the movie, Breakfast at Tiffany's. That figure always looks appeals because of the pose and the background. I wanted my figure to give the same slightly disinterested feeling

I used:

Center of interest composition: just like the movie poster, the lady is sitting on a chair and her arms are on the table for holding her face. I designed patterns on the background with bright colours. Then I place the woman in the foreground. The woman and the supporting table are dominant and most of the patterns at the background had been covered. I wanted to expose more of the patterns.

Golden section: layout of composition, more background to provide opportunity for, more patterns at the back. Bright colours in the front and dark colour at the back. The contrast helps the space in the painting and the figure stands out. I put a few Chinese element into my painting to make it more Chinese style, for example the clothes of the figure are from a study of Chinese tradition clothes. I decide to use the Chinese symbolic red colour for the dress to make it stand out from the painting. I also put a Chinese wooden style table with a carved top at the bottom of the painting.

The figure and table were cut from MDF board and placed on top of the background. This was an interesting way to work and it helped separate the background from the foreground

The composition planning is useful and successful. My researching from a variety of sources gave me ideas on the best pose for the figure and useful props. My prior research into patterns was helpful but I still needed to do some more. By testing different colours and composition I understand how they can bring a different visual feeling to the painting. Acrylic paint is good to give a smooth strong colour that gives a strong visual impact,- watercolor gives a transparent visual feeling. I like to compare different composition and choose the one I like the most. One of the things I need to be improve is the background development and have a better idea how to get the background to support the feeling I hope to show. I was constantly reviewing and modifying things as the work progressed. This process of investigating traditional Chinese Folk paint and trying to "modernize" it was a challenge. I learnt a lot not just about making my painting but about the type of art I was appropriating from. I have new respect for Folk painting and hope that it remains as a special art form in China

How the medias influence the message.

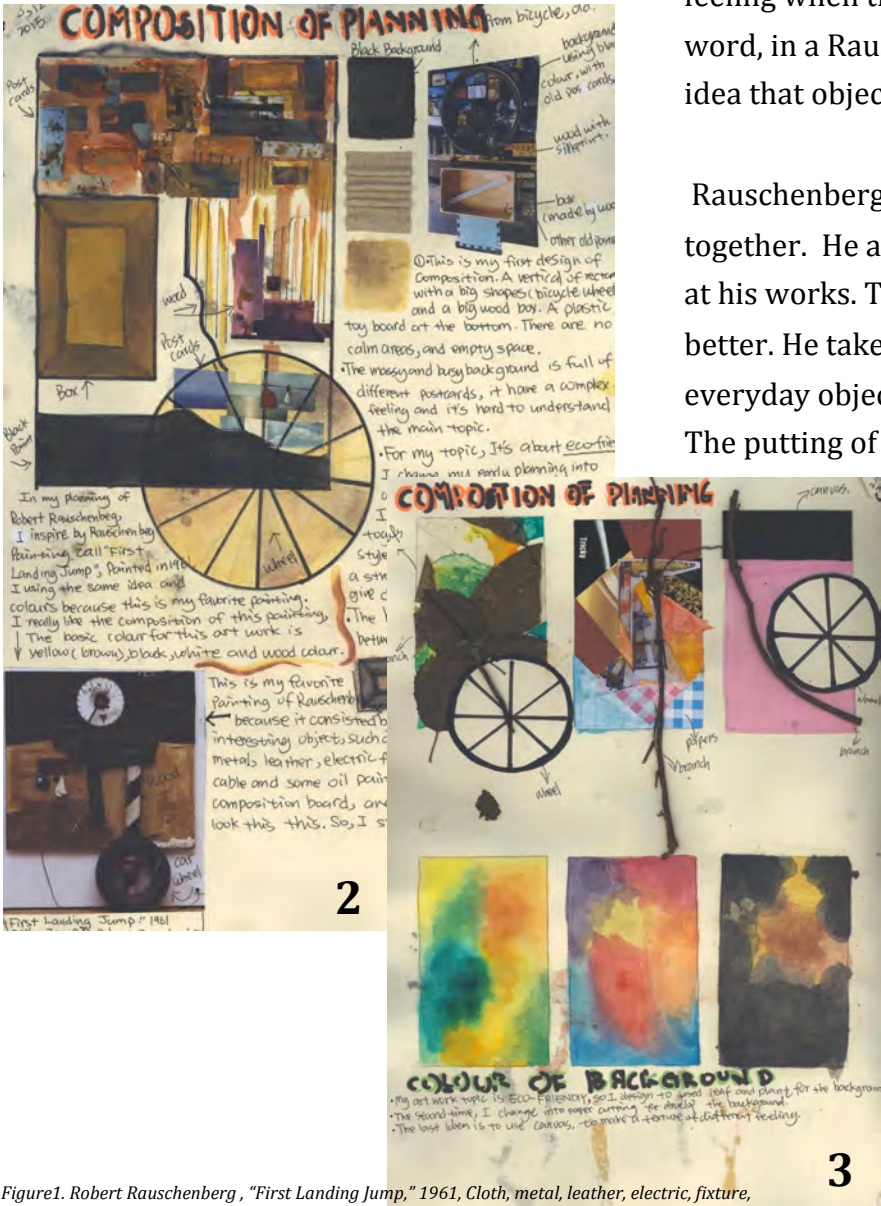


Figure1. Robert Rauschenberg , “First Landing Jump,” 1961, Cloth, metal, leather, electric, fixture, cable and oil paint on composition board, with automobile tire and wood plank.
Figure2. Pages of my sketchbook. Planning of the composition of my work. Collage, watercolor on paper.
Figure3. Pages of my sketchbook. Planning different composition. Timber, papers, leaf, watercolor on paper.

The artist Robert Rauschenberg influence me a lot in some of my works. I like the way he used daily object/real life object on his paintings, and give people a familiar feeling when they look at he works, and let people see things differently, in other word, in a Rauschenberg style. He uses objects to create a mood or expression. The idea that objects themselves have this ability interested me.

Rauschenberg often used golden section of the composition, to hold his works look together. He always creates small and detailed areas for people have a close to look at his works. These areas are often clues which help people understand the topic better. He takes everyday things put them together and creates a message. Using everyday objects gives his paintings a feeling of memory. Thing come from the past. The putting of them together gives a new meaning.

After Rauschenberg 1&2.

“First Landing Jump” is my favorite painting of Robert Rauschenberg, I like the contrast between the different shapes, such like cured shape and square shape, which give a visual impact. The colours is thoughtful as well, it make people to think about his work. You can see that he has used a sort of golden section in the composition. I like the way the objects go beyond the painting and rest on the floor. The floor has become part of the painting. Usually painting are on the wall only.



My working moments in the studio.

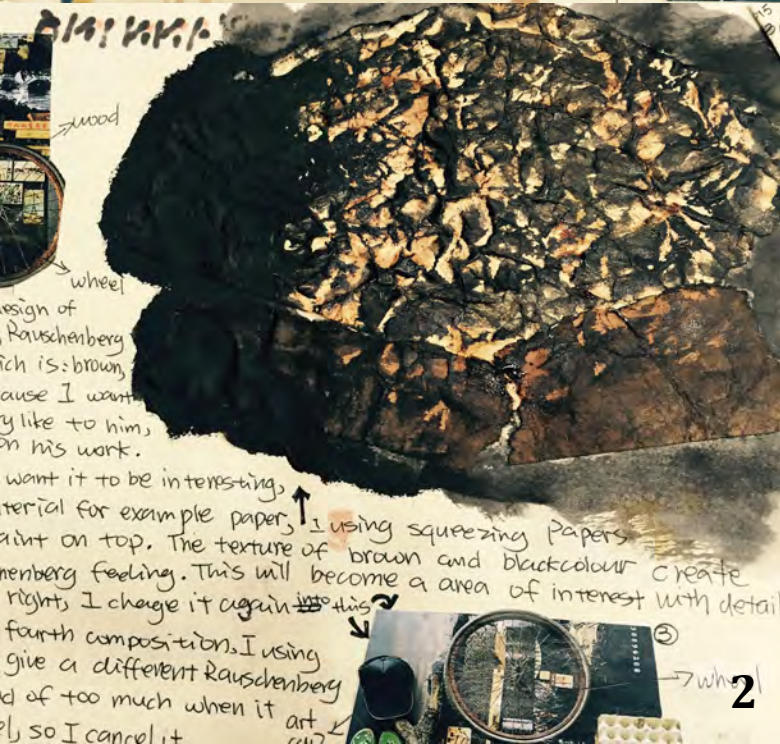


Figure1. Page of my sketchbook. Rauschenberg style of painting. Acrylic paint on paper.
 Figure2. Detail of my sketchbook. Rauschenberg style of painting. Watercolor on paper.
 Figure3. Page of my sketchbook. Planning of composition. Watercolor on paper.

Robert Rauschenberg anticipated the Pop Art movement, these are the things that Rauschenberg did in his paintings:

- He used interesting composition to make people see things differently, by presenting them in a new often unusual way.
 He used daily real objects on his painting, and less painting. The objects themselves give colours, shape, texture etc.
- He used collage with news paper and huge poster, etc.
- He used a range of mixed media in his paintings. Even once a stuffed goat.
- He often used strong colours, such as : black and dark brown.
- Interesting surface with tone and different textures. Often the objects gave textures.
- He made messy sketchy marks on his painting, dropping of paint. The idea gave the viewer some idea of the process of making the art. It is a bit like seeing into his brain.
- He used paint to direct our attention to particular areas of a composition, and to help the composition balance.
- He rarely mixed paint or blend with it, but he “fills in” areas of his combines. With splashes and bold brush marks.
- He is not concerned with precise surfaces but he is concerned with precise composition. However the surfaces are carefully selected to help the composition.

After looking at Rauschenberg I decided to appropriate his style into my painting. First of all, I appropriate the idea of Rauschenberg by using golden section to make an interesting composition, using square and round shape to make contrast between each other. Secondly, I applied on a range of small shapes and objects for details and clues to the intention of my “combine”. Thirdly, I use colors and tones and to emphasize the visual interest and hold the composition together.



How the objects work together?

Rauschenberg art is sometimes like a refrigerator door with its collection of magnets, family photos, notes, shopping lists and other seemingly unrelated items. The point is these items all work together to create an overall message about the family who aim and use that refrigerator.

This idea is from a video that I saw once but can not remember the source.

In my work, I tried to select objects which had strong environmental association, therefore I choose:

- **Bicycle wheel**

The reason for choosing a bicycle wheel is because I want my objects can link back to my theme: Air pollution and Eco-Environmental Friendly. I try to use the bicycle wheel to remind people how clear and nice the air are before, without the cars pollution now and the things people do for the environment, our world air quality can better. China was once a nation of bicycles and these have been used in Chinese art before, such as: Ai Weiwei's installation of bicycles.

- **Timber**

Timber is to remind people of deforestation, which people keep cutting trees for man-made use. The piece of wood I found on the street was old and had been used. It was much more interesting than a new clean piece of wood.

- **Postcard and ticket**

I put postcard of air pollution on my work to remind people the damage we bring to the environment. The postcard also had a feeling of being old and I liked it for that reason as well. The ticket represented travel.

- **Wallpaper**

The wallpaper gives an interesting pattern to the work. I let some of it show clearly and other areas I smudged with scumbled paint.

- **Print making**

An industrial process and I was using a silkscreen that I found on the street outside a screen print workshop. A Rauschenberg moment.

Figure1&2. Detail of my sketchbook. Rauschenberg style of painting. Wood paper, ink, acrylic paint on paper.

Studies in abstraction.

Drawing in a abstract way is a new experience for me, it is interesting also important for this project. I used:

- A detail drawings and paintings of an object, using watercolour, colour pencil and ink mix together. I was gathering information on the formal qualities such as line, shape etc. These qualities were to be the thing I was to consider as I abstracted. The object was not important.
- Same object, but using mono print and crayon rubbing on the back of the paper. Using dark and light crayon to bring up the tone.
- Bright lines of coloured wire, dominoes shapes. Small shapes with flicks of colour.
- An abstract way of painting for the same object. Using acrylic paint with cardboard to show brush marks, and smooth paint with a brush.
- Simple line for details. I was able to contrast the main shapes with lines that had bright colours. These gave the objects and colours gave points of interest.
- After considering the formal qualities and evaluating the visual influences of the different media I used this information to make a composition.
- By looking at the object over and over in different ways and using different media, its visual qualities were revealed and I understood better the thing I could see.

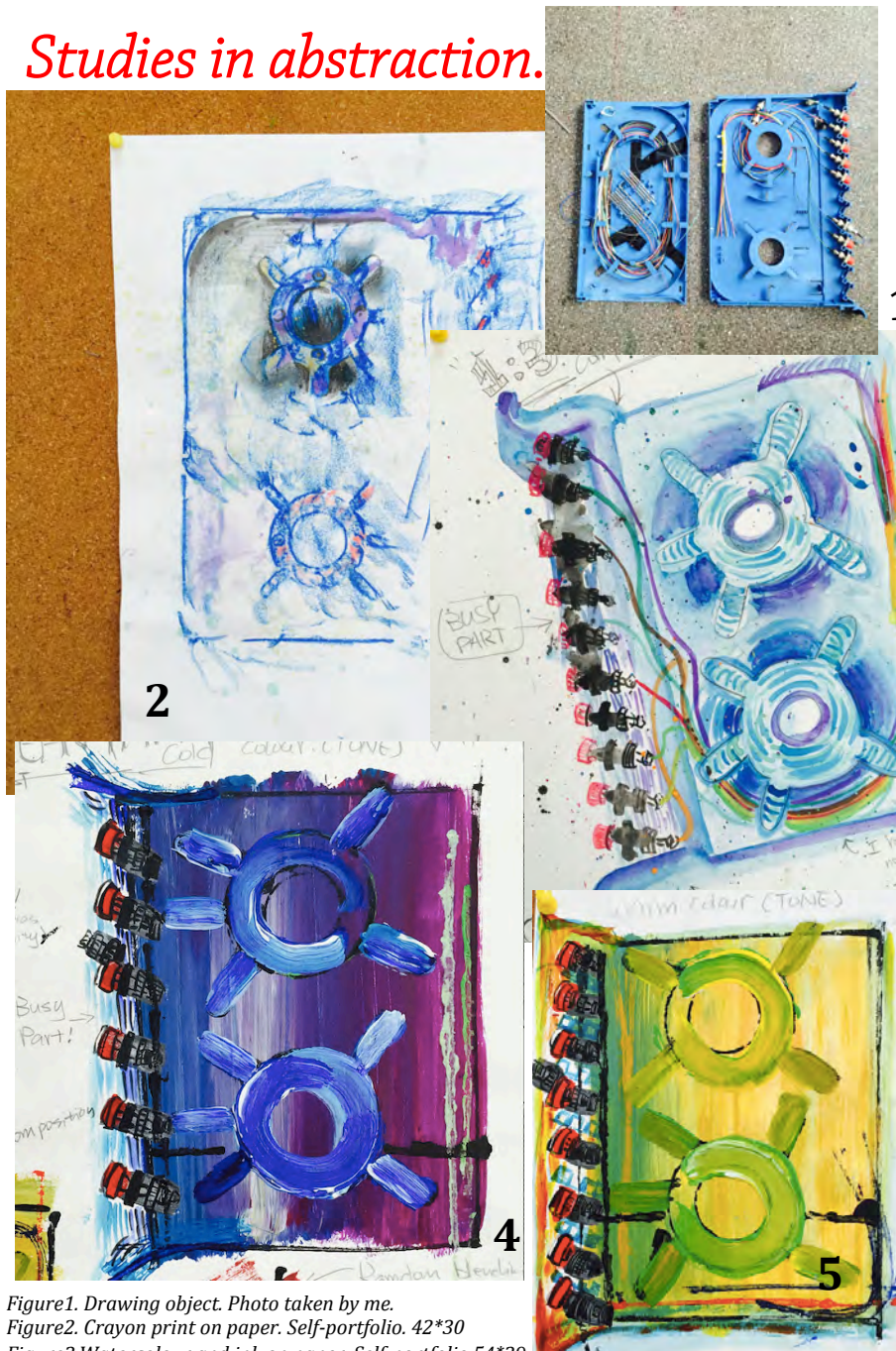


Figure1. Drawing object. Photo taken by me.

Figure2. Crayon print on paper. Self-portfolio. 42*30

Figure3. Watercolour and ink on paper. Self-portfolio. 54*39

Figure4&5. Acrylic paint and ink on paper. Abstract style. Self-portfolio. 54*39

The list of major characteristics of media:

- **Acrylic paint on canvas:** hard, rough, dry, direct, visible brush marks, thick paint, hard to control. Quick to dry.
- **Crayons on paper:** smooth, quick, energetic and easy to control the colour, less texture, gave interesting texture and build up of layers. Strong colours. Able to use the strong board to build up mixed media and semi constriction approach.
- **Acrylic on board:** Able to textures and layers, Better quality for saving the painting. Colours can show easily. Mixed media.
- **White pastels and ink on paper:** Lack of colors gave dramatic contests, quick, flat, lack of tone, pastel good for line and the washes of ink good for creating shapes.

I decided that I would choose acrylic paints on a board in the end. Combined with Mixed Media including: college, thick paint and Pastel media. And a ranges of cultural patterns (in a abstract way) at the background. The use of mixed media gave the work more interest and let me develop the industrial nature of the object (circuit board).

Figure1. Acrylic paint and ink on paper. Abstract style. Self-portfolio. 54*39 cm
 Figure2. Acrylic paint and ink on paper. Abstract style. Self-portfolio. 54*39 cm
 Figure3. watercolor, pastel and ink on paper. Abstract style. Self-portfolio. 54*39 cm
 Figure4. Acrylic paint and on paper. Abstract style. Self-portfolio. 54*39 cm
 Figure5. Details of my portfolio work.

Choosing an appropriate media and background.



Planning of composition and patterns.

After exploring the nature of abstracting from an object I challenged myself by applying the same process to cultural patterns and objects. I wanted to make a painting that was mostly abstract but would also reference my culture. I appropriate some ideas and mark making the artist Gerhard Richter style for my background, in this abstract project, I decided to use bright colour such as: green, yellow and orange for my background because I wanted to show the strength and symbolism of the abstracted objects I was going to use.

For the composition I appropriate from Richard Pousette-dart. In he works, he often draw things at the canter of the page and the objects all line up vertically. In his painting "**62, Humination Gothic**", we can see that he used a lot of culture shapes and patterns in his work, with a lot of details in the patterns. The way he painted the patterns is made by dots and flicks that build up solid shapes. It is hard to find a perfect straight line going on in this painting. I am happy to learn from this artist. His gestural style interested me and I liked how this energy gave the objects in his paintings life and power.

I combined these two artist together, and put other counties patterns inside this project, the one at the middle is a pattern of dragon poles. The poles around Chinese temples, they represent the famous people from their village for being successful. Mostly these people have passed on now so the poles are a memory. I want my painting to have this feeling. The dragon is the symbol to celebrate people achievement. I found the tall nature of the poles useful to link the top to the bottom of my painting and continued this idea with the drips of coloured paint. I combine different cultures together in my painting.

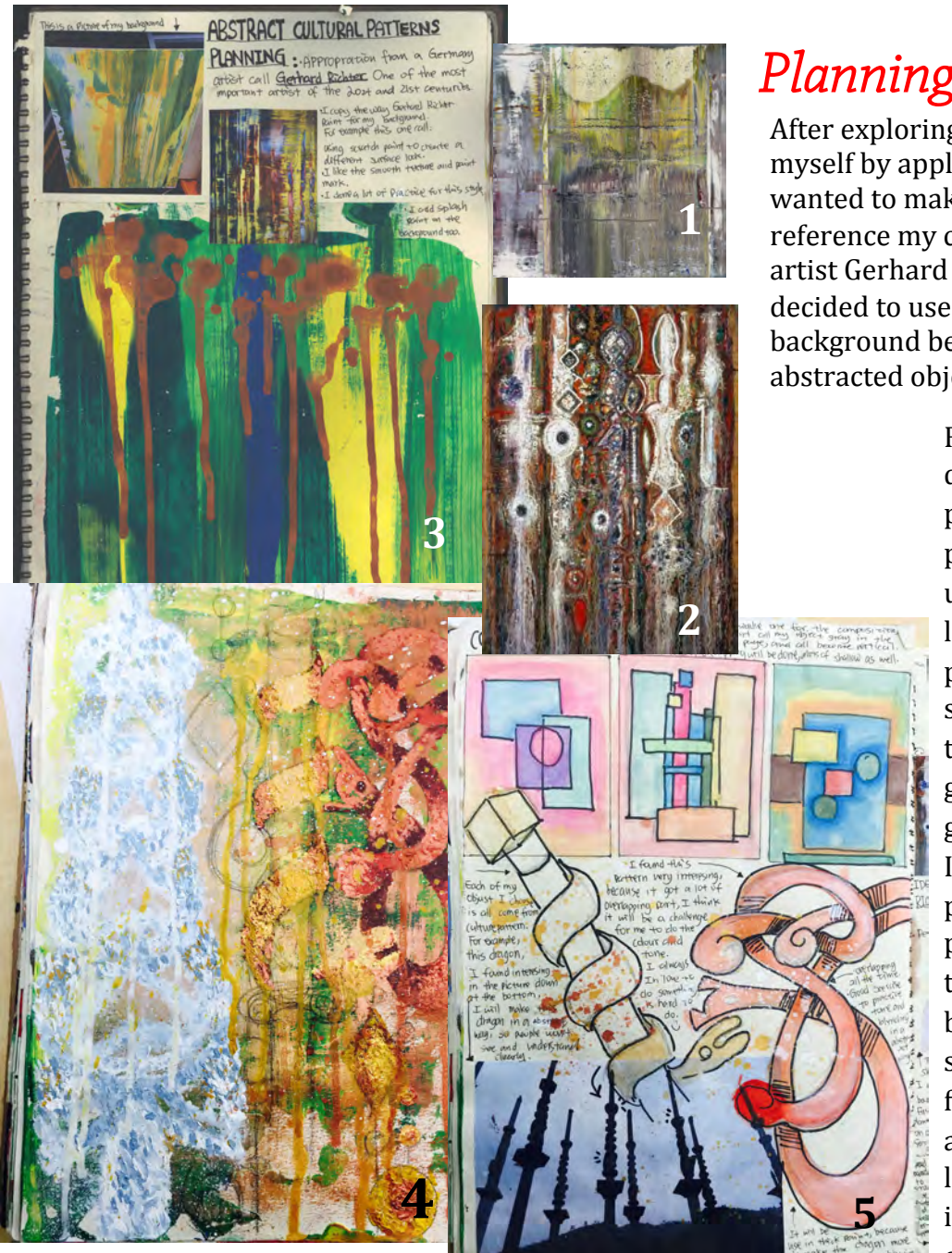


Figure1. Gerhard Richter "Haggadah" 2014, Diasec mounted chromogenic print on aluminum. 100*100cm

Figure2. Richard Pousette-Dart. "62, Humination Gothic" 1958, Oil on linen. 183*136cm.

Figure3-5. Pages of my sketchbook. Planning. Acrylic paint on paper.

Studies of Chinese flowers.



Most of my works are about flowers and patterns, in my Chinese culture, flowers are symbolic, for example: red Chinese peony mean riches and luck, pink rose mean happiness and love, narcissus mean luck and health.

Chinese people call it: flowers of the year, because it only blooms during Chinese New Year.

I drew some roses with watercolor at the beginning, then I move to drawing peony. These studies helped me understand the visual nature of the flowers. The most challenging thing was getting a convincing 3D effect with the petals over lapping and curling at the edges. This required me to use careful tone to show the light and shadows.

At the end, I decided to use Chinese peony for objects of my painting, because:

- Peony have more interesting layers to draw and it is challenging for me to paint it well. The symbolic meaning is important in China.
- Peony are most famous flowers in my city and also my favorite one.
- I draw peony in my “Chinese Folk Painting”, so it can make a link to the work I did before. But this time the painting will have a whole new meaning. Rather than being used in a simple way I will have to develop a new and more complex approach that is more contemporary.



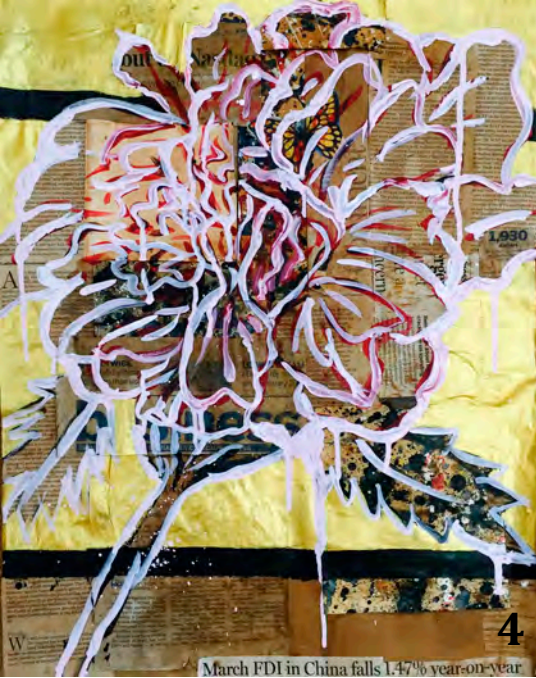
Figure1-3. Watercolor on paper. Self- portfolio, flower.

Figure4. Watercolor, ink on paper. Self portfolio.

Figure5. Watercolor on paper. Self- portfolio, flower.

Figure6. Planning of composition of my work. Dry brush affect. Acrylic paint on paper. 26*27.5

Development of ideas and media.



The style of American artist Robert Kushner influence me a lot in my flower painting, in his paintings, he shows bright colour flowers on metallic colours, such as: gold, silver and copper. Some of his painting can be full of gold colours, with square box shapes. Sometimes he even used real gold leaf in he works. The fancy and gorgeous metal colours can well mixed with my Chinese peony, therefor I stated to some studies of the peony, with the idea of giving them a Kushner style approach.

Robert Kushner also draw the outline of the flowers on some piece of old newspapers or posters, it also inspired me to try out his style.

Kushner works shows layers in his painting, sometimes it make me feel like the background are even more important than the object on it own, which make me pay attention on this artist more. Kushner also lines up different post cards in his background for a details to look at. This approach reminded me of Robert Rauschenberg who we had studied earlier. Kushner's work is softer and more gentle than Rauschenberg. It was good to see the contract that mixed media could be used to show things.

- I start with a richer background of my painting with as much details as possible. It can make my painting have more information to look at.
- Outline the shape of a peony with white acrylic paint. High light the middle part with red paint after.
- Cover it around with gold paint, and draw out the black lines.
- These studies were busy and full of information.
- They were more expressive and abstracted than I imagined so I tried the painting of the blue peony and stats to give space and moments of clam.



*My working wall
in the studio →*

Figure1. Robert Kushner. "Spring Scatter Summation", 2015, Oil acrylic, gold leaf, and glitter on canvas. 84*552 inches.

Figure2. Robert Kushner, "Flora Mundus", Galleri DGV, Denmark.

Figure3. Robert Kushner, Red Camellia Sutra.

Figure4. Collage, Gold paint, Acrylic paint, papers, postcard on paper. Self-portfolio. 40*54 cm

Figure5. Acrylic paint and wall paper on board. Self-portfolio. 60*35cm

Figure6. Photo of my working art wall.



Here are the different media I explore during the process:

- Collage with patterns on paper: quick, able to control, and very direct to apply, using coffee to replace the dark brown colour. This wash resulted in an aged effect. It felt like an old memory. The cut straight edges contested with the organic flower.
- Acrylic paint on wallpaper: Show brush marks and the patterns behind when the paint was thin. Blending different colour to show tones and the layers of flowers. Flowing paint to quire movement.
- Acrylic paint on board with impasto media and sand: Texture can be made and controlled, using a dark under paint and a dry brush effect on the surface gives a richness to the surface colour.

Exploring different media.



Figure1. Collage, coffee, acrylic paint on paper. Self-portfolio. 27*24 cm

Figure2. Newspaper, acrylic paint on paper. Self-portfolio. 31*33 cm

Figure3-5. Details of my portfolio.



1

In the end, I decided to choose acrylic paint on board with impasto media and sand for my final project. I enjoy playing with the sand because It helps me create some interesting textures. The impasto media also helps a lot with creating texture, I painted with a dry brush affect later on the top to bring up the marks and colours.

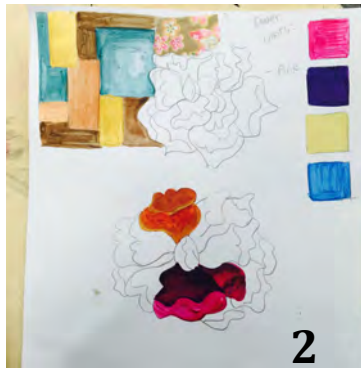
I did some different compositions in the beginning, to give a ideas to myself of how the painting will look when it's finished. I also choose to use blue colour for high lighting my painting.

The studies below show the different ideas I had on composition. I had to consider the balance between the rectangular background and the organic flowers. How to best use the multi media approach, and obviously how colours would impact on my design and meaning. In the end I painted the main peony onto a cut out piece of MDF board and attached it to the work as a slightly raised piece. This emphasized depth in the flowers compared to the flat rectangular background.

Development and planning of composition.

The dry brush affect really helps the brush marks in my painting show up. The peony flowers I decide to paint it in symbolic red colour. I will also put some small peony at the background, so they can link the painting together.

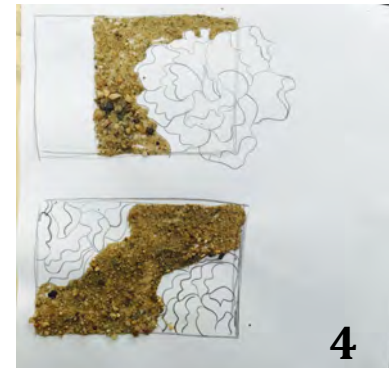
working moments in the studio.



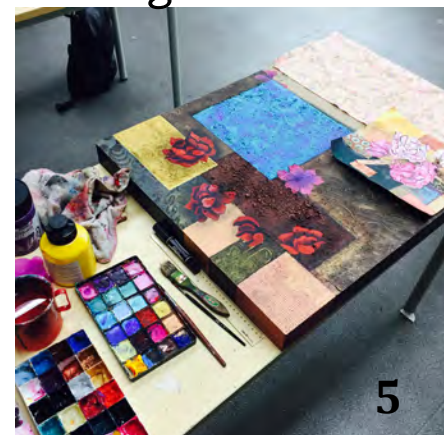
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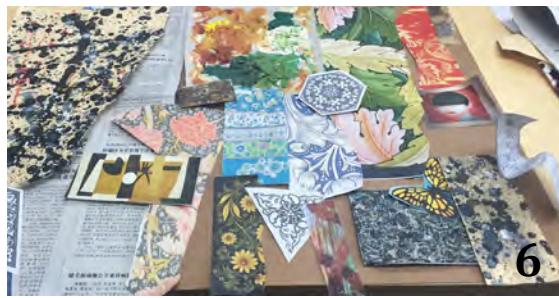
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Figure1. Newspaper, acrylic paint on paper. Self-portfolio. 40*54 cm

Figure2-4. Planning of composition of my work..

Figure5.&6 Photo of my working place. Figure7&8. Self-portfolio. Collage, acrylic paint, watercolor on paper.

Series of skull studies and planning.

I thought it was time to try something different in terms of media and subject matter. The feeling of age that was coming through in my work, give me the idea of using a human skull. I did not want the skull to show horror (which is too simple). I wanted it to develop the idea of age and nostalgia. Could the skull be used as an object of beauty? I also wanted to make something that was a sculpture and to use another media.

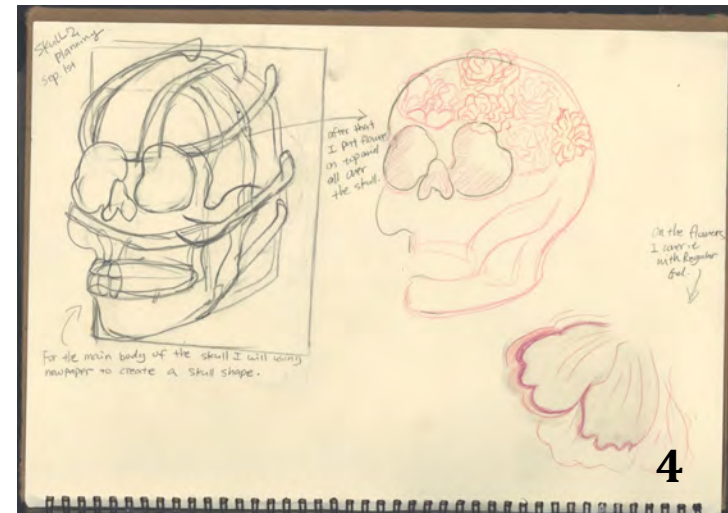
Artist Damien Hirst "***For Love of the God***" influence me a lot In my work. The diamonds skull is totally inspiring me. I was also inspired by artist Jiri Geller, in his works, he often made metal shining metal-coated skulls. Both artists used the skull to make something beautiful by careful selection of the media.

During my journey of drawing and painting skull, I used:

- Pastel and acrylic paint on paper.
- Pastel and collage on paper.
- Ink and acrylic paint on paper.
- Spray paint, pastel, ink and acrylic paint on paper.
- I use Paper Mache to make sculpture, painted with black colour after.
- I carved a large, polystyrene block and covers it with plastic flowers.
- Painting on board using acrylic, shellack, ink, etc.

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After that, I made a plan for my next project: human skull sculpture. I decided to bring flowers and skull together because of the connection between life and death and to explore a similar irony to Damien Hirst.



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Figure1. Paper Mache of human skull with black paint. Self-portfolio.

Figure2. Jiri Geller http://yle.fi/uutiset/kuvanveistaja_jiri_geller_tekee_huijauksesta_taidetta/7289635

Figure3. Damien Hirst, "***For the Love of God***", 2007, Platinum, diamonds and human teeth, 171*127*190mm

Figure4. Page of my my sketchbook.

The Day of the Dead in Mexico.

The idea of flower with the skull is inspired by the festival called: "**The Day of the Dead**" in Mexico. "**Day of the Dead**" is a festival that people celebrate to showing respect for the people who are dead. One of the most important things they do for the skull is to put flowers around it, some of them are painted. I find this might be a symbol of beauty (for the death of people). Mexican people often paint colourful flowers on the skull, and their feel very positive about this festival. As a Chinese, I was shocked the first time when I heard of this festival, and I want to use it in my work, because flowers are a symbol and meaningful for lot of people, but obviously flowers have different meanings in different cultures.



1

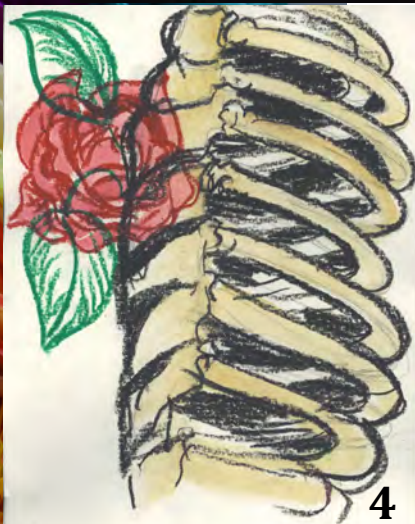


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Flower and skull images are shown a lot around the world, specially in tattoo culture. One of the reason for people having floral skull tattoos on their body is because it represent a spirit of the soldiers to not afraid of the death, and safeguard their countries.



2



4

On the other hand, In China, human death is a very serious issues, people don't mention it often. Older generation of Chinese people might not understand or accept a festival like: "The Day of the Dead", because people have a different attitude for death.

I want to challenging myself to make a series of floral skull projects. I want to let the viewers see the beauty when they are put together. It also give a contrast of life and death. I want people to understand it differently, and I want myself to explore this whole idea which is so challenging.

Figure1. A photograph was taken by me.

Figure2. . A photograph was taken by me.

Figure3.: Day of the Dead. <http://airangale.deviantart.com/art/Day-of-the-Dead-Skull-Frida-2-381190056>.

Figure4. Crayon and watercolour on paper. Human bone with rose. Self-portfolio. 21*29 cm



1



2

Exploring different media.

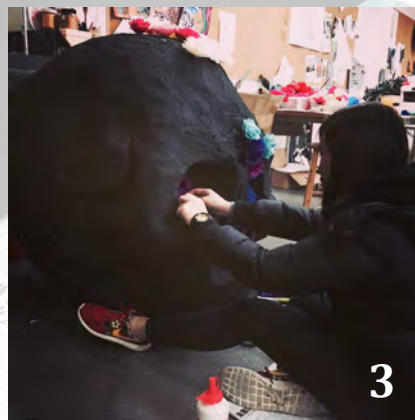
The list of major characteristics of medias:

- **Put impasto media on the of the plastic flowers.**

After drawing and painting so many flowers, I want to do something different. I think of using the real flower into my work, but it is hard to control and keep them alive. Therefore, I decide to use the plastic flowers. The idea of plastic flowers can give a three-dimensional visual impact, and it can not be replaced by a flowers drawing and painting. As you can see there a picture on the left-hand side shows the process I put the impasto media all over the flowers. I did this to change how the flower looked, I did not want it to look like a plastic flower, but to make it better fit in with my painting. It is hard to paint on each layer, so I try my best to cover it all. The flowers will be hanging on wires until they dry (see the bottom picture).

I don't want to use the flowers right way when I brought them because it is too simple and too normal, I wanted them to be interesting and make people think about it. I try to paint my flowers in a more modern and contemporary way, by painting thick layers of impasto media on the top of the flowers. Impasto media can create a strong surface texture of the flowers, and the texture can be control by using the paint brush from school. After the impasto media is dry, the texture of the flowers will change from a smooth, soft surface to a hard and lumpy surface. I found it interesting to paint in a different media, that bulked up the surface.

Different media gives different effects and meaning, my plastic flowers. The lumpy effect of the impasto media helped the flower look like it was part of the painting and not separated.



3



4



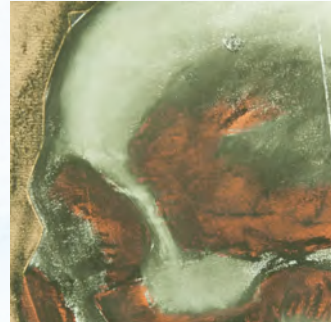
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Figure1. Photo of a plastic flower with impasto media.
Figure2. Plastic flowers with black and red acrylic paint.
Figure3.. Photo of me working on the sculpture.
Figure4&5. Photo of plastic flowers.

- **Skull drawing with black and white pastel.**

I also did some skull drawings by using basic media: pastel. The advantages of Pastel is it give a smooth texture and is able to blend as well. Black and white pastel have a stronger contrast and white pastels make the clear tone. I blend them together using my finger sometimes to make it softer. Apart from that, pastel is hard to control as well, it is very easy to get the paper messy sometimes, it took me some time to practice how to control it.

In the right hand side picture show one of my work process, it is clear to see the tone and some interesting marks, no obvious lines edge.



Some of details of my work.



- **Using Jim Dine style into my painting.**

One of the other drawings (see right hand side picture) I did is base on the style of Jim Dine, I appropriate the skills he often used in his painting: messy scratchy marks, flicking of paint, dripping of paint, lot of mark making process, scratchy pencil line and using a range of media and colour. It interesting to learn from the artist like Jim Dine, because I also interested in using the range of different media in my work. The composition in the painting is centered and, manly focuses s on the brush mark and bright colour at the background, just like Jim Dine. The brush marks give a contrast between the foreground and the background. In this early Dine study I was still not confident to let go of my realist style so it is still careful and lacks the energy of his mark making. Apart from exploring different media, I also tried to improve my painting of the skill.

Figure1. Acrylic paint, pastel, ink on paper. Self-portfolio. 39*27cm

Figure2. Acrylic paint, ink, pencil on paper. Self-portfolio. 39*27cm

- **Spray paint, acrylic paint and pastel.**

The use of spray paint is also interesting, it give another style of texture I had never seen before. Spray paint can create a smooth surface, but very hard to control. I use it to make tone and shadow in one of my portfolio works. As you can see at the right-hand side, the dripping and flicking marks were made by the black paint, I want to give a contrast between a busy and calm areas. Busy was dripping and flicking and the calm was careful smooth spray painted tones. After that, I use copper acrylic paint for highlighter of the skull because the copper can link to the red spray paint at the background. Also, black and white colour pastel for details and some tiny lines. To highlight.

- **Thick acrylic paint and ink on paper.**

Using thick acrylic paint on paper is one of my favorite skills in painting. This time I tried to only use acrylic paint to paint the whole drawing, because it can give an especially thick lumpy texture and lot of brush marks. I used a lack of accurate, sharp tidy edges, which give the viewer a different visual impact.

The direct and quick brush strokes have energy and the lack of tidy edges almost has the effect of movement. Sort of impressionist in approach.



The 3D flower skull project.

After the studies different media to paint the skull, I start to make a sculpture of a skull. I wanted to push myself into something totally new. I love being a painter but how could I challenge myself to transfer painting skills and knowledge into the round. The project is a big challenge for me because it is time-consuming and also some part of the detail were really hard to cut with. I used a big saw, small knife and even an electron knife, but I like the small saw the most because it was more accurate to work with. Sculpture can give people a different feeling, people can understand my work by walking around it and also touching it.

After the polystyrene was done, I put plastic flowers all around the skull, using cold and warm colour to make a tone, much like I would if I was painting. The size was important. I wanted to connect with the idea of the Mexican day of the Dead Festival. There is something of this celebration in my work. Death is not something to fear it can be beautiful. I want the viewer to see it in a different perspective, just like the :“Day of the Dead” in Mexico. Death can also be beautiful, why not?



My working moments in the studio.

Figure1. Acrylic paint and ink on paper. Self-portfolio. 39*27cm

Figure2. Spray paint, pastel, ink and acrylic paint on paper. Self-portfolio. 39*27cm

Figure3&4. Photo of my 3D skull. Before and After.

Figure5&6. Photo of me working one the skull.

- **Collage with pastel.**

One of the reasons I like about using collage is because It can combine different pattern or images. In my Collage painting, I put different cultural patterns around the background to link it back to the top and give it a connection with a topic I had worked on before. Different patterns can contrast with each other and link to each other. I try to bring up a calm areas in this painting to balance the busy areas by using patterns form different countries. The patterns I used are about leafs and flowers, I want to show another way to combine flowers and skull together, to show the beauty of the skull. The cut paper of this collage gives accurate edges and objects stand out because of this. Black and white paint for making tone and brush marks, blended with fingers.

- **Photography and Adobe Photoshop**

Adobe Photoshop is a technique that is new for me. I tried to make my photographs more interesting by combining them together or even changing the colour. To do that I started with taking photographs with skull and flowers. I combine a picture of skull with a new paper background to change the meaning of the object.



Figure1.. Collage, acrylic paint on paper. Jim dine style. Self-portfolio. 39*27cm

Figure2-5. Adobe Photoshop effect photos. Self-portfolio.



Background development.

Artist: JULIAN LESSER.

I appropriate the style of pouring and mixing random colour from artist Julian Lesser. In Lesser's work : "Aerial Landscape No.23" , the random patterns of colour represent landscape, even though there are no brush mark or line going on in his painting, the colour still shows a clear tone. I really enjoy looking at his works. The colours I used for this project mostly are bright colours, such as yellow, red, fluorescent pink, orange.



"Aerial Landscape No.23"
Julian Lesser. 20*17, acrylic ink, mixed media and resin on paper mounted on pine.

Sometimes the colour will mix by itself, so it is hard for me to control the place where the colour will stay for each particular area. It is also the most interesting part of the whole project, the colours blend with each other can creative special designs. I enjoyed working with this "accident" effect although it took some courage to just let the paint do as it wanted. I wanted to control it as I would with a brush. I learnt that sometimes the random thing can have great detail that is beyond what I could paint. It is also creative and complex.

I took this idea and applied it to a large painting which combined the Lesser style background to a realistic/expressive way of showing the Skull and Flowers. In this painting my colours were brighter and the shapes more free than if I had begun with a realistic drawing approach.

Figure1-3. Acrylic paint, ink on board. Self-portfolio.

Figure4. Mix acrylic paint on board. Self-portfolio.



LINEAR EDIT EFFECT:

1. Open in Adobe Photoshop on a PC.
2. Ctrl. J – to make a copy first.
3. Filter- Stylize- Select Glowing Edges.
4. Set edge width to 7, smoothness to 5, edge brightness to 12.
5. Flatten layers and save it as JPEG.

Using technology – Adobe Photoshop Effect.

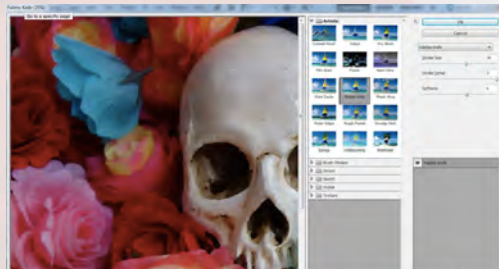
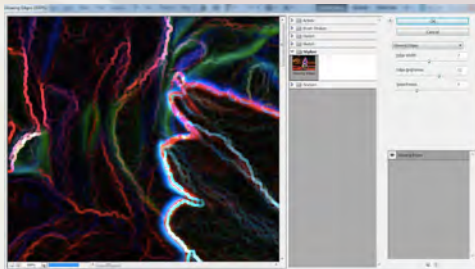
I choose to use Photoshop is because it can do what a drawing or painting cannot do. The effect is quite different so I wanted to explore:

- Changeable composition, can be control by moving the objects around the screen as independent shapes.
- Different from painting, no clear brush marks shown. Dodging and burning. The ability to crop and straighten as well as distort.
- Colour balance and the use of filters or filter effects. Lots of strange filter effects can be used. Change of brightness, hue, contrast, etc.
- Cutting and pasting part of on photo to another, and combine two different images together. Layering and building up transparent effects.

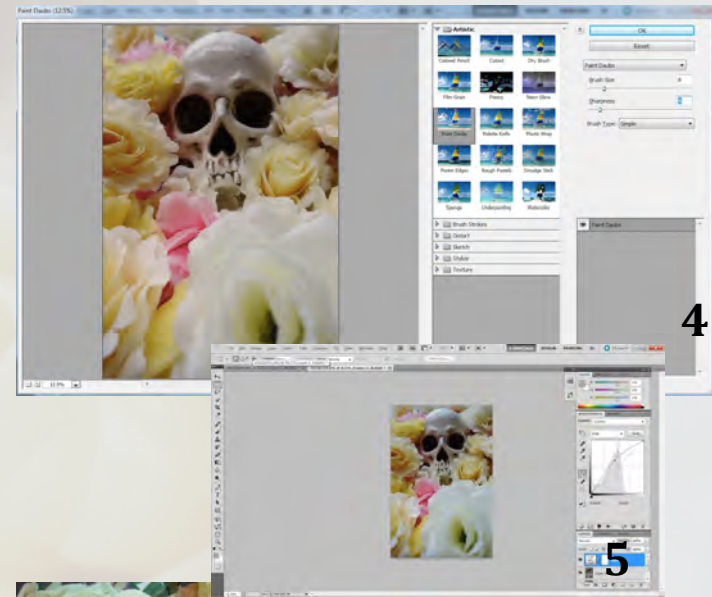
POSTTERISE EFFECT:

1. Open in Adobe Photoshop on a PC.
2. Ctrl. J – to make a copy first.
3. Filter- Artistic- Palette Knife.
4. Set stroke size to 12.
5. Set stroke detail to -2, with minimal softness to 2-4.
6. Merge larger.
7. Image adjustment – posterize between levels movie slider to 6-8.
8. Flatten and save as JPEG.

Figure1.
Work done by Photoshop
Liner edit effect.
Figure2.
Work done by Photoshop
Potteries effect.



↑Screen shots showing works in progress.

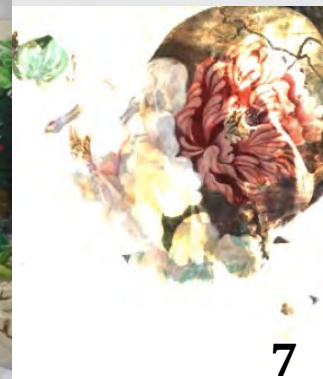


MORE EFFECT:

1. Ctrl + J to copy a new layer.
2. Create the adjustment layer.
3. Select: curves
4. Raise light volumes from an area which : too tonal and dark.
5. Alt +Ctrl +Shift +E – to merge layers.
6. Menu Image – Adjustment - select invert for result A (picture 2 above.)
7. Menu Image- Adjustment select warming filter + caboose colour picker to select.
8. yellow to orange for result B (picture 3 above).
9. Than filter- Artistic- paint + pauses (Brightness 8, sharpness 7-5, simplest.)

Using technology – Cellphone App :“Blend Editor”.

I also used my cell phone software app for combining pictures. The app is call :”Blend Editor” , basically is for blending two different images together to become one picture. I choose some photographs of the different post of the skull, which taken by myself, combine them with flower and pattern images because I want to make my work in a more contemporary of style. Changing the brightness and use the filter to give a different feeling. It is just like a Photoshop, but I can use it on my cell phone.



In summary, these 2 years have been a have challenge. I have enjoyed exploring a wide range of media and learning from the styles of many artists. Although I have researched artists I have always tried to put my personal stamp on my work. Making art is my passion and my favorite means of communicating my ideas and thoughts. I hope the solid foundation of skills and analysis from these 2 years keeps growing and that I can establish a career in the visual arts.

Figure1-3. Work done by Photoshop effect.

Figure4-5. Screen shots showing works in progress.

Figure6. Work done by cellphone App “Blend Editor”

Figure7. Work done by cellphone App “Blend Editor”

Figure8. Work done by cellphone App “Blend Editor”