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Theme of the Portfolio
Reframing Relationship

Artist's Statement

“An artwork can speak by itself the same way that words can, and even can speak out of the words.” Communication is always challenging for me until I have discovered a new language – Art. Treating art as my language, I can pour my feeling into each brush mark I make.

I realised that the process of painting self-portrait is a kind of self-healing, comforting my frustration in life. I was stressed at all time and insist on many things. Also, different roles and responsibilities were happening in my life and I sometimes thought that these just tore me apart as I forced myself to be a good daughter, good sister and a good student. I gave myself too many moral standards that they become too overwhelming. Art is one of the means to let me explore different ways to look at myself and the world around me. All of my works related to “Relationship”. Power of art bonds people together and create an environment for relationship building. I use my painting to show reality and use my brush to raise questions and provoke thinking.

學生作品
Student's Artworks

1



Title: Retrieve Our Memories
Media: Pencil on paper and Post-it
Size: 24cm x 19cm (4 pieces);
39cm x 54cm (3 pieces)

2



Title: Doppelgänger
Media: Acrylic on canvas
Size: 60cm x 90cm (2 pieces)

3



Title: The Torturous Student Assessment
Media: Acrylic and ink on paper
Size: 68cm x 53cm

4



Title: The Moments
Media: Watercolour on paper
Size: 25.5cm x 19cm (12 pieces)

DOPPELGÄNGER

— Inspiration & Idea Development — (ARTWORK 2)

Then how about me? At school, I seem to be a helpful person. Teachers and school-mates always find me to join different projects and solve problems. At home, I am a caretaker as I have a young sister. But I perceive myself to be emotional and weak. Who am I?

Relationship between my inner selves is so confusing a life have derived me as different versions. For sometimes, I am very actively participating in different event. but for the other time I am very isolated, and I will always stay alone thinking on my own. Which one is my real self? I am wondering if there is any relationship between them as they are totally mutually exclusive.

I get lost. I found that I don't know my true feeling and actual situation of myself. Therefore, I want to sort out my feelings towards myself and clarify my confusion when perceiving myself.



It's time for me to stop and look at my life which I take for granted before and make my mind clear.

Then I come over the word "DOPPELGÄNGER".
It is a German word meaning "Twin Stranger"
of a person living in the same world. He/she
is a non-biologically related look-alike or
double of a living person, sometimes portrayed
as a ghostly or paranormal phenomenon and
usually seen as a harbinger of BAD LUCK

I think the reason behind the confusion of
me is I have already "met" my "twin strangers".
They are originally living in another world.



"Who is she?" I wondered.

"Where does she come from?" I doubt.

But there is no one answering my questions.

Day by day,

She walks closer and closer to me.

Resembles me, Takes over me, and Replaces me.

Where am I?

Interestingly, all the "DOPPELGÄNGERS"
appear in the form of soul. They
attack my inner self and Defeat her.
They WIN

↳ I wrote this for myself.....

I always feel that I am
losing my own identity,
and I am becoming
another person.

The person has the same
face with me but a very
different personality. My
body has been taken control by the
"DOPPELGÄNGER". My soul has gone.
I don't know what I am doing and
where I AM.



I really want to analyse the
relationship between the
"DOPPELGÄNGER" and I, to
describe how I am struggling
and fighting against those
strangers in my inner self.
This is to help myself to
get back the control of
myself.

Reference Artist — Francis Bacon

Francis Bacon was famous for his vivid images depicting fear, suffering, and violence, reflecting the horrors of 20th century as much as individual psychological fears.

His pictures feature bodies and faces painfully writhing, struggling, and intertwined. With his disturbing representations of deformed bodies and idiosyncratic, expressive use of colours he set himself radically apart from the traditional canons of portraiture.

Appreciation of Francis Bacon's work

Francis Bacon's artwork uses expressive brushstroke to present a personative picture of a soul. The exaggerated facial expression can strongly show the exact status of anxiety, confusion and uncertainty. This

This is an image of Francis Bacon's "Self-portrait (1975)", due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

This is an image of Francis Bacon's "Three Studies for a Self-portrait", due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Learning from Francis Bacon

His portrait "Three Studies for a Self-Portrait 1979-80" shows distorted figures of himself. This surrealistic and abstract style helped to convey the message expressing the inner emotions. The non-traditional approach of his self-portraits made me discover that it can help showing my inner frustrations.

My Approach

Therefore, I have decided to paint unrealistic situations like I am fading away, halfly visible or transparent to show the uncertainties in myself.

↳ Draft 1

directly convey his inner emotions and when I look at his painting, I can read his painful feeling from the distortion like the holes on the neck and the "crack" on the face. The horrible images is actually describing the truth.



Reference Artist = William Utermohlen

This is an image of William Utermohlen's final series of self-portrait, due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

He uses his artwork as a tool for documenting his decaying mind and his disappearing visual capabilities. His art became more abstract, blurrier and vague as the Alzheimer's progressing

This is an image of William Utermohlen's "Self-portrait (1967)", due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

This is an image of William Utermohlen's "Self-portrait (2000)", due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

↑ Before Diagnosis
His style of Art change from the traditional realistic drawing

↑ After Diagnosis first years
to the very abstract style

→ If I were Utermohlen, I would blindly give up and fall into depression after I heard the news of my Alzheimer's disease

→ His passion in art is amazing!

In 1955, UK-based American artist William Utermohlen was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Before his death in 2007, he created a heart-wrenching final series of self-portraits over the stages of Alzheimer's for five years.

Learning from Utermohlen's work
Utermohlen's spirit of doing art as he was fighting with his diseases has moved me. He recorded the changes of his art style by painting self-portraits. I want to use this method to record down my different self at different time as well. After all, I think I can combine them into a piece of painting that shows all of them at one time. This would be an effective method to show my multiple-selves situation.

→ Direction of my work
→ I would like to capture my natural behaviour first by photography. These photo will show my different characters so that I can work from that.

Reference Artist = Justin Ogilvie

Justin Ogilvie is a figurative artist who mainly use paintings to explore the metaphysical nature of the self and how it is illuminated by the presence of the "other"

Appreciation of Justin Ogilvie's work

Ogilvie examines how the "self" is constituted within the living world. "Before and Again" & "Double Self Portrait-II" both are the self-portraits that describe his status of different selves by the loosely drawn but intensely observed portraits. He also uses additive and subtractive painting techniques to achieve the look of the paintings.

This is an image of Justin Ogilvie's "Before and Again (Double Self-portrait)", due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

"Before and Again" & "Double Self-portrait" Learning from Justin Ogilvie's work

The idea of the "Double-exposure" in photography is incorporated in Ogilvie's work. This create an effect of seeing two pictures in one painting. I think this can conduct my idea of portraying different selves into one picture effectively and a message of "hidden", "inner", self can be convey by the transparent self-portraits as well.

In the MV of Taylor Swift's "Style" the idea of "double-exposure" is used to show the memories and thoughts

This is an image captured from Taylor Swift's MV - "Style", due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

This is an image captured from Yanzhou Bao's work, due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.

Photographer Yanzhou Bao uses "Double-exposure" to create the illusion of the model movement. It also captures the different status of the model and effectively shows the different angles of the costumes.

How to Portraits

Reilly Method

This is a very useful method for understanding the muscle structure and orientation of the human head.

This is an image captured from a video about Reilly Method, due to copyright restriction, no reproduction of the image is provided.



my attempt of trying the Reilly method.

Studying Actual Human Face muscles



← I pay attention on the shadow casting and the muscle distribution on the face, noticing the location of the human skeleton as well. ✓



How the muscle is pulling and moving is also observed



I do a study of side view as well so that I can bear in mind the structure when I am painting.

Reilly Method is invented by Frank J. Reilly, who is an American painter, illustrator, muralist and teacher at the Grand Central School of Art, Pratt Institute and Moore College of Art.

✓ The basic human head skeleton which greatly affects the protrusion of the face muscle and how the light hit on the face

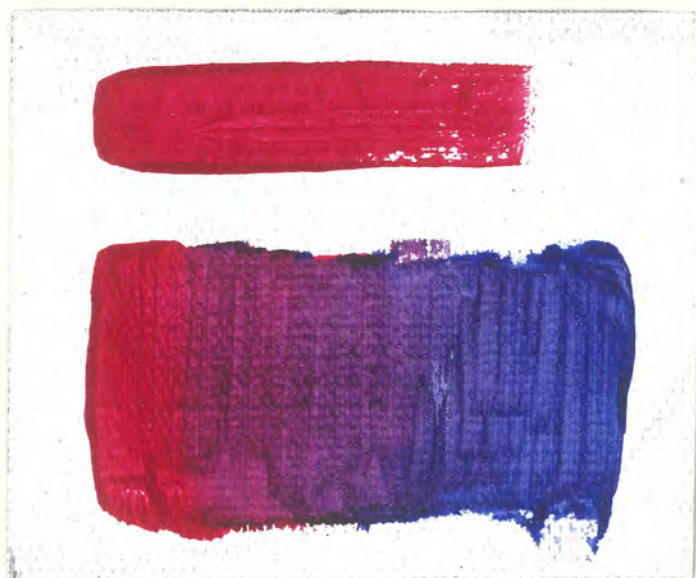


Failure

The type and size of the paper was not handling well with my techniques. It becomes wrinkled and the colours don't stand out properly.

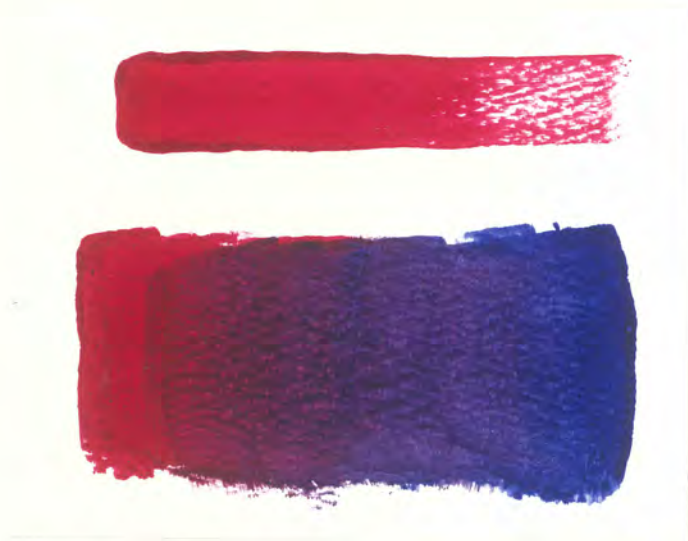


- ◀ I cannot apply paint smoothly and I cannot blend the colours together.
- ◀ Also, my painting skills need to be improved as well.



Canvas

- I am able to blend the colour to a wider range of colour as the drying time on canvas is much longer



Paper

- Not only I cannot blend the colour smoothly, but also the colour become dull, not as vibrant as it is on canvas

CAN IT BE SMOOTHER?

When I do the skin painting, I realized that it is very important to have smooth blending in order to make it more natural. With retarding medium, it appears to be more watery than with gel medium. The result in retarding medium is more patchy than in gel medium. Therefore, I prefer using Gel Medium.



After-thought of the 1st painting



- After I had asked for comment from my teachers and classmates, I concluded that the painting maybe easy to cause misinterpretation that I was falling asleep or my soul is separating from my body.
- Moreover, the painting show imbalance and fail to lead the audience to see whole picture, the eyes looking to the right is distracting the audience off the cameras, losing the focus.

Further Extension



- I select some more photo and do another painting of an opposite shot angle. I follow the same steps as I am doing the 1st painting