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Task One: Manifesto Writing = 489
Task Two: Semiotic Analysis = 393
Task Three: Practice-based Writing = 238
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Manifesto:

1. I care deeply about climate change.
2. I'm inspired by nature and everyday objects.
3. I believe that art is in everything and the world would not be what it is without it.
4. The kind of art that inspires me is the type that has lots of texture and natural monochrome colour schemes.
5. The kind of illustrator I want to be is more inspired and learning more everyday, unafraid to make mistakes.
6. The sort of change I'd like to see in the future is one without hunger and disease; everyone has a full and happy life.
7. I value integrity and empathy.
8. Although I'm not a musician myself, I find that music inspires me greatly.

Key word: Environment

2. I'm inspired by nature and everyday objects.

I believe as an illustrator you should take the environment around you and let it help and inspire your work, whether it be a tree that's lived for centuries or a bar of soap in your bathroom, drawing anything and everything has made me realise how drawing only the same thing over and over can only help you improve in that area which can cause blind spots in our abilities overtime.

I really appreciate the romantic movement (Damrosch, Leopold (1985) pp. 405–424) and it's emphasis on the environment, the artists back then were chasing the feeling of the sublime and the overwhelming power of nature.

David Nash makes artistic wooden sculptures inspired by architecture, such as the pyramids and the natural world. His work has been described to be similar to "pagan monuments" and "primitive furniture," (Royalacademy.org.uk. (2012)) I personally, quite like the rugged yet precise quality of his art, it is as if the wood bends to and melds into shape but not without retaining a part of what it once was.

Key word: realism

7. I value integrity and empathy.

I believe that as an illustrator it is important to me that we stay honest and help make the world a better place. Living in a world that is already unfair should strengthen our resolve to make it a better place instead of contributing to immoral practices for the sake of our own personal gain.

I really love David Graeme Baker's work, the way he paints people as if in a far away dream but also in an honest and endearing manner. "Realism anchors my work, though I purposefully conflate reality and fiction to imbue the images with enigmatic, yet evocative dreamlike meaning."-Baker's bio.

The characters resemble someone you might have known, their gazes avoid the audience, instead preferring to glance in the bottom corner in tired mourning.

Key word: music

8. Although I'm not a musician myself, I find that music inspires me greatly.

Listening to music has helped me immensely with keeping up with work and staying focused. Certain artists explore themes through their music, which in turn gives me new perspective and encourages me to dip into a different world for inspiration for my own art, whether it be the atmosphere or the message of the song. Often times just the cover art for an album can motivate my imagination.

Melissa McCracken is an expressionist painter and synesthete (a person whose senses are crossed over, e.g., sound and colour) who utilises music for her art, as a result are her gorgeous explosions of colour. She studied psychology in school before pressing art “My three favourite things growing up were psychology, art, and music, and so they all converged at one point in my career.”-McCracken. I would love to view music as a way to inspire me to paint as she does.

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Semiotic Analysis

The tortured artist is a stereotype that makes me sad but no one can encapsulate it better than Vincent Van Gogh, whose life ended abruptly and tragically.

Much of Vincent Van Gogh's life was lonely and confided details to his brother, Theo, in a series of letters. There are currently nine hundred and three surviving letters written or received by Van Gogh, himself. Most letters are from Vincent Van Gogh to his brother as Theo Van Gogh had a habit of keeping everything no matter how small, he is the reason why a majority of the letters survive today.

“Work is my only distraction” -To Theo van Gogh, from Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, on or about Friday 20 September 1889

Letter #805

“The difference between happiness and unhappiness, both are necessary and useful, and death or passing away... it's so relative — and so is life.

Even in the face of an illness that's unsettling or worrying, this belief is absolutely unshaken.”-To Theo van Gogh, from Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, on or about Friday, 20 September 1889

Letter #805

It is clear that Van Gogh was not happy, he sought distraction in his work as a form of escapism from the effects of his psychiatric illness that had plagued him throughout his life.



Vincent Van Gogh's "Prisoners Exercising" 1890

Both letters are sent from Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, a commune or asylum where Van Gogh admitted himself in the hopes of being treated for his mental illness. Here, he painted "Prisoners Exercising" (1890) inspired by Gustave Doré's engraving of the same name in 1872.

The painting's overwhelming colour codes of monochrome green look as though the people are under the sea, drowning in their misery. We can't see the sky only the high wall that barricade freedom from the faceless individuals, many of whom are obscured. The so called "exercise" looks less like enriching and more like another chore they are burdened with. The trudge in a circle for an unknown amount of time before they do something else. The cycle of squalor continues throughout their lives before they are released or die, whichever seems to come first.

This painting can be interpreted as a metaphor for depression, an illness that Van Gogh likely suffered himself. Depression is often experienced as monotonous (Emphasised, but the cool monochrome palette, as if all the warmth drawn away.)

Although Van Gogh was never diagnosed for any specific illness, there is evidence to suggest he was affected by manic depression before taking his own life in 1890, the same year "Prisoners Exercising" was painted.

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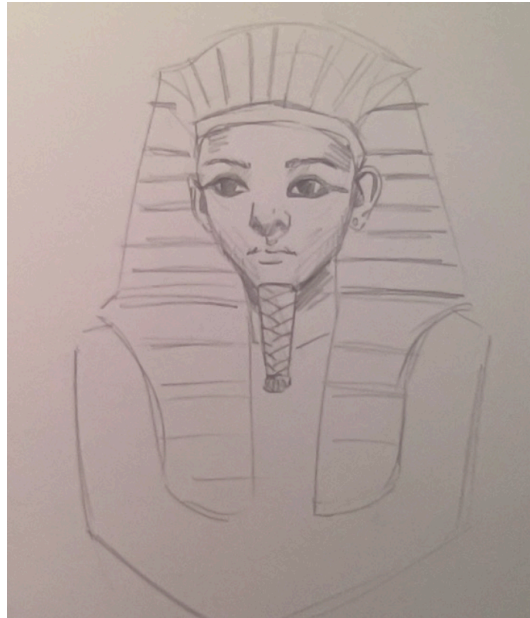
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<https://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/en/stories/on-the-verge-of-insanity#0>

"The letters of Vincent van Gogh" Book

Practice-based Writing

Egyptian Artefacts really interest me because they embody the history, culture and opulence of Ancient Egypt. They make me think about their beliefs of the afterlife, how their beliefs shaped their ways of living and language.



Sketched portrait of an Egyptian death mask. (Alice Snow)



King Tutankhamun's death mask.



Egyptian Polychrome Wooden Mask.

The reason behind the death mask is to replicate the face of the deceased so they soul can recognise their body and return to it so they can follow Anubis (Egyptian god of the dead) and be judged by the weight of their soul and be brought to the realm of the dead. (Carnegie Museum of Natural History. (2016))

The death masks help us understand the culture in Egypt at the time as the accessories worn by the rich can show the popular fashion at the time (Esh (2021)). While the poor used wood and clay for their own relatives as they didn't have access to the opulence like the rich did. (Art -Egyptian Death Masks)

Another thing that was unique to the royal family was the iconic headdress called the Nemes, it is not a crown but it does represent the power of the pharaoh as they were the divine mediator between Gods and Man. The one worn by King Tutankhamun has a cobra and Vulture attached new this forehead this symbolises his rule over both Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt. The fake beard is also here as it associates the pharaoh with the Gods regardless of gender, but women also wore the false beard as, Horus God of the Pharaohs, was male. (Kathryn A. Bard, Encyclopedia of the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt, Routledge 1999, p.412)

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