

Portfolio of Writing

Ways of Thinking (ADAD4018)

BA Illustration

Student Number - 2116308

Tutor – Gwenllian Benyon

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My Creative Manifesto

Education furthers my personal growth and overall development.

I'm inspired by pastel colour palettes partnered with bold, loose linework.

I'm spontaneous and fluid with creativity especially when creating art.

No idea is too precious, each stroke when drawing works with others to find their place.

I would like to see more respect and understanding of the transgender and non-binary community, justice in the police system and better mental health care and resources.

I believe in perseverance if you continually try your best at something, improvement will eventually emerge within whatever it is you're trying to better yourself at.

I enjoy abstract and colourful imagery ranging from detailed artworks to minimalistic art. I enjoy very soft looking illustrations with juxtaposed bold harsh line work.

Art with strong composition inspires me to always take into consideration the perspective, framing, and angle of each of my artworks.

An Overview of my Beliefs

I would like to go into fashion design. Designing graphics and printing them onto different fabrics. To ultimately make my own range of clothing and accessories. To accomplish this, I aim to use the techniques of screen printing and photoshop, as seen with this Sesame Street design T-shirt:



A Sesame Street Screen Printed T-shirt from [SESAME STREET T-SHIRT for girl \(tiendapsycho.com\)](http://tiendapsycho.com)

I aim to one day open my own shop. With the aim to work textiles in alongside my illustration so I can print and sew my own garments. I want to revive colour and individualism in everyone's wardrobes, like BAPE (A Bathing Ape) have created with their 'Baby Milo' clothing range:



BAPE (A Bathing Ape) – Baby Milo All Safari Full Zip Hoodie – from [BAPE - Baby Milo All Safari Full Zip Hoodie - Freshness Mag](#)

Embroidery, screen printing, sewing, and other methods used in garment making interest me most within the presentation and sale of a final illustration. I also love how a person's dress code can influence how you initially view them and get to know them. A lot can be said within a bold design as with any choice. Colour, shape, and bold strokes will form my illustration style. Yet no idea is too precious, each stroke when drawing works with others to find their place. I aim to make these marks quickly and with conviction, then later refining their imperfections usually without removing my construction work, as I enjoy the loose feel it generates. I believe that each drawing should never be abandoned, as even if revisited at a later date. I aim to complete and work via a mixture of media, prominently fine liner illustration, mechanical pencil sketches, and digital design within photoshop. I think that all ideas in art can come to fruition.

I focus my work around narrative and character design, inspired by the illustrations of Keaton Henson:



Examples of Keaton Henson's Illustrations on clothing – from [Great drawings, Keaton Henson! - Art in Taringa!](#).

I aim to portray character and personality within my work. I look to capture heart and delve into each drawing emotively. Drawing out the mood and atmosphere of the artwork. I enjoy abstract and

colourful imagery ranging from detailed artworks to minimalistic art that both feature a strong use of shape. I enjoy very soft looking illustrations with juxtaposed bold harsh line work. I believe contrast and the use of opposites is beautiful. I believe the heavy use of pink and green is a main focus when designing my artwork. As they are my favourite colours I enjoy including them wherever possible. Both the macabre and cute inspire me. I use elements of both to create my monsters and portrait works. When designing new characters or developing existing ones I always try to combine characteristics which are stereotypically regarded as undesirable with cute ideas and mannerisms. This helps me create a more realistic world as the real world is both light and dark. I aim to highlight imperfections within my artworks subject matter. Like caricature I enjoy a sense of distorted realities and exaggerated proportion.

[Word Count: 463 words]

Manifesto Bibliography

BAPE (A Bathing Ape), 2010. *BAPE (A Bathing Ape) – Baby Milo All Safari Full Zip Hoodie*. [image] Retrieved from <https://www.freshnessmag.com/2010/01/07/bape-baby-milo-all-safari-full-zip-hoodie/> [Accessed 2 January 2022].

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Psycho Store, 2015. *A Sesame Street Screen Printed T-shirt*. [image] Retrieved from <http://tiendapsycho.com/category/girls/21/-sesame-street-t-shirt-for-girl/362/#.YdGrPGDP1PY>. [Accessed 2 January 2022].

Practise – Based Writing



Challenger, (2021), Sasha Velour, marker pen illustration

This is my illustration of the drag queen Sasha Velour on the night of the finale in which she was crowned the winner of her season of RuPaul's Drag Race. This is a photograph of the original garment worn by Sasha:



Sasha Velour at RuPaul Drag Race Finale June 9, 2017

Her look was inspired by the garments of Tudor royalty, signifying that she herself is a Queen, and playing with the polysemic meanings of the term 'Queen' in the drag community. I can see many similarities between her dress and Queen Elizabeth I, as depicted in this oil painting by John Bettes the Younger:



Queen Elizabeth I, c.1585-90 (panel) by Bettes, John the Younger (c.1530-1615/6) (attr.to); oil on panel

Queen Elizabeth I was particularly renowned as strong leader. The connotations from referring to this royal figure in particular really added to the mood of the evening and offered a concept and theme behind their entrance look that also signified power and strength. The ornate decoration of frills and ruff in Sasha's garment along with the blue colour palette signifies the idea of wealth and heightens their ability to stand out from the crowd. A symbolic sign captured by Sasha Velour is her bald head. She does this to pay respect to her mother who passed away due to cancer and the bald head signifies hair loss due to chemotherapy. Sasha Velour also depicts a look of androgyny by having a bald head because long hair is often associated with femininity. I decided to illustrate Sasha Velour wearing this particular garment to show a strong sense of self-discovery, pride and worth. It connected with me very much at the time within my own personal journey with gender discovery and her conviction of her own journey and ideas helped me find my own path.

Practise – Based Bibliography

www.depositphotos.com, 2017. *Sasha Velour at RuPaul Drag Race Finale June 9, 2017* [image]
Available at: <<https://depositphotos.com/156672788/stock-photo-sasha-velour-at-the-rupauls.html>> [Accessed 2 January 2022].

Bettes, J., 1585. *Queen Elizabeth I*. [Painting - Oil on Panel].

Challenger, G., 2021. *Sasha Velour, marker pen illustration*. [image].

Observational Writing



Van Gogh, (1888), Sunflowers

The Signifier in this painting is a painting yellow sunflowers in a vase on a yellow background. This painting appears at first to be an iconic sign because the painting of the sunflowers is realistic and the image looks like the real flowers it is meant to represent. Therefore, the signifier, the painting of sunflowers in a vase, resembles the signified, because it accurately resembles how the real life sunflowers would have looked to the artist. The National Gallery describes sunflowers as “Symbols of happiness” because “it was painted during a rare period of excited optimism” in Van Gogh’s life. Knowing this about the artist’s life adds to the meaning of the painting and may explain the colour palette choices as yellow often symbolises happiness. However Alastair Sooke writing for BBC Culture notes that some of the sunflowers “are going to seed and have begun to droop”. This may signify that the artist was potentially depressed or that he knew that his optimism and feelings of whimsy may be fleeting. The colours are also lacking in vibrancy this indicates to me that although there are glimpses of hope ultimately the sunflowers are wilting. His use of earthy browns remind me that we all live and will one day return to dirt as earth symbolises burial and decay.

Observational Writing Bibliography

Sooke, A., 2014. *Van Gogh's Sunflowers: The unknown history*. [online] www.bbc.com/culture. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20140120-van-goghs-flower-power> [Accessed 2 January 2022].

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Van Gogh, V., 1888. *Sunflowers*. [Oil on Canvas]. Retrieved from [follow-the-colours-van-gogh-girassois-02.jpg \(620×812\) \(followthecolours.com.br\)](https://www.followthecolours.com.br/van-gogh-girassois-02.jpg) [Accessed 02 January 2022].