

## Visual storytelling

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Module code: ADDA4022/AC

### Plato's symposium

Is a philosophical Socratic dialogue

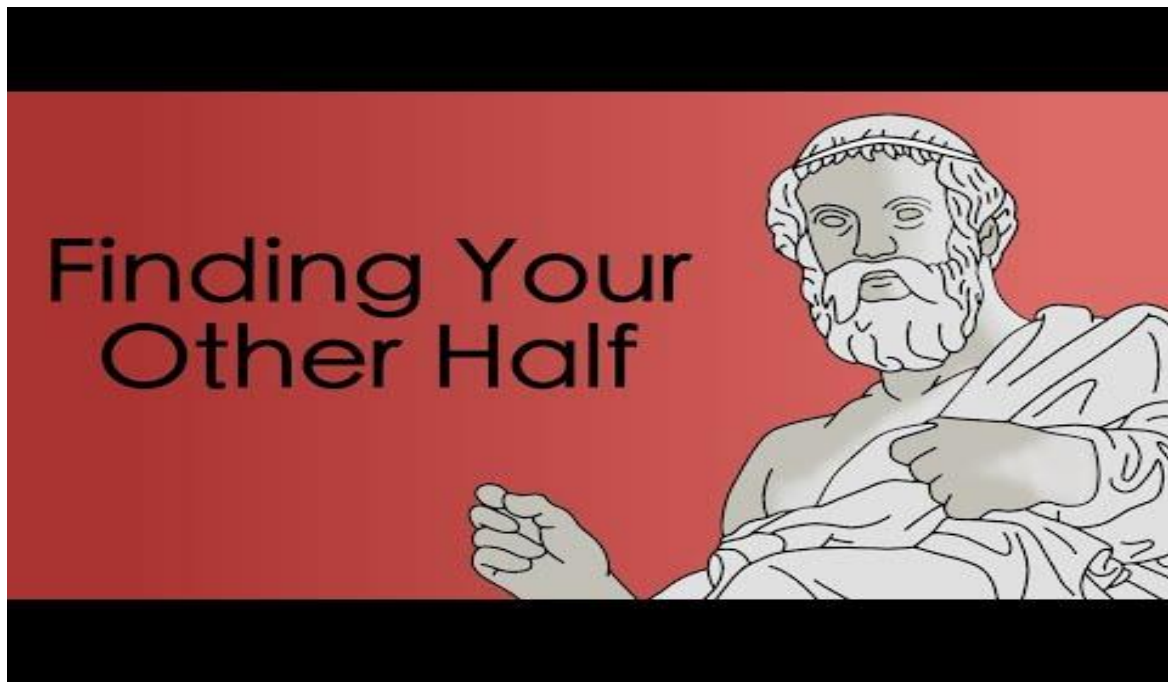
Written in

Set in 416 BC in Athens

That showcases different elements of love and connection all told by individuals that are having a large banquet setting. Sitting across from one of another, discussing what is love in different perspectives and exploring to find the one true meaning.

One of the few theory's by Aristophanes

This is relevant because this conversation took place in the banquet. At the banquet the discussion which was posited by Aristophanes was about our initial form of perhaps being born in this world as round circular bodies with 4 feet and arms and how this form was split into a duality continually searching for our other half (PhilosophyToons, 2021) .



### What I took away from this book

While reading this opened my mind for further ideas on how i can further my illustrations from these dialogues on relations to love and romance moving forward in metaphorical sense but relevant to Plato's symposium to make connections on what the characters preach in their story, to my work. To create playful and emotionally moving images that displays a profound meaning.



Figure 1: [Plato's Symposium] by Anselm Feuerbach

This painting shows people conversing with one or another and drinking alcohol to allow their true thoughts and opinions to be unfiltered during intellectual conversation of love and romance.

It shows a banquet of love and enjoyment

While the left-hand side are revellers described as a cult of Dionysus which is uncertain, viewing similar paintings on relation to the cult of Dionysus there seems to be a lot of relevance. The cult of Dionysus were a religious cult who celebrated through wild and ecstatic dance and limited clothing the god of wine and fertility.

The background past the pillars helps set the mood of a late evening to settle down and dine the silky texture on their robes give off a wealthy, clever acting higher class. The chromatic pigments stand out as humid tones with a series of highlights on the painting. As "[a]ccording to correct terminology, analysis should say "chromatic pigments" when referring materials or coloured substances used for painting and colour" (De Grandis, 1986, p. 17).

The pillars help set up the frame in a compositional way that is using leading lines to push the viewers eyes towards the centre of the canvas. I believe the compositional technique uses the golden ratio, due to the slight elevation of the crowd of the left hand side which is giving lot of a presence.

The painting also shows a sense of balance while showing 2 distinctive differences between the two crowds.

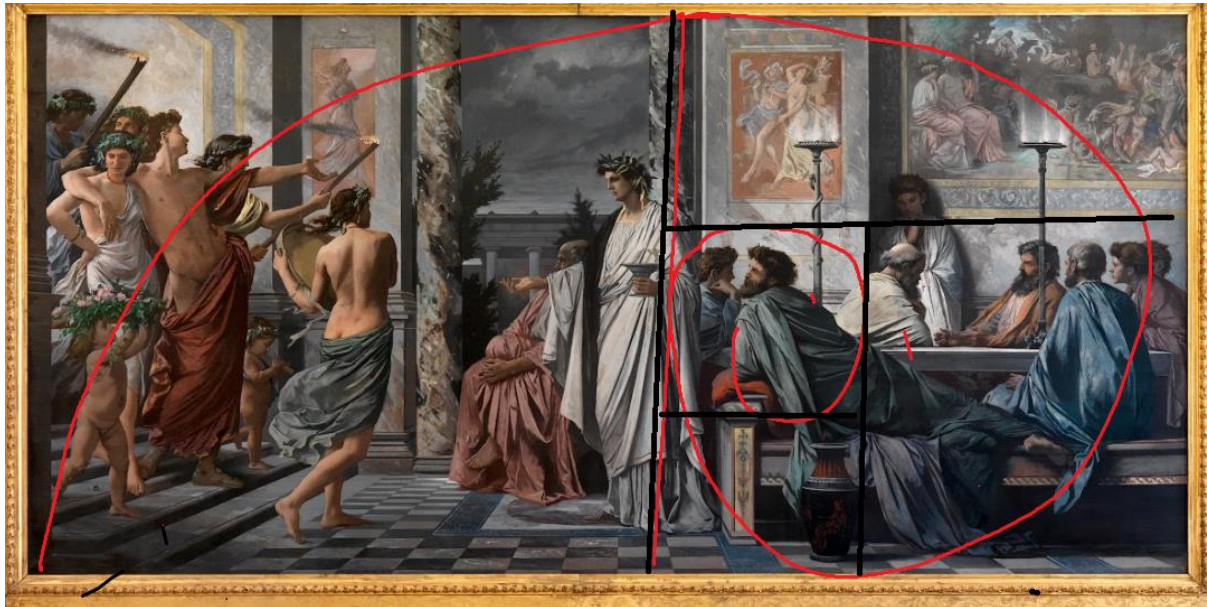


Figure 2: : [Plato's Symposium] by Anselm Feuerbach, compositional lines, Jack Duffy

The golden ratio composition is focused on the man on the right and its due to him being the closest to the viewer as well as the child on the left-hand side, in layers compared to all the figures within the painting. is the composition of the image suggesting that these 2 figures centred in the golden ratio perhaps might be having a intimate conversation

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## Alberto Mielgo

### Modern day artist

Mielgo uses mixed mediums but primely focuses now on digital art and has featured in a few animations such as Spider verse(animated movie) , Love Death Robots (Netflix series and Watch Dogs (video game)

Marathon (2025) *Marathon | Reveal Cinematic Short*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvbEnWLRo1s>.



Figure 3 Marathon [screenshot]

This is an animation that showcases his work and style this is a trailer for a new upcoming game MARATHON, he works alongside with the animation team from the games development company Bungie who are also the creators of a popular game called Destiny and Bungie has worked on other titled games.

There is a series of repetitions when it comes to composition as he primarily likes to focus the subject in the middle of the frame when it comes to a lot of his scenes to project a mood to the viewer, therefore inviting the immersion with the world around. he creates his scenes by using lots of negative space and scenery to create visual code. In a sense storytelling describes the world around the character. Th animation is immersive making the viewer feel that they are within the frame with the character due to how the camera follows the characters tracks in a 3<sup>rd</sup> point of view following every step. Seeing the body language of the figure as well as expressions describes the personality and an emotional connection between the protagonist to the viewer.

With everything said it is a unique style compared to most. There is a distinctive style that separates **Alberto Mielgo** from other animators and that his work has a signature style that makes his illustrations easily more recognisable.

In this animation chromatic lighting is used. The author of the book

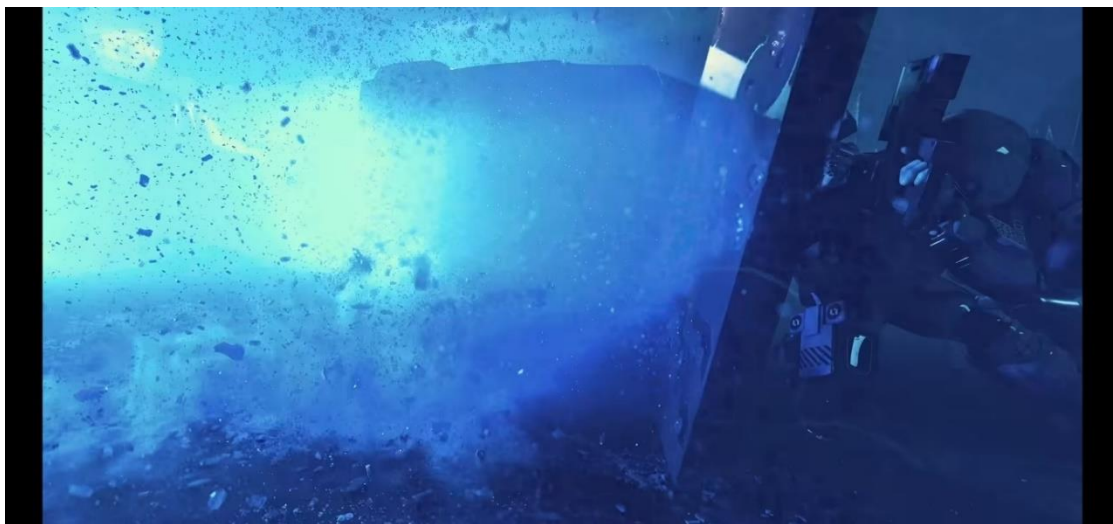


Figure 4 marathon [screenshot]

*Principles of Color* Fabber Birren (1969) talks about how chromatic lighting is attractive to the audience and states that the “Effects of colored light are eternally pleasing to the human eye, for light is pure and celestial in its quality... Such effects can be realistic, imaginative or completely abstract” (Birren, F, 1969, p.75).

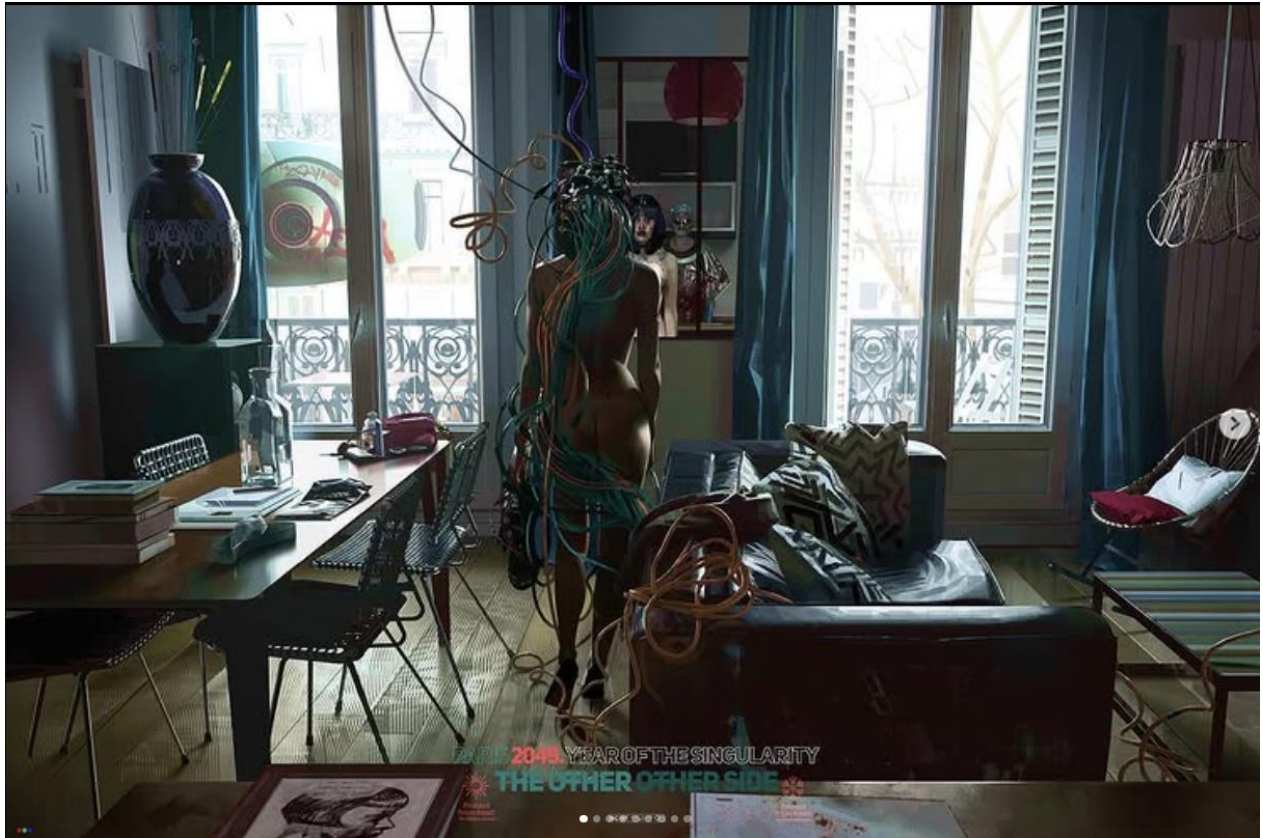


Figure 5: Paris 2049 year of the singularity the other other side

This design uses the concept of the rule of thirds, the “points of interest lie at the four intersections of four imaginary lines drawn to divide the composition into thirds horizontally and again vertically” (Koliska and Oh, 2021, p.356). Eyes are drawn to the robotic car outside which appears to be looking in to the residential interior and the horizontal edge of settee. Additionally, the focus is at the centre going vertically down as it captures a 1 point perspective to draw the eyes to the central mirror, where again this duality of real and technological reside. The reflection in the mirror shows their authentic self and not influenced by other worldly factors and technology.

This central concept is used within a lot of Mielgo’s animations and his work and he favours this method of composition compared to others.

Alberto Mielgo also expresses that “[a]s digital artists we can work fearlessly “(Mielgo (2021) Art Of Permanence) what he means by this is we can erase our mistakes and errors with a single click of a button manipulate our images to how we please.

He talks how we can upload our mind and become digital assets , NFT and transfer into other bodies

My take on this image describes how we are so reliant on technology from day-to-day life with visual art being the visual representation of what a few years ahead of us could become if we carry on with what we are doing now. Our brains becoming simple code that the ai can decipher within seconds, becoming walking corpses with every single equation solved for us, which becomes no purpose of pursuit.

I believe in that period, ai art will be far popular than it is now and it will become standard for businesses practices for ai to create graphic design pieces to advertise and profit, receiving cryptocurrency instead of standard currency such as British pounds , American dollars ,Japanese yen. and companies to be using and all be sold by digitally files or NFT's.



Figure 6 : Paris 2049 year of the singularity the other other side [screenshot]

This is a reference/easter egg to Alberto Mielgo older concept pieces called the golden woman which I noticed after a few minutes of analysing the work perhaps he wanted to leave a message saying that his work would hopefully stay present in this period where fine art /illustrations

And that he has left his mark for further generations to appreciate and look back on



Figure 7 The Golden Woman (concept art)

This sketch was the concept art for one of the episodes of love death robots which is a short animation series featuring a new story and a new art style every episode. This episode is also known as Jibaro, the golden woman.

I like how the artist has simplified the shapes in the frame and Linework

Hes used a variety of mixed Values and form to construct the jewellery pieces on the portrait

## Reference List

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## My work



Figure 8 Jack's water colour painting

How semiotics apply to my sketch/water colour painting

My painting was a response to bon Iver, which is an indie folk band, where every time I listen to the band I feel like I'm on a road trip or a adventure. This always gives me sense that I'm in touch with nature and it gives me a vision of sitting around a campfire on a wooden log in solitude or with company, reflecting, listening to the winds pass through the trees while the fire sizzles across from me.

I've not always been the most outdoorsy person as friends and family would say. but growing up and making connections with other individuals surrounded by those has developed my personality to be in more touch of outdoors and nature. it connects with transdivuality and the painting reflects on change and development and how we adapt from others to our own personality inspire us to inherit new skills or hobbies or ideology's

"Transindividuality can help us understand the temporal dimensions of collective responsibility" (Meskimmon, M ,2010, p39).

I sketched the dog because it also resembles. "A man's best friend" , we refer best friends as humanoid. I was trying to form connections on a play of words .

What also inspired the design was the 1981 Dogtanion. The quirky yet simple designs, which was amusing because the designs showed a lot of character and expression.



Figure 9 Dogtanion and the Three Muskehounds

I used watercolor because it uses soft tone and calming colorful blends of tone and can resemble stress relief when using the medium

*'Everyone can escape from stressful life situations to find inner peace simply by playing with colour.'*

(Haines, J no date, no page number)

## Reference

Meskimmon, M. (2010) *Contemporary art and the cosmopolitan imagination*, book, p39 . 1st edition. Routledge.

Figure 9 [https://allthetropes.org/wiki/Dogtanian\\_and\\_the\\_Three\\_Muskehounds](https://allthetropes.org/wiki/Dogtanian_and_the_Three_Muskehounds)

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