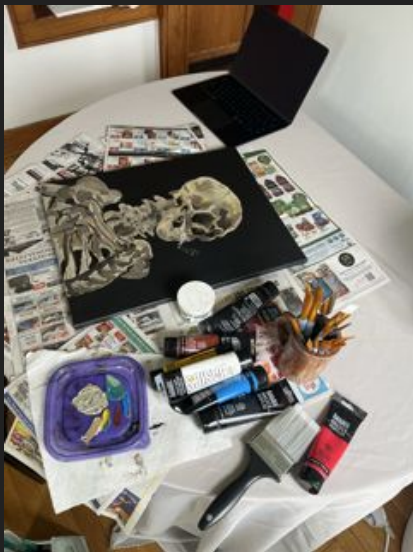


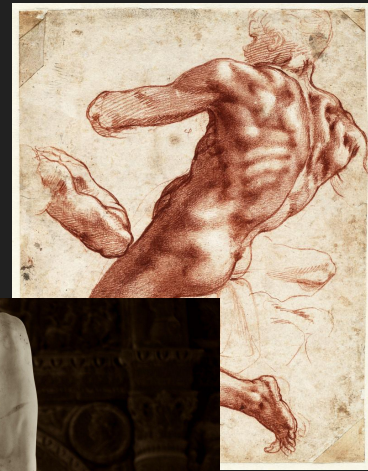
Recreating Master Artists Work/Brief History

By: Clarise Seguin



Intro to Project:

- For this project I have decided to recreate famous Masters Artist's works. These works include sketches, paintings, and even sculpting. For this project I decided to mimic works of Michelangelo and Vincent Van Gogh.
- While totally mimicking these artists is not possible, I attempted to create their works using different art mediums to try and mimic their works as close as possible.
- I plan on majoring in Art History after BCC, so I will also include the history behind each piece, and the process that I did to recreate these pieces/how challenging I found them.



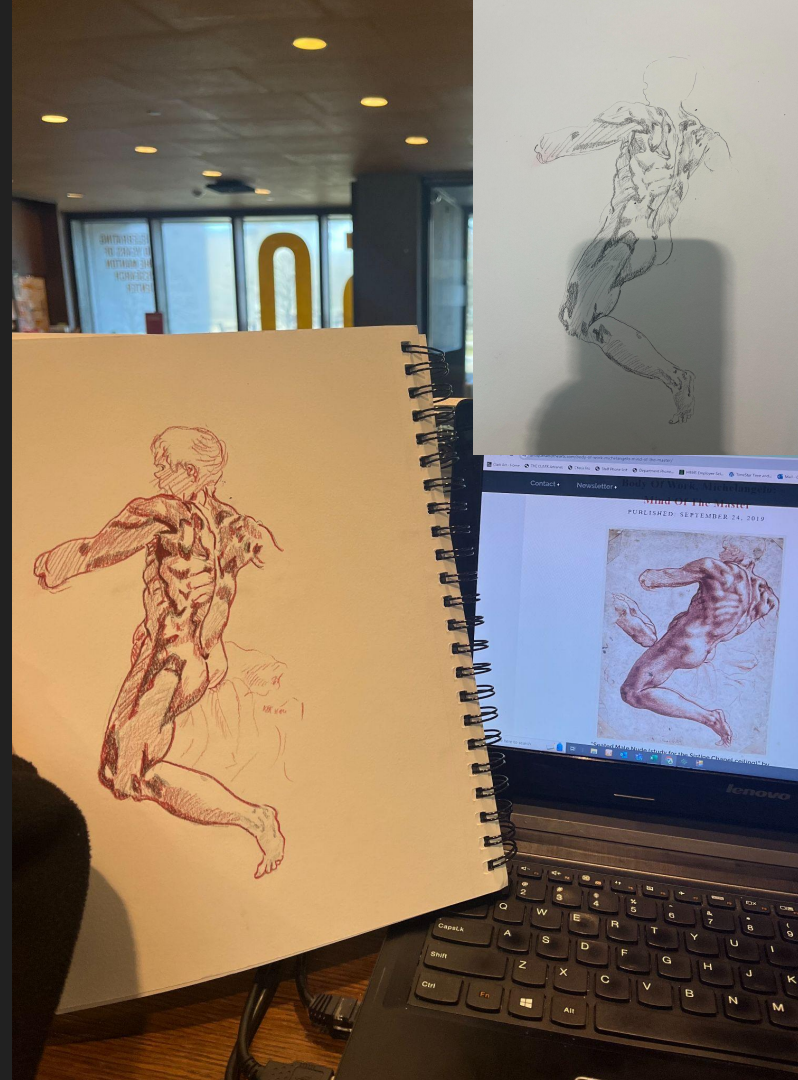
The 1st Piece: *Seated Male Nude (study for the Sistine Chapel ceiling)* by Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), circa 1511: History and Overview

- Anatomy was a huge part of the art world during the Renaissance period, artists such as Michelangelo studied the human bodies for years to mimic the form in complete and total accuracy.
- Michelangelo even took part in studying the dead bodies in morgues in Italy, just to understand how human muscles work and how the anatomy beneath the skin lays so he could accurately draw and sculpt the human form.
- Michelangelo studied human anatomy time and time again to improve his art, especially as he worked on the Sistine Chapel, a piece made entirely for Pope Julius II. The painting of the Sistine Chapel ceiling only took Michelangelo four years, however in the process of painting the chapel Michelangelo hurt his back and eyesight.



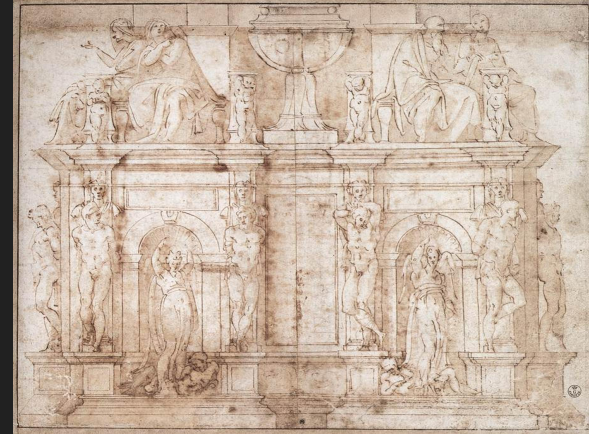
My Recreation:

- The original *Seated Male Nude* drawing by Michelangelo was created using red chalk and white lead.
- To create mine, I used graphite to outline the shape, and then I went over the outline in red Prismacolors, and completed it with shading.
- While I did not perfect the stance and proportions I am quite proud of this piece, and I think it closely mimics the original piece. I would give it a 2/10 on how difficult it was to complete, especially since I have prior experience using graphite and colored pencils.



Second Piece: *Dying Slave* By Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), circa 1513-1516: History and Overview

- The *Dying Slave* statue was created by Michelangelo depicting a prisoner. This was included as a piece of the tomb of Pope Julius II that was commissioned by the Pope in 1513.
- Pope Julius II commissioned his tomb to be designed by Michelangelo with hopes that it would be a huge piece made to reflect power and glory of his past rule long after his death.
- Michelangelo took 6 months acquiring pieces of marble to carve, carving a few statues leaving multiple unfinished before the Pope changed his mind out of impatience and wanted the Sistine Chapel to be painted instead.
- Only three of the sculptures he planned were completed for the Pope's tomb.
- The *Dying Slave* is said to be depicting a man at the point of death, when the body is drained of life. The statue depicts youth, and death all while capturing a pose of unconscious sexuality in the posture of the male figure.



Initial Sketch of the Pope's Tomb Design (Above)



My Recreation: Materials: Apoxie Sculpt, Aluminum foil, acrylic paint

- The original sculpture was created in marble by Michelangelo.
- I would not have been able to recreate this at the same scale or using marble, so instead I selected only the hand to recreate and used: Apoxie Sculpt, aluminum foil, and acrylic paint.
- First I formed the hand shape in aluminum foil, covered it in Apoxie Sculpt, I then let the Apoxie Sculpt dry and then painted it in white acrylic.
- This was my first time using Apoxie Sculpt and my first time sculpting a hand, it was quite difficult and turned out chunkier than I would have liked however I still think it turned out cool.
Difficulty level: 8/10 since it was a new type of material I was using, and I typically do not make 3D art.



Third Piece: *Skull of a Skeleton with Burning Cigarette* By Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890), circa 1885-1886: History and Overview

- The original painting was done using oil paint on canvas.
- During the time of this painting Van Gogh was going through a lot, he was enrolled in the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, Belgium in 1885.
- He lived in a small apartment above an artists shop and was surviving off of stipends his brother sent him, spending money on painting supplies, coffee, bread and tobacco.
- He would complain about his classes, stating they taught nothing in letters sent to his brother Theo.
- This painting is seen as a “joke” as he most likely made it as a class project, to tease at how he was being bored to death and surviving off of tobacco.



My Recreation:



Step One: Outlined in paint and face begins to form



Step 2: Face fully form now time for the skeleton's body



Step 3: Fully complete



Lastly: A picture of my setup and paints

My Recreation Continued:

- The original *Skull of a Skeleton with a Burning Cigarette* was made using oil on canvas.
- To create mine, I used acrylic on canvas as well as acrylic varnish to finish it off.
- First I painted the canvas fully black then I outlined the skeleton in paint, and then filled it in layer by layer, and finished it with varnish so dust does not harm the painting.
- I have not painted using acrylic in years, and I have never finished any acrylic painting that I have started. I am super happy with how this one turned out, and the process went quite smoothly. I would give this a solid 4/10 on the difficulty skill. The color matching was hard, and I used a bigger canvas than the original but it was very fun to make. I wish my computer would let me download a better resolution image lol.



Final Thoughts:

While it is nearly impossible to mimic such skilled well known artists it is a fun task and it truly helps you learn how to draw and advance your art. I would recommend mimicking art for any artist, beginner or skilled. I will also admit that the process can be frustrating at times, however the result is typically one that is satisfying.

I also believe that it is important that we all know and educate ourselves with the history of art. Art is always changing and it reflects our history as humans in a creative, digestible form. Art is always changing, and so is life. Without art we cannot access the past in it's eternity since art has always been a part of human history and always will be a part of human history overall.



Works Cited:

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Gurney, Tom. "Dying Slave." *Dying Slave Sculpture*, 2021, www.michelangelo.net/dying-slave/.

Reed Enger, "Head of a Skeleton with a Burning Cigarette," in *Obelisk Art History*, Published July 24, 2021; last modified November 08, 2022, <http://www.arthistoryproject.com/artists/vincent-van-gogh/head-of-a-skeleton-with-a-burning-cigarette/>.