

An Acrylic Painting Depicting an Environmental Issue LEVEL 4



Artwork Title: SURROUNDED

- A **Contemporary and / or past art influences used in my painting:** I have used the works of *Picasso* and *Salvador Dali* as inspiration for this painting. The colourful paintings of Picasso like the “Weeping Woman” and “Girl with Dark Hair”, which reflect cubism have all inspired me to make this piece. These paintings have inspired me to bring about this colourful collage effect in the painting although unlike most cubist works I have not shown different angles of the same face. Another important feature in my painting is the symbolism which is related to the theme of the environment. Salvador Dali has inspired me in this department by his works like “Persistence of Memory” and “meditative rose” which are symbolically very rich and colourful works of art.
- B. **Elements and principles of design and acrylic painting techniques I have used in my work and how they support my message:** My painting had two messages behind it. One message conveyed is how people of different colours, races, countries, and belief come to save what is left of our beautiful environment. The other message is that due to population explosion, there are more and more people in the world and spreading cities and towns while what is left of nature is being squeezed. Both these messages stand true to this painting. The composition shows a sea of different people which merge together as if the painting is observed from a distance and hence they lose their identifies. I have used *lines* to make different overlapping snapshots of parts of people’s faces. I have used a variety of geometric shapes for these “snapshots”. I have used all kinds of lines-horizontal, vertical, and diagonal which give the background a feeling of commotion and turmoil. It helps support my plan to give it a feeling of a crowd of people. The *sizes* I have chosen for the snapshots vary and again support my message by bringing out diversity and overcrowding. But as you can see I have made the rose my focal point. *Color* plays the most important part in my work. In general, the snapshots are painted in a cool colour scheme which is contrasted by the warm colour of the centre of interest, the rose. Radial balance with repetition of colour and shape, reinforces the theme of overcrowding. My acrylic painting techniques include wet on wet blending, value blending of monochromatic tones to show modeling of the faces, and touches of dry brushing for highlighting.

Teacher's Notes**Knowledge/Understanding**

- The student demonstrates a high degree of understanding of the elements and principles of design in the painting. He or she effectively contrasts a cool colour palette with the warm red used in the focal point and competently uses value to model human features (e.g., in the facial fragments and hands). The overlapping irregular shapes create a visually pleasing collage effect, while the radial balance format gives unity to the composition by making the outer circle of fragments and hands rhyme visually with the round rose at its centre.

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student depicts the environmental issue of overpopulation with a high degree of effectiveness. The facial fragments suggest chaotic frenzy and give strong visual impact to the intended message of overpopulation. At the same time, by showing calm in addition to panic in the painting's many and diverse faces and by placing the rose at the painting's centre, the student succeeds in conveying the work's other message, that of hope for solutions to the problem.

Communication

- The student discusses artistic influences with a high degree of clarity. Connections are made to the styles of two artists, and specific works are mentioned (e.g., Picasso's *Weeping Woman* and Salvador Dali's *Persistence of Memory*). The student makes clear which aspects of the styles of these artists he or she admires and says how they are used in his or her own work (e.g., he or she says Picasso's cubist works led to the painting's "colorful collage effect").
- The student explains his or her use of painting techniques with a high degree of clarity. He or she cites a number of the techniques used, and in the case of one them says where, how, and why it is used (i.e., "value blending of monochromatic tones to show modeling of the faces").

Application

- The student uses elements and principles of design and acrylic painting techniques to produce a highly effective art work. His or her keen sense of colour placement, ability to model the human form and hands realistically, and interesting approach to compositional organization (e.g., in the use of radial balance) make this an exceptional painting.

Comments

This work is representative of a solid level-4 performance. The student demonstrates a high degree of achievement of the expectations in all four categories of knowledge and skills.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student could:

- increase his or her preparatory study of the colours and shapes of forms (e.g., roses) to produce representations that are more accurate;
- read more writing on art to expand his or her visual art vocabulary.