

Elizabeth Dean

Research Problem Statement

For this project, I was given the objective to create a painting of any kind. I felt particularly ambitious so I decided to make a paneled piece. In this piece I created, I wanted to create a 4-paneled underwater scene. I began by researching underwater photos. I became enthralled with the beauty of the ocean. In my research I found so many creatures that I wanted to put in my piece. I also researched different artists who specialized in underwater scenes. This piece was my first time attempting to paint an underwater scene and there are so many artists who can create beautiful underwater scenes. In researching, I also came across so many different types of coral that I didn't know existed. In creating a solution to this objective, creating a visual solution seemed to be the only logical conclusion. Being able to create a visual solution, for a visual prompt

Communication Objective

In this piece I planned to communicate the beauty of God's creation through the art of painting. I wanted to communicate how amazing sea creatures and the ocean are. I really wanted to properly display how vast and amazing the ocean is. So much of the ocean is undiscovered and it covers so much of the earth. We see God's creation throughout our every day life but the ocean is so undiscovered so there is so much we don't know. Like with our relationships with God. It shows us how little we actually know. We forget how little we actually know but the ocean is an excellent reminder that there is so much out there. We are but a speck in the timeline of humanity and of the world.

Visual Solution

The visual solution to this was creating an aesthetically pleasing. The blues in the background bring a sense of peace and tranquility. The gradient of blue draws the eye down towards the bottom of the piece, passing over a few sharks, manta rays, and a school of fish. The line of sight draws you down to the coral reef across the bottom and the eel swimming through the seaweed.

How it was Produced

In producing this piece, I started with 4 separate canvases. I painted a blue gradient across all 4 panels, starting from dark at the bottom to light at the top, to represent the light shining through the water. I then began painting the ocean floor and the coral reef that crawls up the sides of the painting. I first painted some large rocks for the coral to grow off of and then began with the coral. For different textures of the coral, I used sponges and globs of paint.