

Tia Driggers

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Research Proposal

Research Problem Statement:

For this project, I was given the opportunity to create a character sculpture. I choose to step out of the norm of the class and to not create my own made up character. Instead of creating something new I decided to take a group of people that most people are unfamiliar with. I use to live in Papua New Guinea, I knew nothing about it until we moved there and when people ask about where I use to live they almost all don't know what Papua New Guinea is or where it is located. I decided I wanted to show people the diversity through the celebration experience that Papua New Guinea has to offer. Through my research I found a photographer that traveled to Papua New Guinea and took photos of a couple of the main microcultures in their "bilas" or decoration for jewelry, head dress, body paints or clothing. I then decided to pick the main microcultures that I had the opportunity to be a part of. Port Moresby and Goroka are the locations that are my main focus.

Communication Objective: expressed ideas

As an artist, I am interested in creating works that help people find their voice and to show gratitude to the ones that cannot. My goal with this project is to show diversity in the way that we as humans celebrate. Even though this is only a glimpse of Papua New Guinea it has opened my eyes to push pass the boundaries of familiarity to be more exposed to the world. I learned to step out of my own little world of South Carolina when I moved to Papua New Guinea

at the age of 15. So when it comes to my art I strive to give my audience, hopefully, the same reaction to just how different but yet so beautiful we all are when we celebrate. Art is more than what we see in our everyday life. I strive to show even just a little bit of what else is going on in the world. I want to show people that even though Papua New Guinea has over 800 different microcultures and languages that each one has their own way of displaying their own little culture. My experience has brought value to more places outside of America and I strive to bring people that feeling when they observe my art.

Visual Solution:

The solution to coming up with my visual representation was to try and create a 3D sculpture to help bring the Papua New Guinea celebration right to my audience. I choose a more youthful adult man to help bring out the still slightly new country with their new independence. I used sculpt for most of the project but also included straw for his head dress and yarn for his braided tassels to bring in more textures to help show diversity. To tie it all together I decided to add small leaves to the base of the sculpture. Banana leaves are a big part of Papua New Guinea because it is a staple that grows all over the country and brings easy access that can be used as cooking materials, formation of houses, cleaning and more. I completed my sculpture by baking the sculpt and painting it. Painting my sculpture really helped to bring out the details and to show the importance of bright colors that Papua New Guinea holds. The face paint is a big part of Papua New Guinea celebrations. Depending on where the microcultures are located the people will use different designs in the face paint and the jewelry that they wear, so painting my project really ties the whole project together.