

Research Week 2020

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Medium: pencil

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Leaving a Legacy

This is my fourth year at Liberty University, however, I just started taking art classes this past summer (2019). I have always had a passion for drawing but did not realize how much I really loved it and how I could excel in that area. I am currently in ARTS 311, which is Drawing II, and I am enjoying it. My professor gave us a lot of freedom in what we wanted to draw this semester as long as all our projects had an overall theme. For my theme, I decided to do portraits. These portraits are not just of anyone but of the generations on my mom's side of the family. From my grandmother, all the way down to one of the youngest who is not even a year old. I decided to do it on my family because they are such a huge part of my life. My grandma is no longer living, however, she left an unbelievable legacy. She showed everyone around her the love of Christ and what it is like to live for Him. When I was younger, I do not think I appreciated that kind of genuine love as much as I should've because it was always there. Once I got older and my grandma started to flurry away with dementia, I realized then how much love she gave and how much she loved Jesus and her family. Because of this great legacy that she left, I am doing my best to honor her in a series of portraits of the people she shaped us to be. The piece I am submitting for research week is of the youngest of the generations who does not quite know this unconditional Jesus love yet.

In the portrait, I used different grades of drawing pencils to get the various values and highlights I was looking for. I did not use any type of blending stick but chose to leave the all-natural, a little grainy look. I enjoy doing realistic pieces and do not think too much on abstract

ideas. A lot of my inspiration comes from the artist, Dan Beardshaw. He does beautiful pencil drawings of all sorts; not only does he create absolutely incredible work, but he shows his audience how to do some of the techniques he uses in his pieces. Many of his pieces are so detailed that it is hard to tell if it is a black and white picture or a drawing. His type of work inspires me to become better at my own techniques and portraits. I have so much to learn and will only continue to grow as an artist from here. I struggle to find the right balance in values within my own pieces and saw how well Beardshaw made his to be so harmonious. He uses the darkest of darks and the lightest of lights when needed to exaggerate or complete a piece to be so realistic looking. In my own piece, I was able to try out this technique and used a lot of highlights and dark values to exaggerate some parts of the face which made them look more realistic. Creating shapes and not so much of what I saw made it easier to make the baby's face proportioned.

I am beginning to create more of these portraits to honor my grandma's legacy and keep the love going. My hope is that with each piece, I will get better and better at the small details so when it comes to the big picture I can become more masterful in this art. Thank you for your time in reading and viewing my work.