

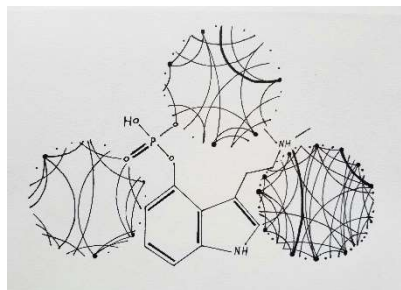
Foundations I, Fall 2020, University of Memphis

Artist's Statement: Daniel Twedt



I entered Foundations I as an art novice. I previously attended an introductory art class as a college freshman – that was in the early 1970's. Needless to say, I have forgotten whatever I had learned nearly 50 years ago! Thus, I was eager to polish any latent artistic skills that have lain dormant. I viewed Foundations I as an opportunity to learn these basic skills as a stepping stone to more advanced classes.

Project #1 (line values) began the term with an intentional mix of five different line-based Sharpie® drawings. Reducing these five images to the two that were to be combined for the final project was challenging. I ultimately chose to combine imagery of 'mind-maps' before and after exposure to psilocybin with the symbolized chemical formulation of this compound (i.e. psilocybin) as the connection between the mind-maps.



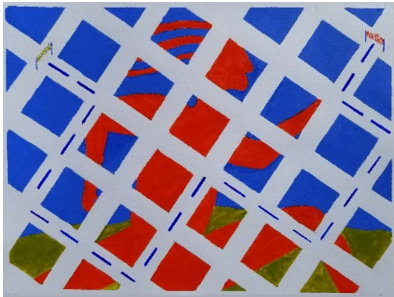
Project 1: Psilocybin Mind

Collage was the subject for Project #2 which was translated to a pencil drawing focused on texture, space, and shape that was depicted within the collage. I found it difficult to express the subtle and complex textures of the 3-dimensional collage within the limits of a 2-dimensional drawing. Even so, the different textural elements within my collage were effectively rendered using a combination of lines, cross-hatching, stippling, and shading.



Project 2: Feathered Collage Texture

Project #3 focused on color as would be used within the pattern of a fabric quilt. The quilts of Bisa Bulter were particularly inspirational as I decided the direction of my project. Ultimately, my quilt design pattern was based on the theme of a half-marathon. I used complementary colors, orange and blue, to depict a stylized image of a runner behind a 'fence' of city roads. Using these roadways, I designated a 13.1-mile (i.e., half-marathon) route using each city block to represent 1 mile of distance. This route was intended to be produced on the final quilt using bold stitchwork.



Project 3: Half-crazy Marathon

For Project #4 (reductive, reveal), I built upon the artwork produced by Greely Myatt using road signs. However, I focused my project on political candidate signage. I cut different patterns (spiral, pie-shape, and rectangle) on these signs to reveal the deeper layers underneath within a 5-layer stack of signs. The resultant final project had considerable visual depth due to the thickness of each individual sign. Even though the uppermost signs depicted colorful scenes, including landscape and human portraits, most signs had a limited palette focused on 'patriotic' colors of red, white, and blue.



Project 4: Election 2020

For Project #5 (8-page zine), I decided to take a humorous approach to an aspect of my vocation. As an ornithologist, I frequently encounter and interact with avid bird-watchers – also known as ‘birders.’ Some of the nomenclature used as vernacular by birders offered an opportunity to inform others of this unique and sometimes funny terminology. Producing and delivering this message within a zine revealed many other possible story-lines that could be presented using this format.



At the conclusion of Foundations I, I have learned that I have more possibilities to explore than I originally thought. Artistic expression can take on a multitude of forms and many subtleties within each of these forms. I was inspired by the diversity of project results from my fellow students. Many of these works were very well crafted, evoked wonder and awe, and – yes generated a little envy (thereby instilling a desire to produce better and higher quality art.