

PERSONALITY THROUGH PORTRAITURE

KATHERINE STEGNER – MAY 7, 2014

I chose to create portraits as my AHS capstone because I find drawing humans extremely interesting; not only are bodies fascinating and incredible machines, humans also have very distinct personalities. I wanted to explore drawing people that I see every day and using my art as a way to portray some aspect of their personality. I was interested in trying to depict personality because it is something that I see every day, but that the average viewer of a portrait might not necessarily see. I explored multiple ways of doing this and eventually decided on using both composition and medium/approach to show personality.

Keywords: Art, Drawing, Portraits, Graphite, Composition, Photography

ARJUN

Arjun's portrait has two layers: the composition of the piece and the way in which it was produced. I chose to photograph Arjun in his car because his car is really an extension of himself. He is passionate about both driving and fixing cars and as he drives you can see the adrenaline and joy on his face. Arjun is also a coder. I frequently find him hard at work in his room, glasses reflecting the code from his computer back to me. Because the basic building blocks of coding languages are 1's and 0's, I used these numbers as building blocks for his portrait as well. In this way I've attempted to capture two different aspects of Arjun's personality in one portrait; his passion for cars and his talent at turning strings of numbers into something useful.

SELF PORTRAIT

The photograph that I used as the base of my self-portrait was taken by my sister on a family vacation to the Oregon coast. The picture is of me climbing a rock face that I have visited as long as I can remember. I've always loved to climb things – trees, rocks, doorframes, you name it. Rock climbing is an activity I enjoy because it requires a certain amount of brainpower while also actively using muscles – it is more like solving a puzzle than many other sports. I decided to use a more traditional drawing method for my self-portrait because it is more representative of my experiences with drawing and attempts to create realistic pictures, even while drawing from a photograph which is inherently different than real life.