Amelia Grace Miguez

Graphic Illustration Portfolio

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MUSICAL POSTER

Project: Creating a Poster for a show being produced by the Mercyhurst University Theatre
   Department
Program(s) Used: Adobe Illustrator

Description: For the 2019 Spring Semester, the Theatre Program performed "The Musical
    Comedy Murders of 1940", and my class, Computer Illustration, was tasked into creating
    the official poster. A big influence on my design was the 1985 Movie "Clue", and the
    German Poster that depicted six entangles arms, representing the six guests and possible
    murderers, with each holding a weapon. I wanted to use a similar idea with the Musical,
    through there were details I had to change to be more about the musical. So I made eight
    arms instead of six, to include all the characters in the musical, then I researched exactly
    what weapons were used. Afterwards, I found good references to make the vectors for the
    weapons, then fixed the hands so they would hold each weapon properly. Instead of tying
    the arms into a knot like the Clue Poster, I wanted to incrperate an important prop in the
    musical; the journal.
For the background, I did not want to make it as complex as the focused image I made.
I did a gradient from red to a dark crimson, with a puddle of blood under the arms,
emphasizing the murder in the musical. The text had to pop from the rest of the image. I
used white and circles the title of the musical around the arms. Then the information about
the show days and times, as well as the Director and the Creator of the Musical Script.
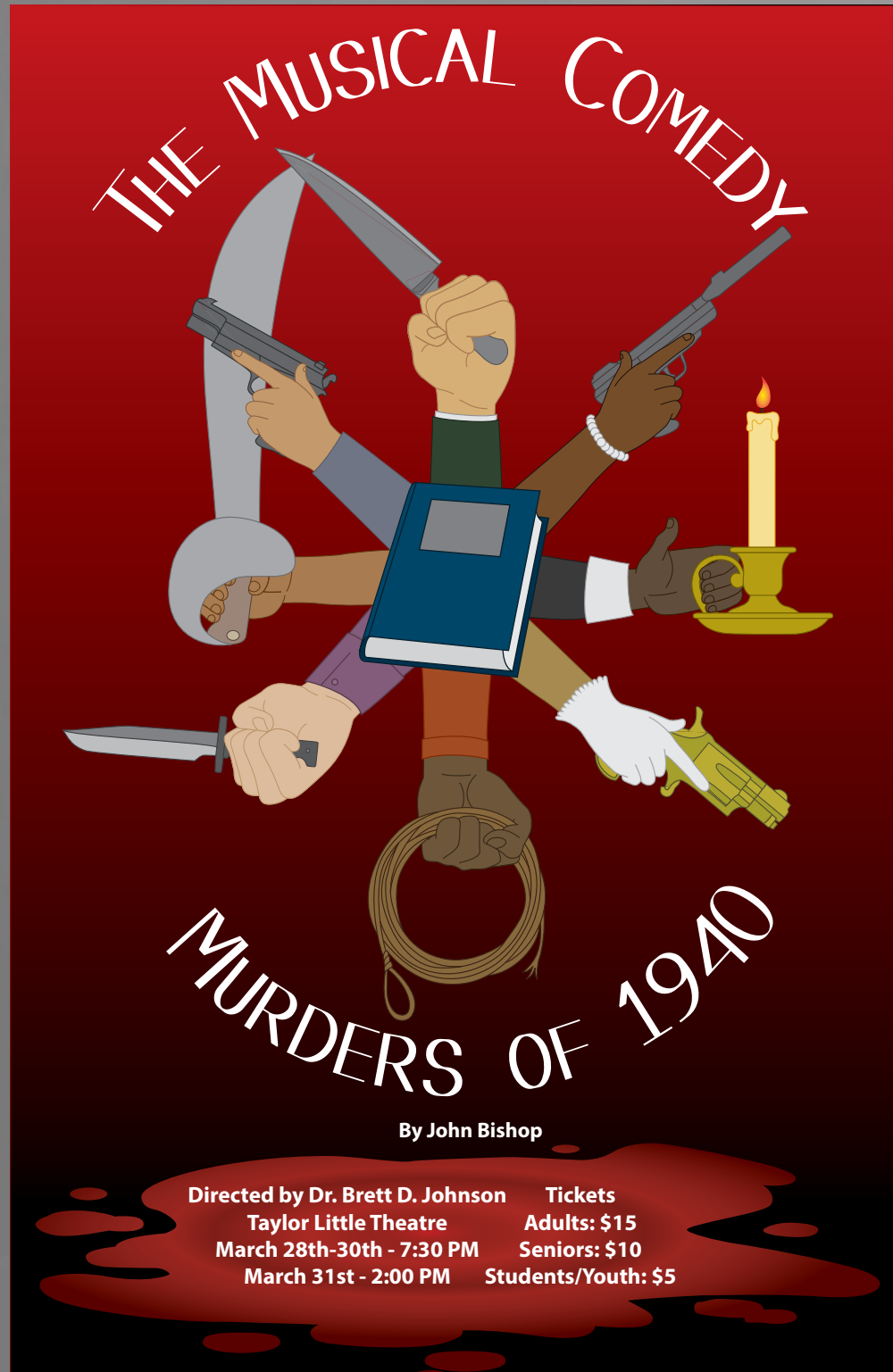
ORACLE CARDS
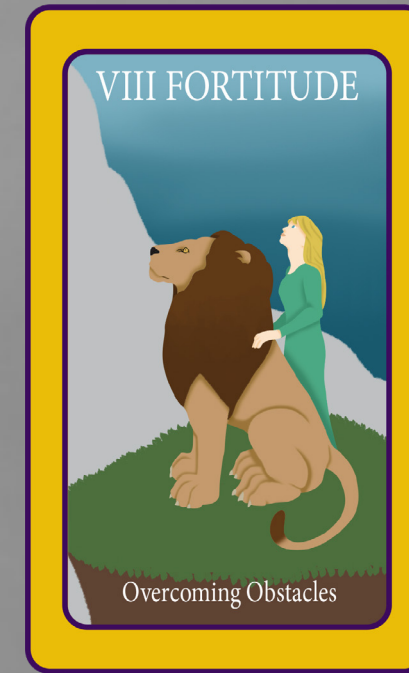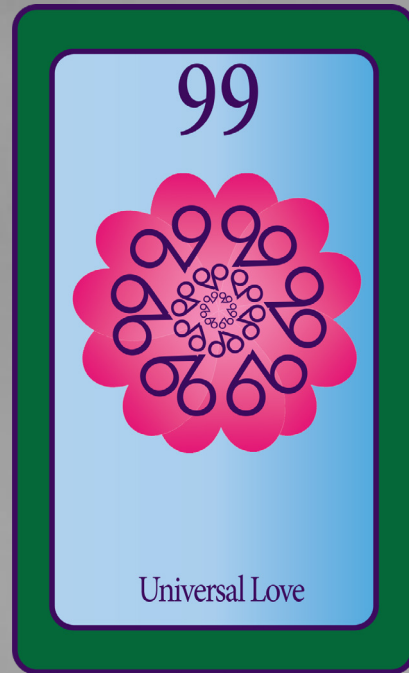
Project: Creating Oracle Cards
Program(s) Used: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop

Description: In my Computer Illustration class, my professor had been contacted by a woman who did Oracle Card readings, and she said she would like the class to design images for a new deck. I had to do research for what each card represents, then sketched rough drafts to what designs would be best. For the Fortitude Card, it has been represented by a young woman being accompanied by a large lion. I did so, without using outlines, and making the background a rocky mountain. The fox was more direct. I had designed a pose inspired by one about the Chinese Fox creature, an similar to the Fortitude card, I did not want to use outlines, and instead used shading to differentiate what part was over what. The white tip of the tail was originally going to be a solid color, but then Isaw the gradient had looked better. The numerical cards were the biggest challenge. They were only supposed to be geometric shapes, not particular figures or symbols. The '7' is meant to represent truth and ambition, the '99' means Universal Love. In the end, I made a Heptagram (seven pointed star) that looked three dimentional with a combination of solid and gradient colors, and then I used multiple hearts to make a flower shape, and used the number '99' to make rings that led to the center. This was one of my first official projects for a consumer, and I was very happy with the results. I was even able to have a copy of the official deck once it was finished.

CIFT AND CARD CHARACTER

Project: Create an animal character that could be used for greeting cards
Program(s) Used: Adobe Illustrator

Description: One of my most favorite works from my Computer Illustration Class. For our Final Project, we had to create an animal based character for greeting cards, give them an easy to follow backstory, and design said cards, as well as mug designs, and their logo. I brainstormed a few animal ideas, until settling on a skunk. More specifically, the Western Spotted Skunk, which have been know to stand on their front paws and bring their rear up to get better distance on their spray whenever a predator is near.

Their "handstand" reminded me of Hip-Hop dancers, so I made the Skunk character a breakdancer, gave him an easy to understand backstory, and a name; DJ PU. Designing his outfit was simple, with an oversized hoodie and pants, with a sideways hat. For the cards, I focused on events that included high energy, and narrowed the two choices to a New Years' party and Birthday Party invitations. I used fonts that reminded me of street graffiti, came up with simple catchphrases to include in the card, and had fun with the designs.
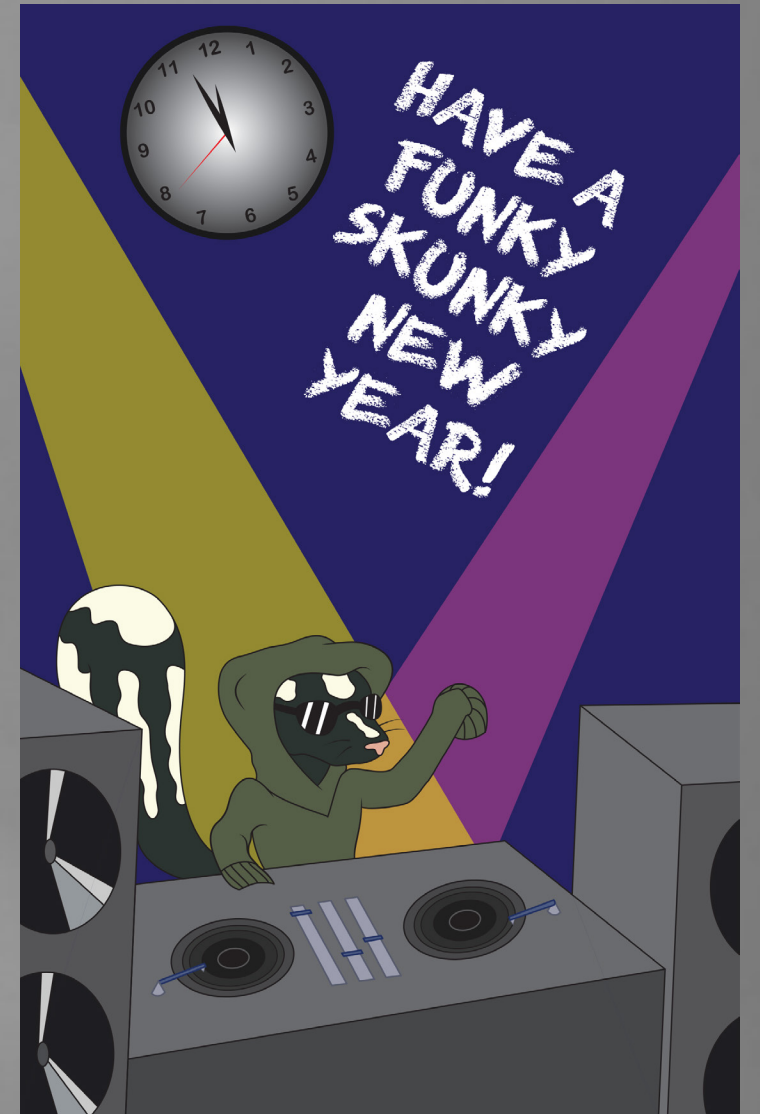
A TRIBUTE TO STAN LEE

Project: A personal tribute to the Late and Great Stan Lee
Program(s) Used: Adobe Photoshop

Description: When I heard about Stan Lee's passing, I was very crestfallen. It had been a dream of mine to meet him for his work on Marvel, and his creation of some of my favorite heroes and movies of all time. Though I still hope on working with Marvel some day, things were bound to change my original vision.
Still, I look up to Stan Lee, and much like other people around the worls, I wanted to do make a tribute for him. The concept was simple; just me hugging Stan Lee good bye, crying that he had passed, and I never got to truly meet him.
I tried to make the art look more like a water color painting. The outlines were meant to be untidy, as well as the shading, and the main colors were not supposed to be bound by the outlines. I felt it was more genuine and less restrained if the colors would go beyond the outlines.
Making this artwork was less of an official project, and more of a way for me to cope with my emotions. Art had always been a healthy outlet for my thoughts and feelings, and while this piece may not be as well made as anything else I did, I felt happy with the outcome, and I will never forget what a legend Stan Lee was.
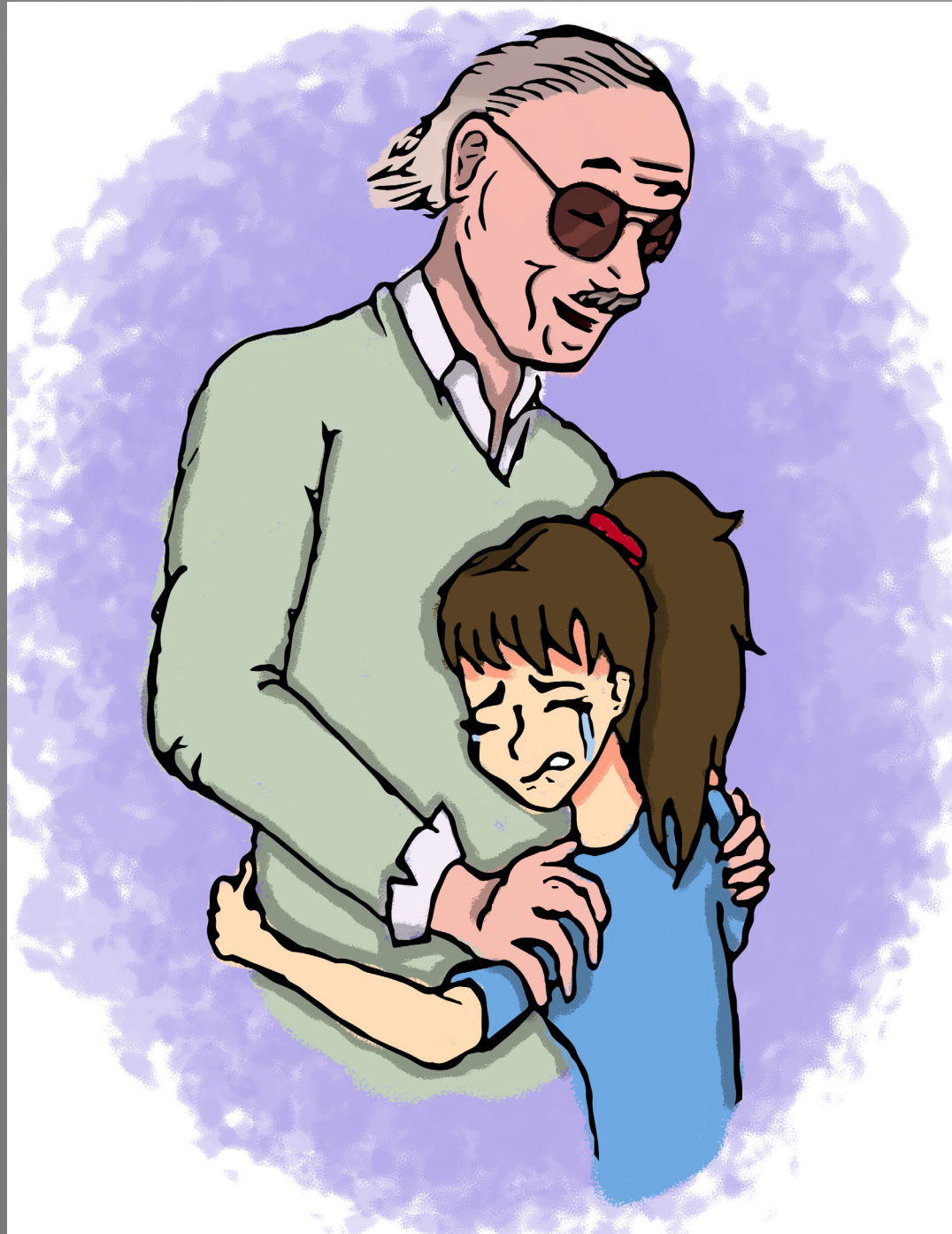
DRAGONS

Project: Personal Dragon Concept art

Program(s) Used: Adobe Photoshop

Description: Another personal Project of mine. I had recently gotten a drawing book about dragons, and wanted to try a few sketched. My idea was to create two dragons that were not like the traditional scaley winged dragons. After doing some reasearch, I decided to base their design on Eastern Dragons, used in Chinese tradition. These kinds of dragons do not have wings, and have a long, serpent like body. I also wanted to incorperate feathers and fur, not just the usual scales.

I gave the male dragon a warm color pallet with yellows, oranges and reds. The feathers I designed for him are similar to those of Paradise Birds, which use their colorful feathers to attract mates. Though I wanted to maintain a strong presence for him, so I gave him a powerful stance, as though he was protecting himself and the other dragon. The female dragon was meant to be recognizably compassionate, even at just a glance, so I gave her a pose that was much more relaxed. I also gave her a cool color pallet, with blues and purples, with lighter colored fur coating her entire back. Her design is not as complicated as the male Dragon's, but still expressive enough to show what kind of personality she would have.

My main goal for this project was to make the two dragons contrast each other. Which is why I gave them complementary color pallets. They are meant to balence each other out, like Night and Day, and I am pleased with the end result.

GEOMETRIC PHOTOS

Project: Create Geometric Designs Inspired By Erie, Pennsylvania
Program(s) Used: Adobe Illustrator

Description: Another class project that introduced something new to me. I had seen works
including geometric designs, including ones with photos, though I had never thought about
making one myself. The project was to make a design hat could symbolize Erie PA, and
possibly Mercyhurst as well.
I was set on using a few photos that I had taken from my Photography class, though the
rest of the images were from online to make what I had in mind. The photos I had taken
included a low viewpoint of the "Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto" on Campus and a photo
of outside Egan Hall from Old Main. The background was an overlay of a rainbow and a
landscape of Erie.
I made the celtic cross with gradient lines, the upper half green and the lower half blue.
This was meant to connect Erie with Mercyhurst University. I then created a masking on
the shamrock shape, a long triangle, and a circle with an inner shadow effect. The effect
was meant to make it look more dimensional and stand out as a visual. I used masking to
give each shape a photo within them, similar to other geometric works I had seen while
researching. As a final touch to the piece, I used a photo I took of a ladybug and made the
insect rest on the stem of the shamrock. It may be a small detail, but it is one that I enjoy.

MERCYHURST SPIRIT SHIRTS

Project: Create designs for Mercyhurst Spirit Shirts
Program(s) Used: Adobe Illustrator

Description: For the 2018 Spring Semester, I was given the oppurtunity to participate in the Spirit Shirt Design Contest. Though my Designs were not
    chosen, I am proud with the final results. I based my designs on symbols Mercyhurst was known for using, including the "MU" initials, the celtic cross,
    shamrocks, and an anchor. Two of the shirts had to be in color, so I chose Mercyhurst's green and navy. The other two had to be in white. I tried to avoid
    using any black on in the designs, which could have been an improvement, but my personal preference was to have it all in color.
    If I had to chose a favorite design, I would choose the fourth one with the anchor. Not only did it take me a long time to get the rope line pattern right,
    but it is different fromt he others in terms of how the design is spaced on the shirt, and is not centered like the other three.

ONLINE PERSONA

Project:

Personal persona for my Online artwork

Program(s) Used:

Adobe Photoshop

Description:

I have an online art profile, where I post most of my personoal projects for other people online to see. Like others, I go under a username, and with it, I made a persona for people to see. I made my first draft of my persona when I was roughly thirteen or fourteen years old, so it was not very well-made. So I decided to do a redesign, giving my persona more personality, and trying to portray myself in a way that both represents me and my interests.

I have always been fascinated with anthropomorphic characters, or animal based characters with human qualities. So I decided to go with a cat. The color scheme was the one I used for my first draft, and since it stuck with me, I have yet to make any major changesI took the weapons and outfit from some of my favorite video games, as that has been a constant hobby of mine.

I was hesitant to include this in my Portfolio, But I feel it is important to show one of my favorite Personal projects, and one of the most consistant pieces that I imporved over time.

PERSONAL LOGO

Project: Personal logo for my business spread
Program(s) Used: Adobe Illustrator

Description: A more recent project was my own logo brand. There are many recognnizable logos from many people and business companies, though I had no idea where to start on creating my own. I knew I had to keep the logo very simplistic, which is a stark contrast from some of my other works. It also had to be small in size so it could fit within the different kinds of stationary items we were assigned with, including our résumé, business cards, envelopes, and a letterhead. So I did research on what other artists' logos looked like, and after some rough sketches, I came up with a simple design.
I was able to find a color scheme that included some of my favorite colors, then made a game controler's arrows using a plus sign and smaller triangles. Then, I found a font sheet that used similar style to optical illusions known as "Impossible objects" and made my initials. I had altered the design of my logo to work on black or white backgrounds, as well as a version in greyscale. Though this may not be the traditional Logo style, the end product was one that I was proud of.