

Media Arts Fundamentals

MDIA 1006

Portfolio

April 2024

Becky Stanton

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Introduction

This document contains a collection of my best works. Included are images pieces, creative breakdowns, and descriptions.

The works include a variety of media and mediums, displaying an array of skills and knowledge.

Bio

My name is Becky (Rebecca) Stanton. I am a graduate of the Media Arts Fundamentals program at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, ON.

I enjoy learning and using new media and mediums to create pieces, furthering my knowledge of the arts.

I took visual arts for $\frac{3}{4}$ years, building my skill and knowledge through mediums of paint, graphite & charcoal drawing, sculpture, and more. In college, I learned to use the Adobe programs to create a range of different pieces, through different programs and techniques. I also learned how to use a DSLR to successfully take photos using proper techniques and equipment.

I have plans of joining the Graphic Design program at St. Lawrence to procure my degree in Graphic Design. Furthering my knowledge in the Adobe programs as well as some photography.

Skills

- Experience on Adobe Photoshop, Premier Pro, InDesign, Illustrator, After Effects, Audition
- Photography
- Organization
- Persistence
- Communication
- Literary
- Creativity
- Attention to detail
- Receiving and applying criticism/suggestions

Goals & Challenges Achieved

- Advancing my artistic skills
- Changing college programs and finding new career goals
- Altering the way I do things to work around my wheelchair

Accomplishments

My Rehabilitation

I see my rehabilitation as one of the largest successes I will ever have in my life. This is because I have advanced farther than we were told that I would. When I first received my injury, I was told that I would never walk, never be able to move my left leg, and never regain full function in my right leg. However, with a lot of physical and occupational therapy, I can say that I have proven this wrong. I have regained near full function of my right leg, equating to at least 90% function. I have also regained at least 75% function in my left leg. I can walk, though not very much, and not without some assistance from a walker and leg braces. Though in the last few months I have been practicing walking short distances without my braces on, and it is going very well. And I am still getting better, and stronger even after nearly 6 years since I received my injury. Which is a feat, as most spinal cord injury patients slow down, and even stop progressing after 2 years.

Graduating High School on Time

Myself, family, and high school staff did initially think I would be graduating in 4 years. This is because I fell very far behind in grade 9, due to being in therapy for most of the day, 5 days a week. Falling behind meant I was missing mandatory credits for my diploma. This was emphasized when I dropped a class in grade 11, during online learning, because my physical and mental health went downhill. During this time, I was taking a break from classes, I made the decision that I wanted to graduate on time. I did not want to take an additional year if I did not have to if there was a chance to graduate in 4 years instead of the predicted 5 years. So, working with my guidance counsellor, we devised a plan that would allow me to graduate on time. I took my grade 12 English class during the summer following grade 11. This was my last compulsory credit that I needed, opening my entire grade 12 year for the 8 elective credits I needed. So, I took all 8 elective credits that I needed, catching me up to my peers in the same graduating class. In the end, I graduated as an Ontario Scholar, the Student Success reward, and with a \$500 St. Lawrence College scholarship.

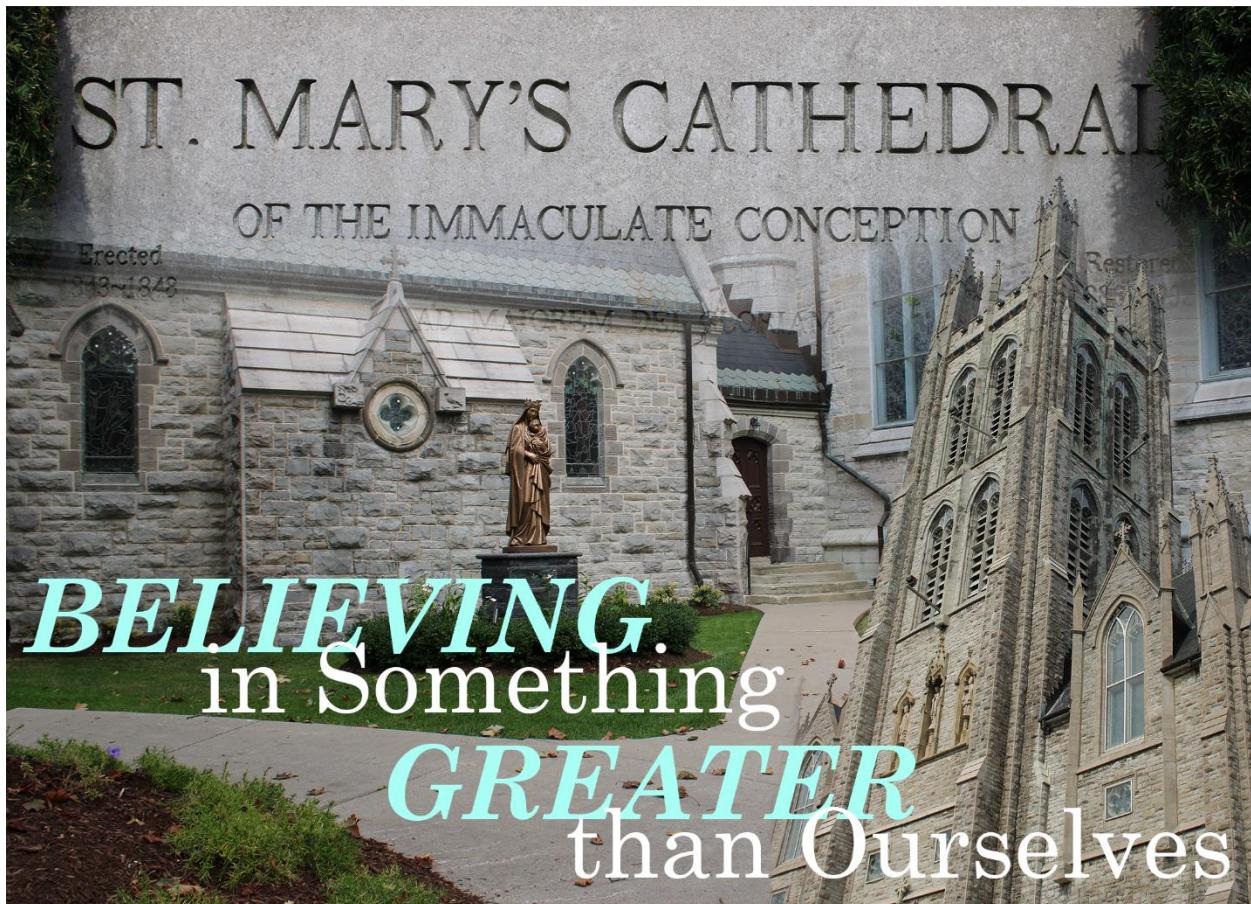
Drawing in Realism

When I was in grade 12, I took the grade 12 Visual Arts course. I had taken art $\frac{3}{4}$ years that I was in high school. And the thing I struggled with the most, was drawing in a realistic style. I always struggled with making sure that the proportions, shapes, angles, shadows, highlights, and other components were done correctly. So that the image even remotely looked like what it was based off, and others could see that without too much explanation. However, in grade 12 I did an image that gave me confidence in not only realism pieces, but my art in general. We were assigned to take a photo/image of a person, and proportionally size up the image to nearly 3x the original size. I decided to do a photo of my brother that was a near complete side profile, with only a small portion of the other side of his face visible. And while the image took me nearly 4 weeks to finish and was by far the hardest piece I had done at the time. It was, and still is, my best and favourite drawing I had ever done. It is the proudest I have ever been towards a single piece of art I had personally done.

Creator Statement

The type of mediums and media I primarily use include acrylic paint, graphite drawings, and digital graphics. Not only are these the most enjoyable for me to create, but they are also at the top of my skill set. I have been doing pieces using these for several years, and they are by far the medium/medias that I have improved on the most.

Piece #1 & Case Study– St. Mary's Cathedral



Introduction

This photo montage was created during my first semester of the Media Art Fundamentals program at St. Lawrence College. For the assignment, we were instructed to select something that we could take multiple photos from multiple perspectives. Where we would then go through and select a minimum of 3 images to transform into a photo montage. So, for my project, I wanted to create a piece of art that was able to show the beauty of a historical structure. This is why I went with St. Mary's Cathedral in Downtown Kingston, which was built through the years of 1842-1848. Built in a gothic style, the cathedral held many different interesting details, both large and small. And while it has had to go through some major restorations over its 176 years, you can see how much work was put into keeping the church's original integrity.

Piece Description

This piece consists of 3 photos I took of different parts of the cathedral. The first is of the statue to Mary they have in their gardens. The second is a close-up shot of the stone sign they have out front with the cathedral's name carved into it. The third is a photo of the church's bell tower, that I took at an angle to get an interesting view of the tower while looking up it.

I then used Adobe Photoshop to build the montage and add the wording "Believing in something greater than ourselves".

Strategic Brief

Client information

Media Arts Portfolio

Project title

St. Mary Cathedral: Photo Montage

Brief Prepared By/Date

By: Becky Stanton

Date: 16/02/2024

Target audience

Tourists

Kingston sees many tourists during the summer months. Targeting them would bring more attention to the cathedral, and possibly bring it more visitors. This is good for the cathedral because the more visitors it gets, the more funds they receive, and the better they can maintain the building and its historical status in the community.

People looking for Venues

St. Mary's Cathedral offers to host weddings and funerals. So, targeting those looking for somewhere to host their special event, benefits the cathedral. It once again draws attention and interest to it, as well as funding from the cost of hosting the event.

Catholics

There are always people, both new and old to the area, that are looking for a place of worship. Which is why one of my target audiences are those who practice the Roman Catholic religion. This counts for not only those who are looking for permanent residence in the city. But also, the large number of students from around the world who have come to Kingston for their post-secondary educations.

Backstory

The St. Mary's Cathedral has always been a fascinating structure. Having grown up in Kingston, I saw it regularly. While I have never had a religious connection to the building, its historic architecture has always been a rather fascinating concept.

So, when the assignment was given out and I was thinking about what I could do for it. I thought that capturing different angles and areas of the cathedral and its outdoor areas would give me some beautiful content.

Its location was also able to give me some interesting angles of the building. I had to work around the modern aspects of downtown to try and get as little of them as possible, as my sole focus was the cathedral. I also had to work around being in my wheelchair, and my limited mobility; having to improvise a little to get the best shots I could.

Though overall, it was a wonderful experience getting to get a good look at one of the oldest buildings in the city. Capturing the incredible architecture that went into its construction and upkeep.

Objective

To create a photo montage displaying a little bit St. Mary's Cathedral's beautiful architecture. Whether you follow the religion or not, you can still go and appreciate the way the cathedral was built.

Deliverables

- A collection of photos of all around the building and grounds
- 4"x6" montage
- Strategic Brief
- Rational

Rational

Process & Design Decisions

Type

Font: Century Schoolbook

Why?

The font matched well with the writing that is on the stone sign bearing the cathedral's name. It aided in making the whole piece look more cohesive.

Colour

The colours used were the ones I found did not get lost in the background.

Tools

Program: Adobe Photoshop

On layer masks I used the gradient tool to fade the courtyard and sign photos together. Which I then followed up by using the paintbrush tool to "cut" the cathedral out of its photo by switching the foreground and background colours. Doing this help create a single seamless image out of 3 photos.

Outcome

The outcome of this was a montage that I feel reflects the beauty, history, and religious significant of the cathedral.

Skills Used

- Photography
- Photoshop
- Type
- Organization
- Creative

Conclusion

Overall, completing this piece allowed me to learn and hone skills that will be useful in the future. I plan on going through graphic design, and having previous experiences like this one will benefit me. It will put my knowledge base at a higher level than those who did not take the Media Arts Program and had to complete this assignment. It also allowed me to explore what kind of art I do and do not like to create.

And knowing your art style(s) is important because you know what you are comfortable with doing and what you need to work on. Which, in the end, will help to lead you to the right types of demographics, communities, and companies that will bring you business.

Piece #2- Personal Brand

Strategic Brief

Project Name

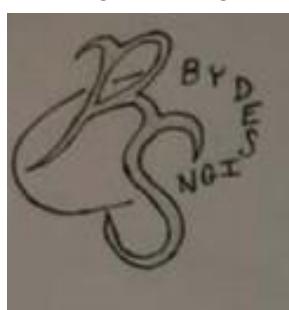
Brand Logo

Brief Prepared By/Date

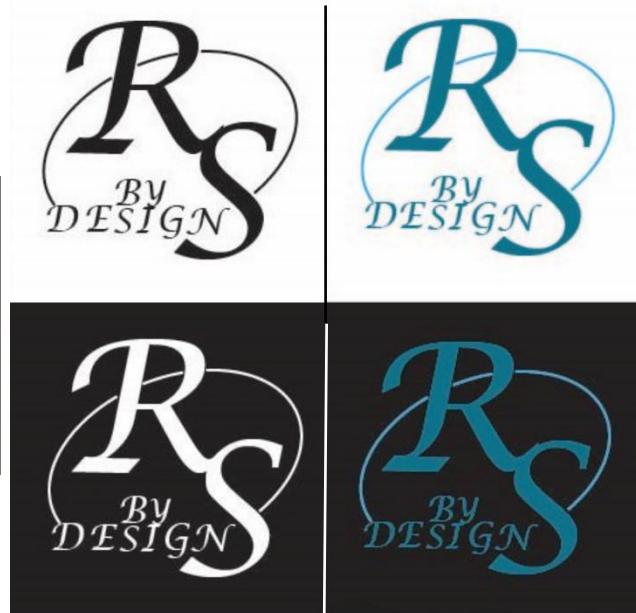
By: Becky Stanton

Date: April 2024

Original Design



Final Design



Background

This logo is the outcome of revisions and redesigns. I wanted to ensure that it represented the values I and the brand stand by. When tasked with creating the original sketches, the original base design for this stuck out at me the most; and it was also the very 1st design I drew.

Then after the 1st digital render, one of the biggest things that was recommended was to change the 'by design'. Its original position made it hard to read on a small scale. So, after trying a few different options, the one in the final design is the one that worked the best overall.

Brand Values:

- Imagination
- Loyalty
- Honesty
- Trust
- Responsibility
- Dedication
- Freedom
- Equality
- Accessibility
- Acceptance
- Community
- Inclusivity
- Morality
- Independence
- Creativity

Objective

The objective was to create a logo for our personal brands.

They were supposed to be designed to best represent the brand's identity in a creative manner. They had to be designs that were scalable, and work in both black & white and colour versions.

Deliverables

- Mood board
- Preliminary sketches
- 1st digital renders
- The refined digital renders in black & white or gray-scale, and coloured versions
- Strategic Brief & Rational

Rational

Process & Design Decisions

Colour

I used the colour blue for my coloured design because blue is symbolic of some of the values that the brand stands by.

Including:

- Loyalty
- Honesty
- Trust
- Responsibility
- Freedom

Type

Font: Lucida Calligraphy Italic

Why?

I felt this font was the closest to that drawn in the original design.

Additionally, when I was looking for a font to use, this font was the easiest to blend the R & S together, so they sat connected.

Size

I made the RS the largest thing because they are the initials of my full name, Rebecca Stanton. I also wanted to have a component that really stood out and was recognizable from any size the logo may be.

Symbol

I wanted to incorporate a symbol(s) in the logo that also represented the values of the brand.

So, I included a circular element in the logo. Circles represent and symbolize many things in many different demographics, especially within cultures and religions. Many of which align with the values of the brand.

Outcome

The outcome of the design process was a logo that fits the image and structure of the brand. It includes different components that align with the brand's values; as well as being unique and recognizable for those familiar to the brand.

Piece #3- Lady of the Bark

Piece Description

This was a personal project that I had done. I wanted to create a large statement piece. As well as test out what kind of skill base I had.

Rational

Process and Design Decisions

Before I even thought of painting, I spent a couple of days drawing out what I wanted on the canvas. This was then followed by my playing with and trying several different colours and colour combinations. Different brush sizes, shapes, and textures. As well as paint consistencies, layering, and comparisons. The outcome of all the trial-and-error was carefully chosen to best suit the vision for the painting at the time of its creation.

Outcome

The outcome of everything was a piece that draws attention to itself every time someone sees it. Whether the person is new to our home or not, there are typically comments made about the painting. All of which have been very positive.



Piece #4— All or Nothing

Piece Description

I created these sculptures during my grade 12 Visual Arts class during my last year of high school. We were required to select a theme or concept to base out sculptures around. My theme was the idea of having it all or having nothing at all.

Rational

Process and Design Decisions

Materials

- Pantyhose
- Wire cloths hanger w/ rubber coating
- Mod Podge
- Wooden block
- Air-Dry Clay
- Acrylic Paint

The building process is simple. You drill holes into the wooden block, big enough that it will snugly fit the circumference of the hangers. Then, after cutting the hook portion off the hanger, you twist and bend the hanger however you wish before putting the ends into the holes in the wood. You can glue them in, however, if the holes are the right size, this should be an unnecessary step. Next, take the pantyhose and cut the leg off at the hip, leaving the rest intact. After this, start pulling the pantyhose over the wire and wooden block, making sure to pull as much of the material over it as possible. You will then cut off any extra material from the bottom of the block, before taking your mod podge and applying 2-3 coats over the entire sculpture. As it dries, the pantyhose become hardened with the mod podge acting much like cement.

Once your coats of mod podge are completely dry, you can use paint and other materials to decorate the sculpture.

Here, I used clay to add a hilly look and texture to the base of the ‘All’ sculpture. As well as painted it, making it bold and stand out.

Outcome

The outcome was a sculpture that is easy to make, and that conveys the idea it is based on.



Piece #5– Holiday Monthly

Piece Description

This piece was for my Introduction to Media Arts course while I attended the Media Arts Fundamentals program at St. Lawrence College. We were instructed to pick a theme and build a professional looking magazine cover. It was close to the holiday season, so I chose that as my theme. The nutcracker is one of the holiday decorations that had recently been put out for the holidays.

Rational

Process and Design Decisions

Type:

Font: Times New Roman

Why?

The text offered a homey feel that the holidays are known for. It also provided a professional look, while having a bit more flair than other fonts.

Colour:

The colours I used for the font are colours that can be found in the nutcracker that is depicted on the cover.

This was done for a sense of consistency on the cover.

Outcome

The outcome was a simplistic magazine cover that still conveyed its theme and the type of contents that would be found within the edition's pages.



Conclusion

To summarize the document, I have given you an introduction that gives you an overall explanation of what this document contains. Followed by a bio that lists' some facts about myself. Among these are some basic facts about my education and art experiences; a list of the goals and challenges I have achieved; the skills that I possess; and three of my biggest accomplishments. This section is concluded with a creator's statement.

Next is my first piece of artwork, along with a case study that goes with it. Followed by a second piece with a full-length Strategic Brief & Rational. And finally, 3 additional pieces of artwork accompanied by brief descriptions and rationales.

Together, these components put together a detailed portfolio that displays my skill set, both artistically and professionally.