The Lab Mural Project

Student Showcase, 2011
Diploma of Visual Art, RMIT TAFE
My work is exploring colour and pattern, celebrating the striking relationship that occurs when they interact.

Focusing on simplified objects, the flattened picture plain allows for colour and form to open a playful dialogue with the viewer.

As the piece will be situated inside I have chosen to draw inspiration from the outside.

In the depiction of mountains and rock forms I have used the vibrancy of fluorescence to push through to the bold lines of black paint, whilst the repetition of line and form allow movement to be created through pattern.

These lurid constructed environments provoke the viewer to enter an imaginary world within the real world.
My work consists of simple elements to make an interesting composition. The first piece the girl; I got the idea through a song I was listening to, *Talk to me*, by Peaches. I was also a little stuck on what else to add to the composition so I re-read the brief and noticed “...at the heart...” and decided to work around that concept.

The second piece is a minimal pattern concept, in order to contrast with the first mock-up. The compositions are on balsa wood painted with gouache and fine liner. My compositions are light hearted designs intended to brighten up a wall space.

I saw the opportunity to design a mural as fun diversion from my painting practice in the diploma.
1. This idea uses your mascot. With him drawing himself on the wall it symbolises a company drawing itself. With the help of marketing, it shows the way a client may wish to be seen or shown to the public.

2. Bird being followed by the symbols of the companies you have worked with. This one features my style quite distinctly. The thought behind it is to add a symbol for each new client. It’s like they are following the bird to a goal or a point of view, or being drawn together through the one entity: your company.

3. This last piece is one of my own creations for my folio. He is an Elizabethan pig, his skeleton visible. He interacts with the space and therefore he could be placed right next to the door, leaning on the door jam, like he is waiting to greet someone.
The floral wallpaper of my mural is a symbol for the history of design, in general, and in particular the history of The Lab. It represents a collective interest in the visual.

I have painted the shadowed window reflection on top of the floral imagery to symbolize the fleeting nature of visual trends and the opposing, timeless value of the Lab’s brand strategies.

The mural design that I have created has an eclectic feel which I believe will compliment the creative look of The Lab’s work space. The color scheme of my design is not fixed, and can be adjusted in relationship to The Lab’s requirements.

Essentially, I have created this design in the hope that it will offer prospective clients a quirky, yet warm, introduction into The Lab’s studios.
This piece is titled *Driftwood*. It is my intention to create a paradox between the organic surface of the wood and the highly processed colour of the background.

My practice involves the simulation of natural elements in the form of painting and sculptural work. This simulation or homage to nature brings forth an empathy with the natural world.

By using discordant elements such as fluorescent colour with the organic, one is reminded of the visual noise in its counterpart, the built environment.
In my work I have been exploring transient states; the pasting of time, brief moments. The fact that everything will pass and change in time.

Using wet dripping paint and fluid brush-strokes, I want my paintings to flow and have an organic feel. In this particular project I also drew inspiration from how I generate ideas.

Often I sit and sketch inconsequential patterns and shapes whilst thinking. Not unlike mind maps and flow charts, which I’m sure are methods used for brain storming at The LAB. I used these sketches as inspiration for my designs, particularly my first painting, which I intended to be a representation of a ‘mind map’. Interconnected, flowing thoughts and ideas.
In every existence the continuous cycle of birth and death connects us all. Every life form experiences this phenomenon in its own unique way. I see this idea as proof of eternal life. I believe that Alchemy supports this cycle. We cannot exist without water and it is naturally transformed to assist the change of seasons when combined with other elements.

The image of DNA is symbolically used to represent the process of Alchemy. When DNA is combined with other molecules, its structure transforms and a beautiful unique being is created, and who knows, perhaps blood could be turned into wine.

It is my intention to inspire sustainable practices. Life forms will no longer exist if we do not recognise how our actions affect the environment in the long term.
I have based my concept upon my interest in childhood and the aspects of play and imagination. I couple this with the theme of human and animal relationship.

Markers and pencil have been used but the end result for either would be created in acrylic.

*City Streams* is focused on my relationship with my 2 dogs. I feel that I have a special bond with them and morphing us into one creates that unity of one being. The hair is flowing which depicts a sea or sky that also transforms to a silhouette of buildings.

*Batman* is from an old sketch, which is about play and innocence. Both designs are simple yet fun and represent the playful factor of The Lab identity.
The concept behind my mural design comes from my own artistic interest—portraiture. I wanted to create something big, powerful and attention grabbing, but something that would also create movement and fit the space and the environment of The Lab well.

I decided to create a large oversized life drawing of a human head, with all of the markings and sketch lines kept in for more depth and texture. I have repeated the head 4 times over the assigned space, in a pattern which portrays the movement of the head from front to profile.

Each sketch would be in a different colour suited to the interior of “The Lab” and would overlap the last image slightly to create depth. The lines would be free and gestural, creating a realistic yet sketchy image for passers by to admire.
I have used The Lab’s wide range of clients and their alternative outlooks as featured in their office, to base my montage around. I have referenced the different “braches of the company” and its expanding horizons and have put this into a metaphorical context; a growing tree presented in a horizontal format.

This tree also reflects the continuing growth of the company itself and the differing clientele with whom they do business. In the design of the tree I have used company colours orange and grey.

The quirky-ness of the objects and the vast arrangement of curious items spread across the office at The Lab inspired me. I have incorporated that same style into a linear, highly decorative design of chaos.
My first mural design is a combination of two ideas, stemming from the words motivation and inspiration. I wanted to involve cogs and gears as a metaphorical reference to working and brainstorming, whilst incorporating aspects of nature for aesthetic appeal. The ‘natural’ part of the mural serves to inspire the staff, whilst the cogs and gears are for motivational purposes, to spark the talented minds at The Lab.

My other two submissions are paintings from this year’s body of work at RMIT. It is focussed around ideas of journey, using birds in flight as a symbol that connects directly to migration and mapping of movement.
I have created three designs, the first of which are patterns, exploring organic and digital surface tensions.

The colour palette is vibrant, to reflect the positive and energetic atmosphere of creativity at The Lab.

For my third concept I selected a painting from my Diploma portfolio. Portraiture, narrative and the photographic gaze are central to my painting practice. Here I have created an image of intensity and urgency, remeniscent of a cinematic still.
Two years ago, I painted a lot of rattans on my bedroom wall. The effect was very positive, so I decided to elaborate on the rattan image for my mural proposal.

People like to feel the presence of plant life in the house or around the office. It can help people relax.

My mural concept brings nature to the office in a permanent way. I chose sepia to design my mural. It is a strong organic colour.
The focal point in my mural mock-ups is the figure that represents the lab.

In the first mock up the figure is accompanied by the backdrop of St Kilda, the location of The Lab, itself. This is to reinforce the location and bring in elements of its surroundings.

The second mock up is the figure in a central position with paint splatter exuding from its head. This represents creation of ideas coming from the company. The paint splatter will either be orange and black to tie into labs colour scheme or multicoloured to add to a sense of vibrancy.

Stencilling will be incorporated in to both my works to directly link the work that I have already produced throughout this semester.
I have chosen to explore the random and organic potential of paint, contrasted with geometric, linear pattern. This, I believe, reflects the free spirited atmosphere at the Lab.

I have also chosen to play upon the “lab” theme as a scientific reference, hence the test tube concept.

All images are colourful and bright to enhance the viewer’s experience of being in this space.
Thank you

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