

Project Childhood(Written report)

Introduction:

Group members:

Project Childhood consists of Aloysius Hung(3O2) as the group leader and Yang Hanming(3B1). We also have 2 external members Chen Ziming and Ethan Lye who are using this project as their Aep coursework.

Objective:

We feel that Singaporean students, especially those in the elite schools, have too little free time to relax and do whatever they want. For example, according to a the study by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Singapore students rank third globally on time spent on homework. Singapore students are spending too much time on homework, CCAs or other school related activities, thus we plan to use art to change this phenomenon.

Main Idea:

This is a very rough sketch of our idea. We would like to create an artwork that shows student's yearn for free time. We would then display the sculpture somewhere in the school with high traffic so many teachers and students would be able to see our artwork. Hopefully, students would realize that academics is not everything and that they should spend time on other activities; and remind teachers that students need time for their own interests and hobbies.

Research:

Artist References:

Shintaro Ohata:

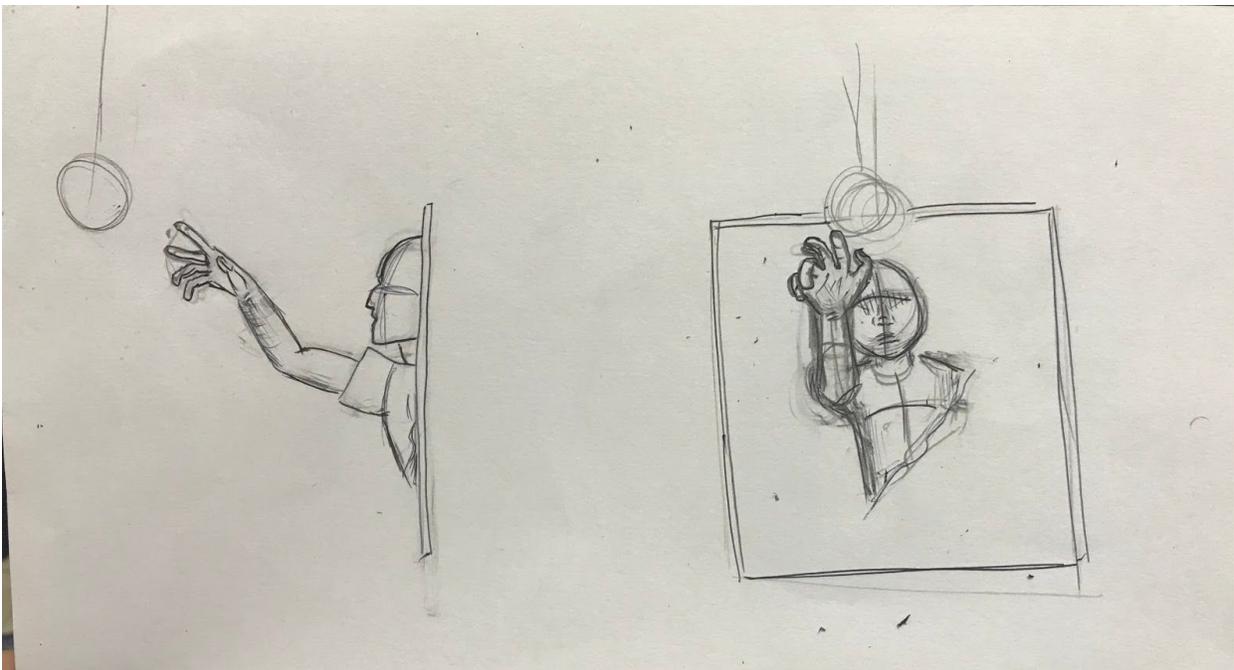
Shintaro Ohata is a Japanese artist best known as a painter who create artworks that depict little things in everyday life like scenes of a movie. He captures every kind of light in our daily

lives from sunset/sunrise to artificial lights in cities, and records them in his painting. However, he is also renowned for his unique style: Placing sculptures in front of paintings, combining the 2D and 3D worlds.

For example:



Shintaro Ohata on his unique style: "By doing so, I believe that the viewers could feel the atmosphere of my works more lively and dynamically. I had been seeking for a way to give more realistic feel on my piece without changing my painting style, and then I got inspired by the painting in the backgrounds of film and theatre. This was when I came up with the idea of making sculptures popping out of paintings."



We also did something similar in our project, combining sculptures and paintings. By creating a sculpture that sticks out of a background, it would make our artwork interesting and engaging.

Arab Spring Graffiti:

Arab spring graffiti were artworks drawn by artist during the Arab Spring to express their opinions or raise awareness about certain issues that needs to be solved. In addition, their artwork is displayed in the streets where everyone would be able to see. In doing so, they are able to reach a wider audience, allowing more people to know about their problems.



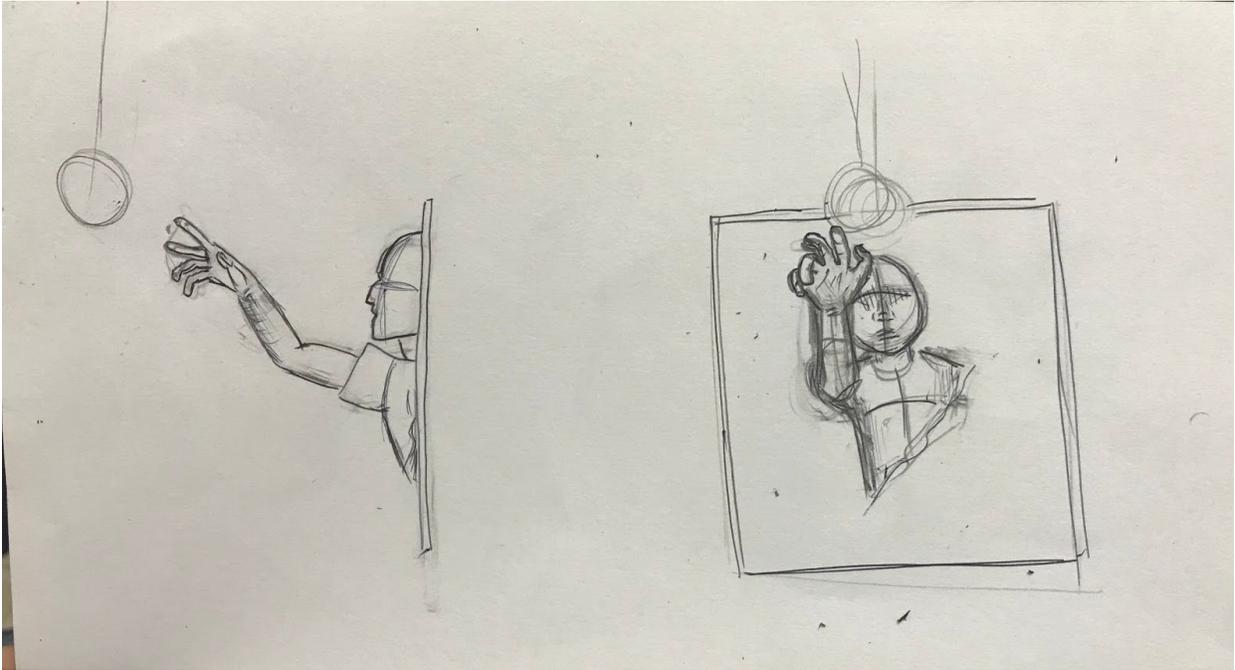
Henry Moore:

Henry Moore was an English artist best known for his semi-abstract sculptures. His sculptures generally only have a vague shape of a human body or an object with no distinct, recognisable parts. We have decided to adopt his abstract style into our sculpture, with it only having a humanoid shape and no distinct features to allow our audience to have the freedom of imagination to put themselves into the subject's shoes



Testing out Possibilities:

General Idea/First Ideas:



This is our general idea for the sculpture, before proposal evaluation: a sculpture of a life-size student emerging from a sea of homework and reaching for an item that represents free time. Of course, this idea seems quite sketchy, but after all it is just the first sketch. However, we decided that the item reaching out would be a distraction as it is placed in between the viewer and the figure. Furthermore, it seemed to already convey the message when the sculpture without the item was completed.

Composition:

We had gone to the studio to experiment with the composition of the sculpture by taking many pictures.

(Crawling out of the wall)



(Reaching out of the wall)



(Reaching out from the ground)



In the end we decided to go with the reaching out of the ground. Firstly, it was practical. We had little time left to create the sculpture and with this composition, we do not have to worry about structural integrity of the artwork (the sculpture dropping down). Secondly, it mimics the scene of someone drowning in a sea.

Materials:



Four different materials were considered for the sculpture: Polystyrene, Newspaper, Metal wire and Abs plastic. In the end, we chose newspaper for our sculpture as it is the material we had tried to use in the past and succeeded with. Our experiments with the other materials did not turn out well. The metal wire is hard to bend back after bending one direction so making a sculpture with it would take too long. We also decided against Polystyrene as it is brittle and easy to break, which can be disastrous of an artwork that is meant to be displayed outside in the corridor, and the using a 3d doodling pen and abs plastic, the lines produced are very fine and it would be impractical to complete such a big art piece in time.



ABS plastic test run

Final Product:







Our Final Product is a human figure made with Newspaper and bound by masking tape reaching out of a sea of homework, a wooden board with crumpled, curved and folded worksheets. Red paint is splashed on to suggest rebelliousness and suffering. The artwork measures 75 cm in height, 70 cm in length and 60 cm in width.

Reflections:

Aloysius Hung:

Through this project, I have learnt the importance of being open to suggestions. I liked the initial idea of having a human reach out of the wall as it was at eye level and would be more engaging. However, My teammate suggested that it would be more feasible to have the human reaching out of the ground as we would then worry less about the sculpture dropping down. I was initially against the idea and we had a long argument on this until the teacher stepped in and I realised the artwork can be equally engaging even when reaching out from the ground. Also, with the approaching deadline, that is the best solution. I also learnt that I have to manage my time well and not procrastinate. Take out as much free time as possible to do work and also not to be late for meetings as it severely wastes time. An example was June Holidays, the first 2 weeks, I was overseas and booked to photograph a school event. The next 2 weeks, I had another major project, UOB Painting assignment due that month. Therefore, it is important to bear with the pain and squeeze out even that tiny bit of time to do work, which we did not.

Yang Hanming:

First of all, even though this project has been somewhat of a disaster, but still I would like to thank my group members for at least putting in effort into this project. In this project I have learned two important things, the first is time management, the second is that the leader does not always have to take charge and make decisions, group members can also do the same. I shall start with time management. We had terrible time management in this project, this is a fact. At first it was alright, we had more or less kept to the timeline in April and May. We did our research, sketches and got the materials. However, things started going south in the June holidays. We did literally nothing in the first half of the holidays, I was somewhat worried but I thought: "Hey, everyone got their own things to do in the holidays." In the latter half of the holidays we had also made little progress during the holidays. So, in the end we had to rush our slides for the mid-term evaluation and did not have an end product. Another problem we faced is that the group leader did not really take charge, the group is generally disorganised. If we had managed to tackle these two problems earlier, we would have had a much better project. It would also be more enjoyable for everyone in the group.

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