

Humanimals



Created By Karisa Brake

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“Humanimals” Rules:

1) Use color.

2) Mix animals and human fashions /
traits.

3) Evoke a strange feeling in the viewer.



Froggy Enjoys the Setting Sun

2015

I created this piece for fun, based off of multiple photos I took out and about in nature. I had one photo I took of a small frog, one of a deep blue sunset, and another of a hibiscus flower. I compiled all of these images to create one whole scene. My media was Prismacolor colored pencils.



Dusty Barn

2015

In my photography class I was assigned to take a series of photos with similar color schemes. I chose dark sepia. I felt that the sepia made the barn look very aged, as though it was not taken now but back in the olden days. The barn was out in an open field so close to the road that I pulled over and had to take a couple shots. It is an inkjet print.



Breath Of Fresh Air

2014

This piece is a comment on the growing issue of pollution, specifically in our air. Pollution affects the entire earth- not just humans but animals as well. My media was Prismacolor colored pencils.



Fleeting Forest

2015

For this piece I mixed tons of colors and tried to incorporate both bright and more mysterious hues such as chartreuse. I made the right side of the rain forest dreary and dark to resemble the growing rate of destruction, diminishing important resources, and loss of habitat. There are tree stumps and withering branches scattered about. On the other side, there is still some beauty and happier colors. My media was Prismacolor colored pencils.



A Pleasant Surprise

2014

This is a still life of a flower bouquet. I assembled this on my wooden kitchen table at home and went to town creating different lines. Flowers can always brighten my day. These flowers were from my Birthday, so they have more of a sentimental value. My media was pen and ink.



Dogs Of War

2015

Here, two African wild dogs sit hunched over a muddy puddle. The dogs represent the strife and war terrorizing a beautiful continent. My medium was Prismacolor colored pencils.



Minimauled

2015

In this piece, I was reflecting upon the fact that so many shopping malls and buildings have taken over, and are continuing to take over land. Humanity is paving over the homes of wildlife. The beaver has a worried expression, holding its paws up to its face. The duck is resigned. In the distance, a turtle is without his home. My media was Prismacolor colored pencils.



Over the Oil Spill Rainbow

2015

This was an assignment for my set of 12 concentration pieces in my AP studio art portfolio. A narwhal lies helplessly in water contaminated with oil, whilst a ship is nearby creating more chaos for the creature- disrupting its environment. Ironically, there is a rainbow. Many people think narwhals are as magical as unicorns. Again, these animals are endangered and face many threats. My media was Prismacolor colored pencils.



Morphed Madame

2013

I was assigned in my drawing class to create a grid drawing based on a picture we found interesting. I chose a model from a magazine. I changed the proportions of her body by making her head larger and her body drastically smaller. She looks bizarre, moody, unnatural, and grotesque. My media was graphite on paper.



HELP

2014

Four animals are depicted with hair and letters in their mouths that spell out "HELP." At first glance, the image probably looks like nonsense. Yet, I based this off the Beatles hit song "Help," because all of these animals are endangered and could use some help. (Hence, the Beatles hairdos.) It's definitely playful with a more serious underlying message. My media was Prismacolor colored pencils.



Miss Appear

2015

Following my morphed panther/woman piece, "Miss Panther," I created this drawing "Miss Appear." It is a chameleon girl. Chameleons are known for having the incredible ability to change their appearances whether they look camouflaged or intensely bright amongst their surroundings. I must have used around forty different Prismacolor colored pencils and spent about nine and a half hours working. The dress is a solid pink to contrast from the vibrant scales. The dress also has an unravelling tear on the right side for a more dramatic look. It is as though she may come apart and blend into the leaves behind her.



Miss Panther

2015

A classmate suggested that I humanize animals or animalize humans. I love this suggestion so I decided to take it. This idea never occurred to me! I made a drawing mixing a person and an animal, based off my previous piece "Morphed Madame." This new creation, "Miss Panther," transformed the original distorted grid drawing in several ways. The lady's head turned into that of a black panther's. A curved tail, legs, and hand also resembled the fine fur of a panther. I used Primsacolor colored pencils and picked select colors to enhance the dress, while maintaining bright white highlights that were featured on her entire figure. I texturized her hair by adding specks of bright white amongst the dark curls. Adding color added depth and a more intense feel. My shading was more organized and clean this time around, which helped me feel more confident.



Snake Eyes

2015

A dapper Honduran milk snake is centered here beside sets of dice. When a pair of dice land with two single dots facing upwards, it is called "snake eyes" since snakes typically have small eyes. Instead of only using Prismacolor colored pencils, I decided to give water color a spin. The watercolor paper was thicker and allowed for me to paint the gloomy background. I feel that the gray/brown colors evoke a sense of discomfort. Referring to a person as a "snake" is always derogatory. It may mean that this person is an avid liar or untrustworthy. For this reason, the only bright colors are in the snake's scales to provide a contrast. This piece was definitely less controlled, compared to my other two works because I was using water colors. The water marks flowed while the pencil remained neat and resolute.



Glinda

2015

In the Wizard of Oz, the good witch, Glinda, is a powerful and cheerful sorceress who wears a pink gown. I decided to name this small, pink fairy armadillo after this character. Pink fairy armadillos are the smallest armadillos because they weigh less than one pound. Remotes and cell phones typically weigh less than one pound in comparison. By giving this creature a magic wand, crown, and some red wings I was able to play with its unique name.



Clown-clown fish

2015

Clownfish are popular saltwater aquarium fish. This could be a result from the film Finding Nemo, since the main character Nemo and his father are both clownfish. These creatures have the unusual ability to change their genders. In comparison, an actual clown can merely mask his or her face with bright, dramatic makeup- which is also pretty strange. The fish themselves already possess attractive, bright scales. In this creation, I wanted to make the viewer giggle. The rainbow afro, red nose, and large pom-poms are all comical aspects. Aside from colored pencil, I used water colors to create a more immersive, watery backdrop.



Memory Man

2015

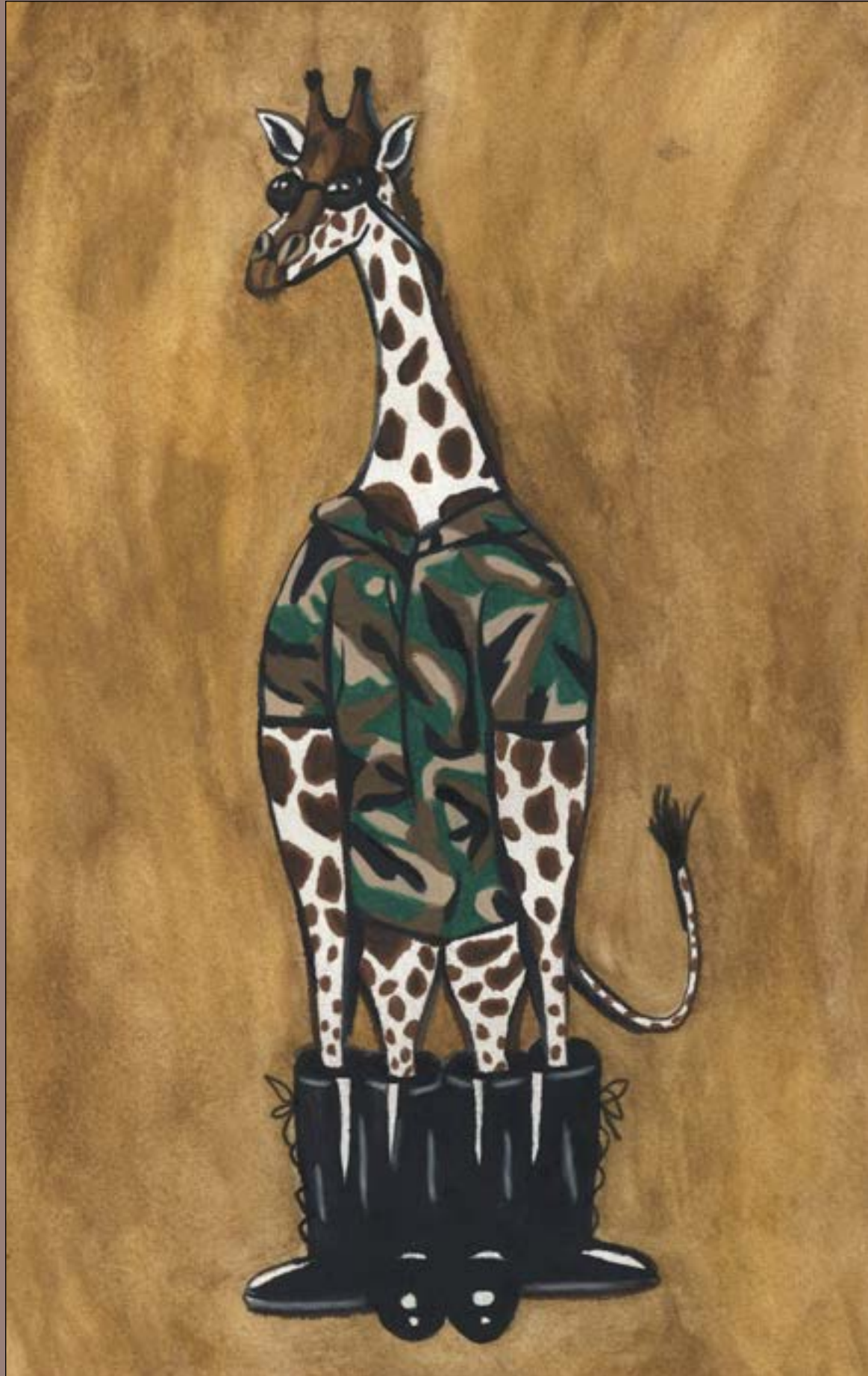
Elephants are incredible. They are the largest animals on land and among some of the world's smartest creatures due to their memories. Many people struggle with remembering what they ate for breakfast, while an elephant may remember the miles they had to walk to even find a meal. Hence, the title for this piece. "Memory Man," is a distinguished gentleman. He is grasping a quill with his tusk to symbolize both his age and intelligence. He also sports glasses and gray hair which match his wrinkly skin. I used Prismacolor colored pencil throughout the entire work and various hues of gray. Gray is a dominant color that may also resemble age.



Flamboyant Flamingo

2015

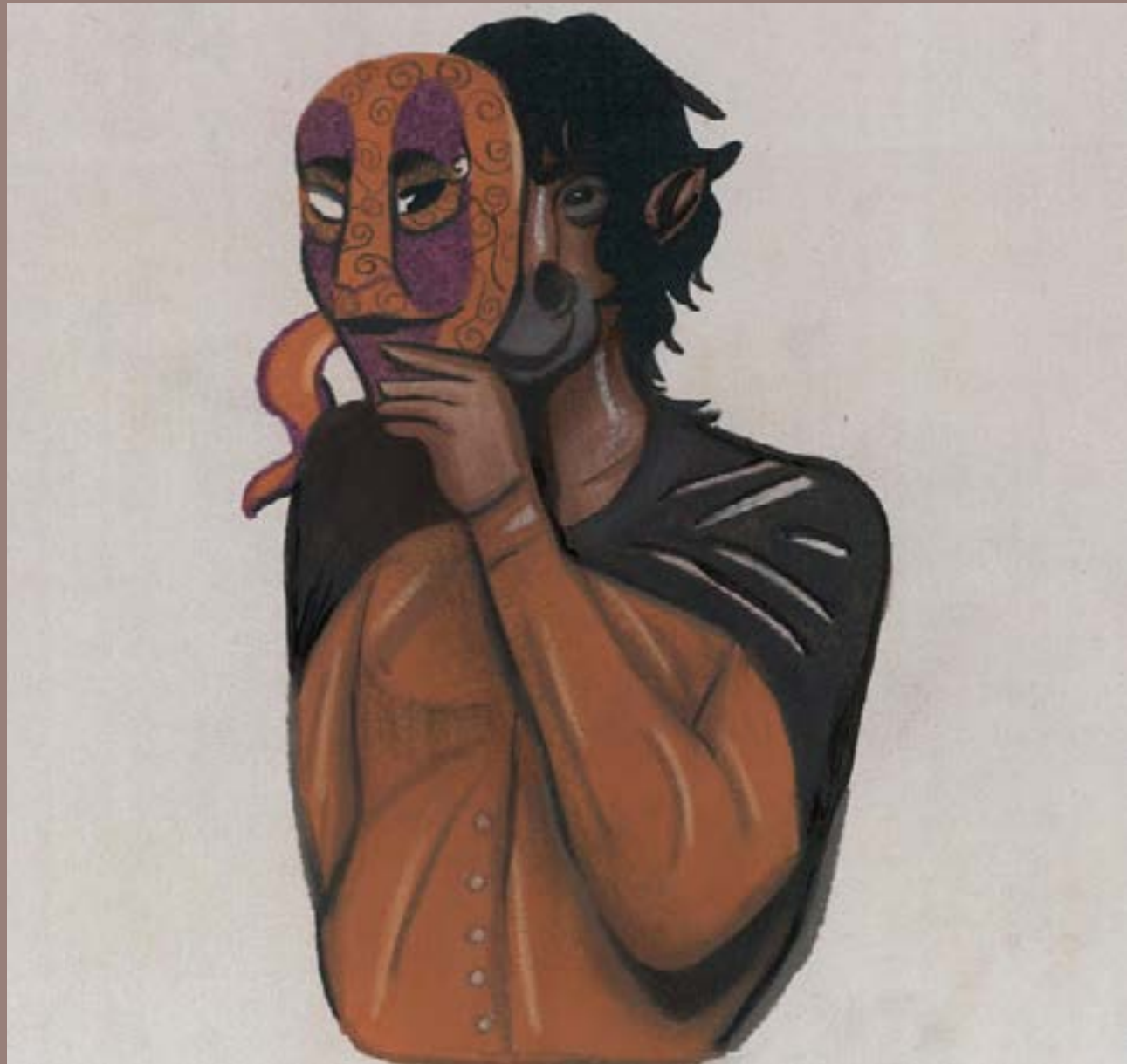
This dancing flamingo has some finesse. I made sure to articulate its thin, dainty legs that fit snugly inside pink ballet shoes. Since pink is a common color in ballet uniforms- on leotards, tights, and shoes, I made sure to use plenty of it. Flamingos just so happen to also be pink. Pink hues play a dominant role in this piece, similar to the shades of gray I used in "Memory Man." A long ribbon encircles its side, drawing more attention to the elegant creature.



Sentry

2015

A giraffe's extended neck provides a view that most creatures do not get to enjoy. This long neck is both an advantage and disadvantage for the animal. Being so gigantic, it may make them an obvious target for predators. It could also be quite intimidating for smaller animals. Ultimately, I was in awe of this body part. I thought that it would be amazing if soldiers had these elongated appendages. With it, they could foresee any threats or enemies! This guard or sentry has binoculars, combat boots, and some camo to represent his or her commitment to the line of duty, so to speak. A musty, gritty watercolor backdrop accentuates its figure since war is, simply put, dirty.



2015

I decided to draw over a peer's digital drawing. Her work focuses on the creation of original characters. I really love this man's pose. His muscular arms and wavy hair instantly reminded me of a horse... Horses are strong creatures much like kangaroos. Their locks sway in the wind, which fit perfectly with this character's hair. Since my pieces are all about incorporating animals and human fashions, I turned this man into a horse. Not just any horse, however. He is a mustang going to a masquerade! I was creating this piece right before Halloween, so I was inspired by fun costume ideas. The orange dress shirt and black cape hint at this.



Almighty Axolotl

2015

Axolotls are multicolored Mexican salamanders. They can be brown, albino, pink, and gray. These creatures have a very interesting back story being named after an ancient god. Xolotl is the god of the dead and the underworld in old Aztec mythology. Since axolotls have the ability to regrow limbs, spinal chords, and their jaw, they have an ability to sort of fight back against death. I gave this creature a pitch fork and a grim reaper-like black gown to represent this dark and interesting aspect of axolotls.



Chilly Chinchilla

2015

Chinchillas have some of the finest, thickest, fur of all other rodents. Unfortunately they are targeted for having such fur. Their fur is used in many expensive coats that cost thousands of dollars. Since chinchillas are so small, it also costs hundreds of chinchillas lives to create one single coat. This chinchilla is wearing a chinchilla coat to make a statement about how ridiculous it is to wear another animal's fur. It is sad that people make coats out of their coats. The harsh red background represents blood shed.

About the Artist

I am a graduate of Victor J. Andrew High School and currently a proud freshman art student at Saint Xavier University. I took many art classes in my four years at Andrew. My favorite course was my A.P. Studio Art class that I took my senior year. I began to really develop my skills and work more with colored pencils, my preferred medium. Blending the waxy material of Prismacolor colored pencils is always exciting. One of my pieces was featured in the Zhou B Gallery downtown. I plan on maintaining my art scholarship that I am very grateful for here by continually producing artworks. Saint Xavier has graciously given me wonderful opportunities to expand my knowledge on art and the art world. In one semester alone, I have already visited the School of the Art Institute twice and attended three gallery exhibits. This book is a mix of works I made prior to this class and pieces I have made during this semester. Thank you and enjoy!

