

Final Project Report

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MA ILLUSTRATION AND ANIMATION

Line and Dots Art - Cigarette×Beauty×Death

Cigarette is a popularize thing in modern city.In this fast-paced age,people are usually surrounded by the pressure of employment and life, even some students are tired of their heavy study,so cigarettes and alcohol have become a part of many people's lives during anxious times when people need special channels to express their emotions,even has become a way for many people to socialize with each other,they often empty their minds with a cigarette during stressful times,

But experts believe that cigarettes are extremely harmful to the human body. Data from The Lancet, a leading medical journal, compare The harmousness and addiction of common controlled drugs, including alcohol and tobacco. As you can see from the picture, the physical damage and dependence caused by cigarettes are comparable to alcohol, worse than marijuana and ecstasy, and worse than cocaine and heroin.

Smoking accounts for the largest share of preventable deaths. Smoking greatly increases the chance of lung cancer, which is a common cancer with high mortality and difficult treatment. 80-90% of lung cancer is caused by smoking and 30% of cancer-related deaths are caused by smoking. Other lung diseases like emphysema are also associated with smoking. Smoking also increases the burden on the heart, increasing the chance of developing heart disease. Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of miscarriage and low birth weight. Smokers look older than

non-smokers, and smoking can also cause hair loss because cigarettes cause cells to absorb carbon monoxide and reject oxygen, increasing skin wrinkles. And because smoking increases the metabolic rate, smokers lose weight. Therefore, we can know that cigarettes do great harm to the human body, but at the same time, people also rely on the rare relaxation when smoking. However, in recent years, with the increasing status of women in society, women's demand for cigarettes has become larger and larger, and cigarettes are no longer the patent of men.

Female smokers has appeared many times in the Noir film. Though film noir is often identified with a visual style, unconventional within a Hollywood context, that emphasizes low-key lighting and unbalanced compositions, films commonly identified as noir evidence a variety of visual approaches, including ones that fit comfortably within the Hollywood mainstream. Film noir similarly embraces a variety of genres, from the gangster film to the police procedural to the gothic romance to the social problem picture—any example of which from the 1940s and 1950s, now seen as noir's classical era, was likely to be described as a melodrama at the time.

While many critics refer to film noir as a genre itself, others argue that it can be no such thing. Foster Hirsch defines a genre as determined by "conventions of narrative structure, characterization, theme, and visual design". Hirsch, as one who has taken the position that film noir is a

genre, argues that these elements are present "in abundance". Hirsch notes that there are unifying features of tone, visual style and narrative sufficient to classify noir as a distinct genre.

I watched some noir film when I doing some researched.I remembered the female smokers in the movies are elegant and beautiful. They share the same identity characteristics: lofty social status, beautiful appearance and arrogance that can not be manipulated by the male power.In the movies, cigarettes not only serve as a way of socializing among people, but also highlight the lofty social status of smokers.In my opinion, this film not only shows the prevalence of cigarette culture during the Great Depression in the United States, but also shows the rebellion of women in defiance of power and the initial rise of women's rights. Cigarettes are not only dangerous, but also beautiful.

My illustration collection takes cigarettes as the main theme,starts with the beauty and danger of cigarettes, and integrates beautiful women and flowers into the picture to reflect the comfort and beauty of people's life brought by cigarettes. Then, it starts with skeletons and other elements to reflect the harm of cigarettes to human body.In terms of the overall painting style, I chose the combination of black and white line work and dots, and then used appropriate red as the decoration of the picture, combining the dull and romantic, and focusing more on the expression of aesthetic feeling in the core and aesthetic feeling of the picture. I

always think minimalist works of art are more attractive. The combination of lines and points is easier to draw the viewer's attention to the flow of lines and the combination of various geometric shapes, while the abrupt bright red on the black and white page is easier to attract the eye, and this minimalist style of the screen is also complementary to my theme: The hard and simple lines of cigarettes and skeletons, the smooth and complex lines of flowers and women's hair, the collision of hard and soft, simple and complex, makes the work realize the conflict and contradiction on the picture. This combination of multiple elements surprises me very much.

I am very grateful to my teacher John and my classmate Frank for the theme selection of my works. As for the topic of this illustration collection, my theme at the beginning was the art of lines and points. After visiting the works of M.C. Escher, Salvatore Rosa and other painters, I always wanted to try this cool minimalist painting style. However, when PREPARING the illustration collection, I found the problem of this topic: Due to the wide range of topics, I had no idea what to do when I started my creation. Therefore, after careful thinking, I finally decided to choose a theme between cigarettes and fantastic animals as my second theme. John and Frank provided me with a lot of references, like movies pictures and paintings when I was in a difficult situation, and eventually I settled on a cigarette theme that was more in line and dots style. I'm

glad I didn't choose me more interested in fantasy animal theme, because during a series of production and research, I found that although minimalism illustration style is significant, but it also has lots of defects, less infiltration in some part of the color it's hard to understand and even make people can't understand what is it, like blood in Cigarette×Beauty×Death, Without the red color, it could easily be misunderstood as a puddle of ink or smudges, making the content so easily presented lose its main character. However, the theme of fantasy animals needs color to show the differences and characteristics of different kinds of animals. Without color, the theme of fantasy will lose a lot of performance space. Cigarette as a theme happens to be able to maximize the advantages of the point and line painting style to realize the advantages and avoid disadvantages.

My illustration work a total of eight different parts, each part is composed of different flowers and cigarettes, when selecting a flower I after a detailed reference and research, the flowers are all habits characteristic of final selection were different, but all have beautiful appearance, datura flower petals small flower long, graceful lotus petals rounded shape, natural and graceful peony atmosphere. What surprises me most is the Venus flytrap, many people think this kind of flower should not be attributed to spend category, but I don't think the flytrap though like other flower petals and stamens, obviously won't look like all

other flowers, let a person feel good and lovely, but this kind of flowers in the sense that gives a person is more like a night waiting for cats, not the mainstream in the sense of beauty but also does not lose its charm. Artists often compare women to flowers, thinking that the soft and fragrant characteristics of flowers are compatible with the image of a gentle and understanding woman. I think they do have something in common, but my point is that flowers are different, women are different, and each flower has its own special features, and different flowers correspond to different images of women, rather than just sticking to the general picture.

The content of the first illustration is the combination of the mandala flower and the cigarette. The burning cigarette ignited the blooming mandala and slowly burned the root of the mandala to ashes. The mandala flower has always been a frequent visitor in the myth. In the Western legend, the mandala has been given the color of terror. Because the tangled roots of the mandala resemble a human figure, westerners in the Middle Ages thought more about the strange looking mandala. At that time, it was said that when the mandala was dug up by its roots, it would scream, and those who heard the scream would either die or go mad. Legend has it that in old Spain, mandala looks like an indifferent observer,

often in full bloom near the execution ground, numb to pray every soul of life gone. The whole plant of this flower is extremely poisonous. It is said that only one person in thousands of people can have the chance to see the flower, so if anyone meets the flower, her favorite will die. In the Oriental legend, mandala plays the role of a guide to the yellow Spring. Legend has it that the way to the underworld is always filled with mandala flowers. These mandala flowers are between the world and the underworld, guiding the way for the dead souls and bringing them to life. I chose the datura flower as the subject of my painting because of its legendary color between life and death. At the same time, I was deeply attracted by the mysterious color of the flower itself. Datura is a mysterious and beautiful, but also dangerous and highly poisonous species, just like cigarette itself, dangerous yet fascinating.

The second illustration shows a beautiful and elegant woman holding a cigarette and exhaling smoke that forms the shape of a skull.

The third illustration is composed of roses and cigarettes. The fallen roses fell to the ground, and the drops of cigarette oil became blood drops on the ground, and the blood contrasted

with the white roses. I like to use the contrast between white and red and black in the picture. The match between the two is like the kiss between the angel and the devil, the contrast between purity and evil. Bright and romantic.

The fourth illustration is made up of cigarettes and peach blossoms. The ashes of the cigarette fell into the ashtray and turned into peach blossoms. The peach blossoms burned from the edge and then turned into ashes. Due to my poor composition, the final effect did not have a significant trend, so it was a little mediocre.

In the fifth illustration, which is also my favorite, a smoky Venus flytrap swallows a woman's foot in high heels with its fangs. I combined the Venus flytrap with cigarette smoke, and drew the shape of the Venus flytrap larger to create a kind of temperament of piranha. The intention was to show the harm of secondhand smoke absorption through piranha eating people. After the painting, I found that the shape of Venus flytrap and high heels were somewhat similar. Fly in leaf shape is oval, graceful and round, but close to the mouth with sharp and sting, makes the flytrap appear contradictions and unique in shape, while women's feet, beautiful shape and round, to

some extent, but the existence of high heels make women's feet look sharp and beautiful, perhaps this is why the high-heeled shoes is a favorite of career women. In short, the similarities between the Venus flytrap and the female foot make the painting a somewhat paradoxical and beautiful viewing experience.

The sixth picture shows the combination of a lotus flower and a cigarette. The cigarette fell into the fish tank and dyed the water black. The lotus flower in the fish tank also faded to powder from the root.

In the seventh picture, I refer to the image of the dead bones of the beauty, and make use of cigarette smoke to create a dead bones of a woman wearing roses on her head, which means beautiful but fragile. Beauty dry bone comes from a warning in Buddhism: say what beauty, blink of an eye is dry bone, say what zhu Ge, blink of an eye into a waste. The passage of time, and the passage of time. Although smoking sorrow, but to the right amount, no matter how good the body often smoking will affect the body, increase the consumption of the lungs

In the last illustration I chose peony, women and skull, I imagine the cigarette separation, with cigarette paper as peony

petals, the tobacco as the blossom again, holding the skull of the woman closed his eyes, behind her are in full bloom a cigarette into a huge tree peony, peony burns, burn with skull, woman Although cigarettes can eliminate your worries, but also full of danger, smoking people never know when the cigarette will be bite back, become a ghost in the smoke.

In fact,during the whole illustration work I was very puzzled, in the theme sets come I want to do is just a theme illustrations about quit smoke,because I am a smoker, my friends and parents always advised me to give up smoking,I know that cigarette is bad to my health and life, actually every time I vowed to quit smoking was very firmly, but every times when I upset or staring blankly always feel less something in hand. I also vowed when I drew this illustration theme that I would give up this bad habit at this time, but I failed after eight illustrations. The meaning of cigarettes to smokers was same as flowers to women. Although they are not a necessity of life, they always feel sorry for not having them. Because of my own infirm position, I have never been quite sure of the meaning of my own work, leading to the paradoxical theme of glamorizing cigarettes while at the same time calling them dangerous. What we like is not necessarily good for us, and we

do not necessarily like what is good for us. There is no inevitable or absolute right or wrong in life. There is only our own continuous choice and the price to be paid for the choice. However, the damage caused by cigarettes to the human body is permanent and superimposed, and the final outcome we need to bear may be something we never want to face. Life is only once, so we cherish our life. If we cannot give up cigarettes completely, self-control and control the dosage is also the biggest responsibility for ourselves and the people around us.