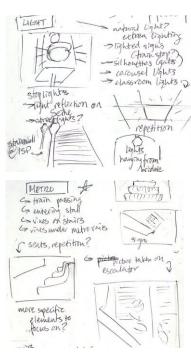
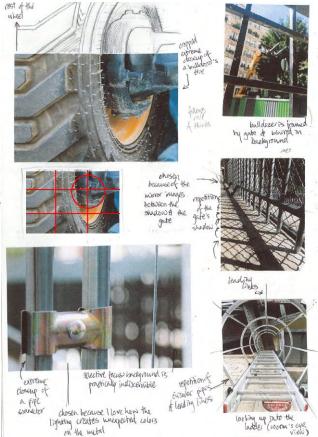
## Monochrome Engine: brainstorming and refining industrial theme

Initial brainstorming: I considered possible themes depending on the locations near my school (e.g. light, stairwells, water), but thought the Metro station would have the most interesting subject matter.



**Refined selection of photographs:** From the photos I took at the station, I narrowed them down to create a common industrial theme.



For my first piece, I wanted to take references photos from locations near my school, and selected a nearby Metro station for an industrial theme. From these photographs, I chose a closeup of an engine for a charcoal piece, exploring tone through the extreme distortion of light in metal.

#### Creating the charcoal piece:



I was interested by the intricate metalwork that leaks almost, abstract

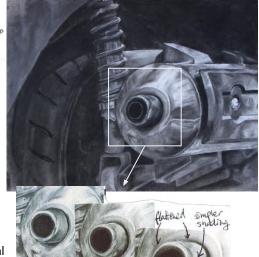
#### Process:



Creating a base of chalk/charcoal instead of putting charcoal directly on the paper evened/smoothed out the tone.

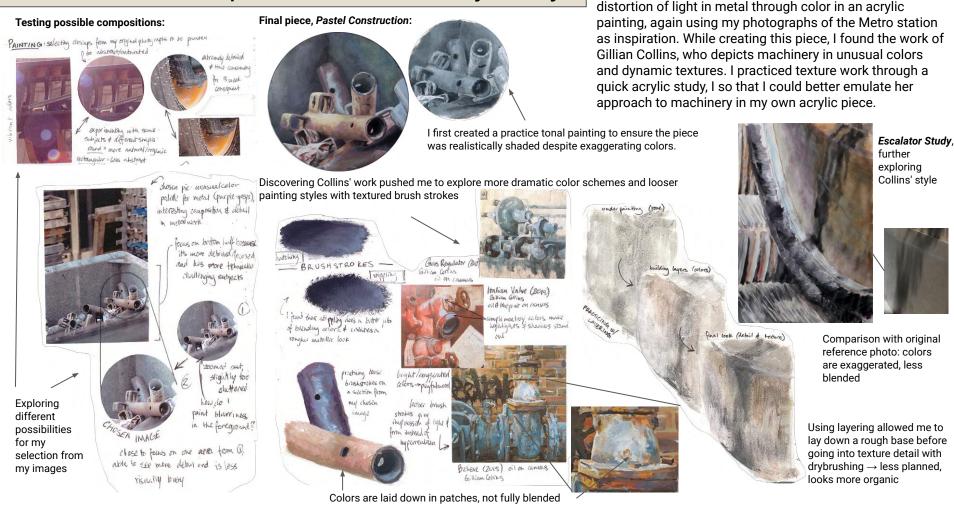
I chose this photo for my charcoal piece as it was already near-greyscale and had opportunities for detail work through its distortion of light in the cap of the engine.

#### My final piece, Monochrome Engine



Refining the circular perspective on the engine pipe

## Pastel Construction: composition refinement and acrylic study



Building on my charcoal piece, I further explored the

## Related artist investigation: Gillian Collins

Introduction: I chose to investigate Gillian Collins' paintings of mechanical components in relation to my piece, Pastel Construction. Collins' work specifically influenced how I used texture and color scheme to portray machinery in a looser and exaggeratedly colorful manner.

#### Context and purpose:

Collins runs two residential service companies (plumbing and HVAC), inspiring her to focus on industrial components in her pieces. She was also influenced by conceptual artworks, such as Marcel Duchamp's readymades, which removed objects' practical function and kept its aesthetic value. In portraying machinery's form over its function, she aims to highlight "these vital but unnoticed engineering feats" to the viewer.

#### Composition:

The opening of the valve is centered and painted opaquely, drawing the viewer's eye. However, the valve's body is off to the side, allowing the viewer to see the blueprints in the background. This juxtaposes the final product and its planning to recognize the engineering feats that go into creating the valve's form.



Valve's body is off to the side



#### Form:

Resembles a person with their head bent down, possibly connoting modesty and the hidden feats that go into designing such a complex tool.

#### Material significance:

Incorporates mixed media with the collaged blueprints to draw attention to the planning behind machinery. Collins also varies paint opacity throughout the piece to blend the valve into the background, possibly illustrating its evolution from a design to a functional object.





**Color:** The color scheme is harmonious: while predominantly red, Collins adds neutral and blue tones for visual variety. Blue and purple are also added to subdue highlights and darken shadows.







The base is painted with thin layers of paint so the blueprints show through

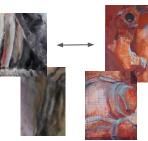
#### Influence on my work:





exaggerated color in final piece (left)

**Emulating Colliins' looser** painting style by using drybrushing to create visible brushstrokes:



Like Collins, I exaggerated color in the mechanical subject with vibrant and varied color schemes.

Reference (above)  $\rightarrow$ 

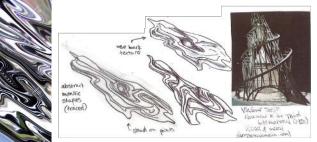
## Abstractions in Metal: brainstorming

Initial brainstorming:

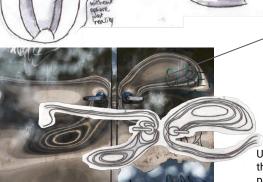
To finish my industrial "series," I chose to focus on the distortion of light in metal through abstraction. I chose to explore this through ceramics, inspired by the abstract shapes I saw in the reflections of light in metal. I refined this concept by experimenting with different styles (structured/geometric vs organic/rounded), as well as with 3D models.

#### Refining the abstract form:

My original ideas centered around using literal machinery, such as cogs or piping, as subject matter. However, I started to become interested in how metal distorts light, leading me to take a more abstract approach.



I settled on this angled form as I thought its asymmetry would create an interesting leaning structure. I then began exploring this form using a sharp and angled style, as well as a more organic and rounded one.



Michael Ciranni
Photography
24 x 36 ch

Garve in

Adoor picture

Convering

Molten chrome metal swirling across page with reflections



with 3D models

Metal Door Abstract New York City Barb Gonzalez Photography

## **Ceramics sculpture refinement**

Though using an angled and architectural structure, I felt that a rounded style was better suited to the organic forms created by light reflections that I wanted to convey. This led me to the work of Tina Neale, a ceramicist who combines differently colored clay to create a marbled effect. I realized this approach was too messy for the sharp metallic forms I wanted to convey, so I decided instead to use relief and texturing to achieve the same effect.

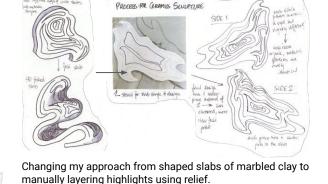
#### Influence of Tina Neale:





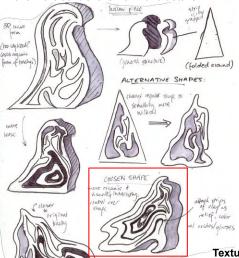
Emulating Tina Neale, who marbles different clays together, rolls them out, and shapes the slab to create organic forms. However, I found that this was too difficult to control and lost the detail that I wanted to focus on, so I decided instead to create the highlights using relief.





#### Choosing the structure:

I chose a form with more structure so that I could have more control over form and details.



Color: mottled silver creates metallic effect in shadow, hints at metal concept





My final piece, Abstractions in Metal

#### Texture work:

I experimented with texturing to make the the rounded forms stand out, emulating the appearance of bright light against rough metal. Highlights were applied either as relief or carved into the base in order to add depth.





## Perfect?: brainstorming

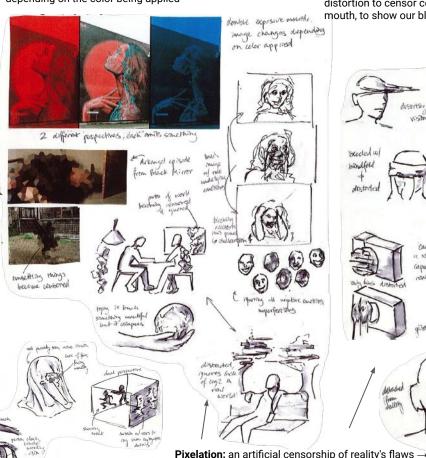
My next piece was inspired by the prompt of "shock of reality." After some brainstorming, I interpreted this as people's tendency to idealize reality, and our shock after discovering its flaws. I explored idealization through obscuring reality's "shocking" aspects, particularly with double exposure pieces, pixelation, and obscuring.

I was inspired by the digital pixelation in "Arkangel," a Black Mirror episode where a new software allows parents to block sensitive material from their children in real life

# Initial brainstorming: Chunger, was, winner change tenlized: somber Veils and curtains: allow us to manually block

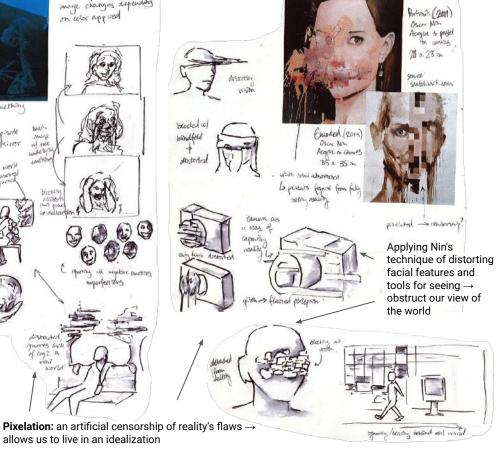
flaws from view

Double exposure murals: show different perspectives on the same image by omitting different aspects of the piece depending on the color being applied



#### Artist connection:

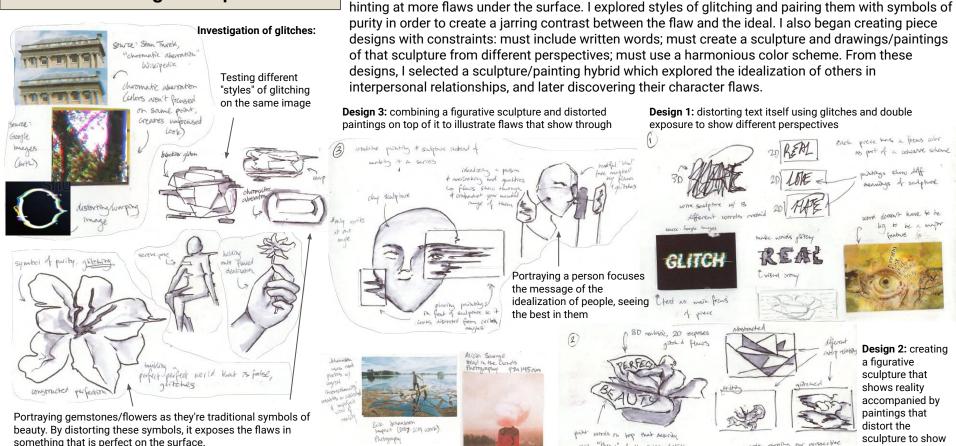
The work of Oscar Nin, a contemporary artist who paints portraits that are both realistic and distorted. I wanted to emulate how he uses distortion to censor certain elements of the face, like the eyes or mouth, to show our blindness to flaws in reality.



## Perfect?: starting concepts

Surrealist photography captured the illogical mood that I was trying to convey → this

shaped my decision to portray a single element out of place in an otherwise realistic world



Inspired by pixelation, I explored a glitch as representing a malfunction in an otherwise perfect world,

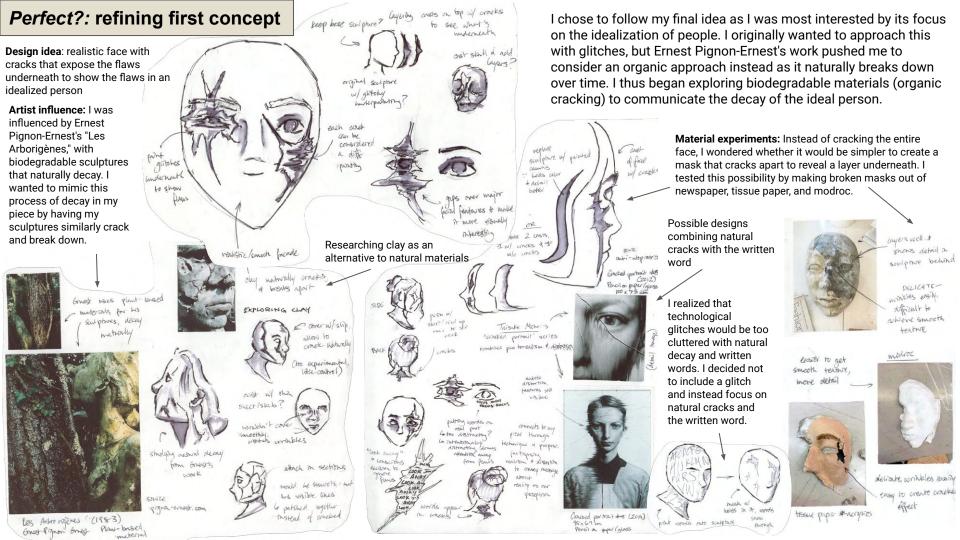
how it can be interpreted

differently

HORRIC

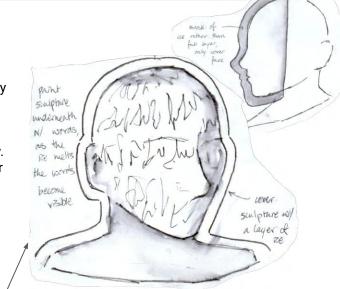
SCIENTIAL

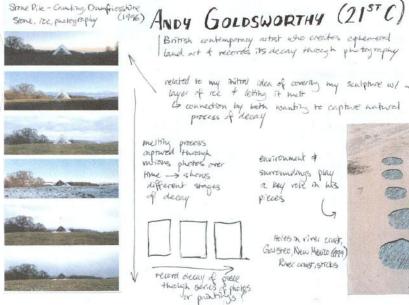
soulphine is objective reality



Building on the idea of natural decay, I wondered whether I could use actual biodegradable materials. This was influenced by Andy Goldsworthy, an environmental artist who captures the decay of his works through photography. His work led me to consider using ice and capturing its melting process through a

series of photographs.





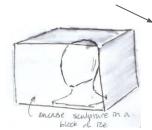
British contemporary artist who creates explaneral land art & records its decay through photography idea of covering my sculpture w/ a letting it melt G connection by both wanting to capture natural process of decay Partironment surroundings play a key role in his prues

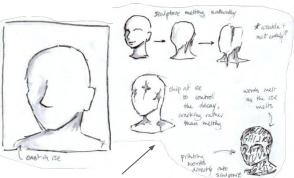
Applying same idea of an ice laver that reveals a permanent base.

Considering different ways of using ice in my piece. I preferred the idea of a layer of ice over the sculpture as it was most strongly connected to my concept of an idealized layer melting away to reveal flaws underneath.

Perfect?: exploring biodegradable materials



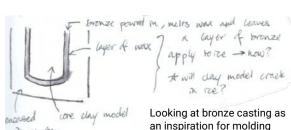




Though an ice layer was an interesting possibility, it was too logistically difficult to make the mold required for the ice layer.

Holes in river count.

Galster, New Mento 1999 River coust, sticks



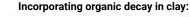
## Perfect?: process for the base

#### Selecting reference photos for the clay base:



Since ice was too logistically difficult to work with, I decided instead to make the upper layer out of clay. However, I still wanted to incorporate an element of natural decay, so I experimented with breaking down clay organically. This led me to Yuichi Ikehata's work, which illustrates the process of decay in a frozen image using permanent materials.





uncovered



#### Facial expression:

I chose the "neutral" set (bottom) as extreme emotions would distract from the materials and the process of decay. A neutral expression is also ambiguous, showing how the person can be perceived in different ways depending on the viewer's perspective.



sculpture breaks down

## YUICHI KEHATA (215TC)

Inputuse contemporary artist whose serves "Fragments of larg-Term Menung" focuses on the decay of numery over those

connects to my prece by trying to capture the decay of an abstract idea (likelinta: decay of memory the decay of an ideal reality

leaves have
material, freuses on subject
mater

\*\*A use permanent\*\*

of ite?

Fragments of LTMIS (2017)
Wire, paper, phetry mply, night

materials instead

#### Chosen technique:

I decided to make the upper layer by allowing a layer of clay to crack naturally while drying and then piecing the fragments back together.

words on top, which I wanted as

I was influenced by Ikehata's theme

frozen in time. I wanted to achieve

of capturing an image of decay

this same effect by using clay

rather than ephemeral materials.

the main focus of the base.

## Related artist investigation: Yuichi Ikehata

#### Introduction:

My piece is focused on the decay of reality over time, exploring the tendency to idealize people and then the decay of this idealization as their flaws become apparent. I chose Ikehata's artwork in relation to my piece because I wanted to explore how he portrays decay over time in his art, as he also focuses how reality breaks down in his pieces through the lens of memory. Ikehata influenced my piece by changing the way I was able to capture the process of decay in a single, permanent image.

Other examples from "Fragments of Long-Term Memory": Fragment of LTM13 (2017) Clay, wire, paper, photography, digital media

Fragment of LTM (2014) Clay, wire, paper, photography, digital media



Fragment of LTM6 (2015)
Clay, wire, paper, photography, digital media

#### Cultural significance:

Yuichi Ikehata is a Japanese contemporary artist whose work focuses on the distinction between the real and unreal. My chosen piece comes from his ongoing series, "Fragments of Long-Term Memory." In this series, Ikehata explores the decay of memory over time by collecting distorted and fragmented memories and expressing them in a surreal fashion (Ikehata). By doing this, Ikehata blurs the distinction between reality and fiction in his pieces.

This series is strongly influenced by surrealism, an artistic movement from the 1920s-1950s centered around exploring the subconscious and the juxtaposition of reality and fiction (The Art Story). Elements of this movement are clearly visible in Ikehata's work; like Surrealists, Ikehata blurs the distinction between reality and fiction to create dreamlike works. However, Ikehata puts a modern spin on this movement by incorporating an industrial element and by using digital media in his work.

Ikehata's modern perspective reflects his urban upbringing in Japan. Born and raised in Chiba, a city just outside of Tokyo, Ikehata grew up during a period of industrial development and rapid urbanization (Pollman). This is visible through his pieces as fragmented memories may be reflective of the chaotic, fast-paced nature of city life. His urban roots are also shown through the materials he uses; Ikehata's combination of wire scaffolding, clay, and photorealistic digital detail creates a futuristic mood in his pieces (Klinkenberg).

Ikehata's work reflects the dreamlike combination of reality and fiction typical of surrealism. This can be seen when compared to the artworks of Salvador Dalí, a prominent surrealist artist.

The Temptation of St. Anthony (1946) Salvador Dalí, oil on canvas, 90 x 120 cm



## **Analysis of "Fragment of LTM 5"**

#### Function and purpose:

"LTM 5" depicts a pair of decaying arms that appear to be reaching out from a surface, holding onto something invisible. Overall, the piece captures a very mysterious and dreamlike mood, helping to communicate the blurred lines between reality and fiction and the decay of memory. The purpose of the piece is conceptual; instead of having any practical use, it exists to capture a memory for the artist and to help him communicate the overlap between reality and fiction.

The juxtaposition of real and imagined elements captures a dreamlike mood typical of surrealism. The lack of a face and the decay of the arms also creates a disconnect between the subject and the audience, evoking loneliness.

#### Color:

"LTM5' has a limited color scheme, with white as its predominant color complemented by neutral greys. Color is derived mainly from the natural materials. Lack of coloring creates a surreal look: the color of the clay is much paler than natural skin, emphasizing the unreal aspect of the piece.



Ikehata adds lifelike peach tones in the fingertips and nails to pull the piece back from complete abstraction and tie it to the real world, communicating the overlap between fiction and reality.

Fragment of LTM5 (2017)

Clay, wire, paper, photography, digital media Dimensions unknown



#### Composition:

The subject is placed slightly off to the side so that the hands are centered. This draws the viewer's eye first to the photorealistic hands and then gradually down the arms, which begin to decay until the sculpture is reduced to its wire base. By creating this visual movement down the arms, Ikehata creates the illusion of decay over time despite the sculpture remaining permanent and frozen in time.

#### Material significance:

The combination of digital and traditional media communicates decay over time as the sculpture is slowly stripped down to its basic foundations. The bare clay and wire contrasts the detail in the hands, creating the illusion of detail over time. This is emphasized by the addition of clay in thin layers that peel off, making the sculpture look as though it is chipping apart.

The wire/clay in the base of the sculpture are combined with the surrounding surface. This makes the arms look like they are reaching out of the surface, anchoring the surreal piece in reality and blurring the distinction between fiction and the real world.



#### Personal connections:

My piece shares Ikehata's concept of communicating the decay over time of an abstract idea and trying to capture this illusion decay in a permanent image. I did this through Ikehata's technique of layering different stages of decay, creating a slowly fragmenting external look that degrades to a more basic foundation. This effect is also achieved in both of our pieces by using the natural visual properties of the materials.

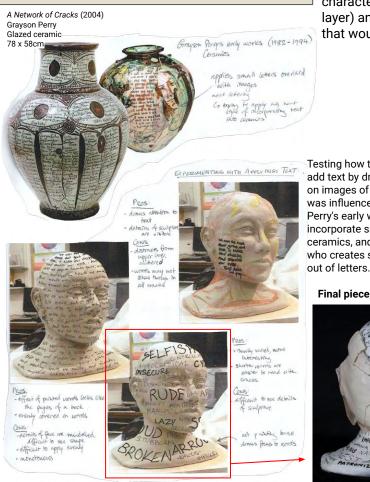
My work in progress (2020) Clay, 25x24x19cm

Works cited:

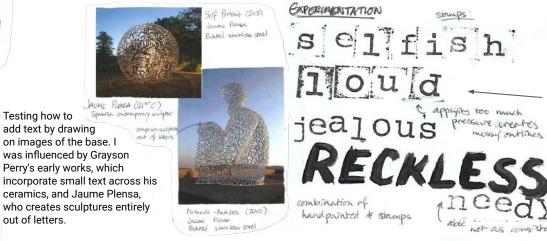
The Art Story Contributors. "Surrealist Sculpture Movement Overview." Edited by Kimberly Nichols, The Art Story, 2016, www.theartstory.org/movement/surrealist-sculpture/ Ikehata, Yuichi. "Kakuunohito Works." Kakuunohito Works, 2020, works.kakuunohito.com/?paged=2. Klinkenberg, Abby Lynn. "Yuichi Ikehata's Powerful Sculptures of Physical Fragments." Hi Fructose, 6 Mar. 2016, hifructose.com/2016/03/06/yuichi-ikehatas-powerful-sculptures-of-physical-fragments/. Pollman, Lisa. "Fragmented Beauty: Japan's Yuichi Ikehata - Artist Profile." Art Radar, 2016, artradarjournal.com/2016/03/25/fragmented-beauty-japans-yuichi-ikehata-artist-profile/.



## Perfect?: adding text to the base



After sculpting the base, I worked on the text to be written (content and format). I chose to write negative character traits as it would more clearly emphasize the contrast between the idealized person (upper layer) and their flaws (base). I also tested ways of applying the text, eventually choosing handwritten text that would allow me to vary line weight/size/shape.



#### Final piece, Perfect?:



We Wear the Mask

Paul Laurence Dunbar, 1872 - 1906

We wear the mask that grins and lies, It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes, This debt we pay to human guile; With torn and bleeding hearts we smile And mouth with myriad subtleties,

Originally considered using "We Wear the Mask" as I thought it tied in well with hiding individual flaws. However, the poem actually discusses experiences of black Americans after the Civil War → less connected

Why should the world be over-wise. In counting all our tears and sighs?

We smile, but oh great Christ, our cries

Nay, let them only see us, while

To thee from tortured souls arise,

Beneath our feet, and long the mile,

But let the world dream otherwise,

We sing, but oh the clay is vile

We wear the mask.

We wear the mask!

to my theme. Chose to write negative character traits instead → makes the purpose clearer to the viewer, also more legible through the cracks.

Experimenting with typefaces and materials (stamps. handwriting. stencils). I chose to hand paint the words in print  $\rightarrow$ cohesive look, more emotive, allows me to control size. weight, and shape



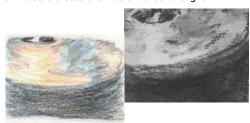
## Extinguished: charcoal study

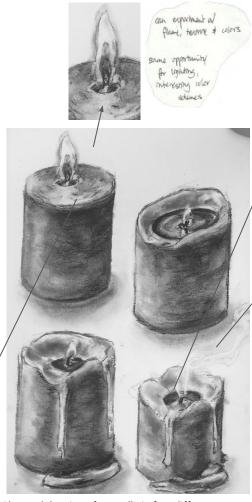
Building on the abstract decay of my previous piece, I wanted to focus more on the idea of physical decay by looking at a candle melting. I was inspired by Goldsworthy's photographs which document the breakdown of his sculptures as time passes. To emulate this, I documented different stages of the candle's decay in charcoal drawings. I then began cropping closeups to serve as the inspiration for my next artwork, a collage.



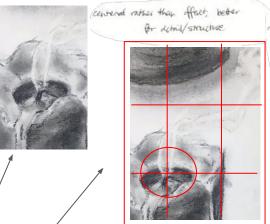
Stone Pile - Camling, Dumfriesshire (1996) Andy Goldsworthy Stone, ice, photography Dimensions unspecified

Testing color schemes for this composition to see how I could create the illusion of candlelight





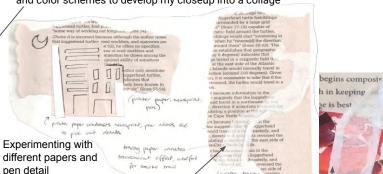
Charcoal drawing of a candle in four different stages of decomposition, emulating Goldsworthy's style



opportunity to
experiment w/
preservound, reministration
f "Italian Nature"
hisvoere, cases opportunity for destril

I felt this closeup was the most compositionally interesting and would allow me to explore new techniques in the background and the smoke effect.

Material experiment: beginning to experiment with different types of paper and color schemes to develop my closeup into a collage



The most interesting aspect of the reference image for me was the effect of the smoke. To capture this, I experimented with layers of tracing paper to emulate the smoke's semi-transparency.

I also used acrylic detail to darken the edges and emphasize the form of the wisps of smoke

## Extinguished: collage experimentation

#### John Piper (early 20th century):

English painter and printmaker who created mostly figurative pieces

technique of using newsprint to contrast different textures in the background

NO CHANG

retired

of countle

mated Diffic

John Piper Beach with Starfish (1933-34) Gouache, paper, ink 60cm x 70 cm

Color scheme: I tested both blue and red paper against newsprint. Though the original candle was blue, red stood out more against the background and looked more vibrant.

Acrylic creates more defined forms from the collaged shapes and allows for control over detail

Emulating Piper's



Lavender detail and dark purple paper add depth and variety to the otherwise predominantly red color scheme

Here, I tested color schemes and choice of paper. Inspired by John Piper's collages, I chose to use a newspaper to add texture to the background and use paint to draw out detail in the subject matter while leaving the rest abstract. I chose a bright red color scheme as it was eye-catching and stood out against the newspaper background, but experimented with adding purple in details and shadows to prevent the color palette from becoming monotonous. Following the idea of continual closeups, I also began brainstorming a new piece based on another closeup of the collage, which at this point looked almost abstract.

New compositions: Taking further closeups as the inspiration for my next piece, an abstract painting:

#### Image of final collage:



text # ingged edges add not color & technique wisered mineres

Chosen reference image has a balance of textures and color in the background and foreground  $\rightarrow$  prevents the painting from getting muddled and overly textured

### Candle Iterations: refinement

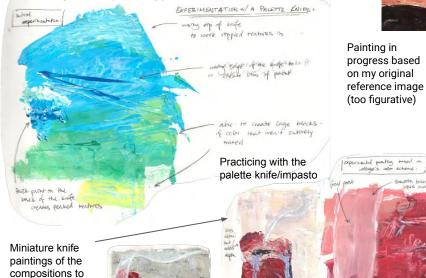
I chose to use a palette knife for this piece to emulate the jagged blocks of color I observed in my collage. This would also allow me to experiment with texture, which hadn't been a focal point of my previous artworks. While creating the painting, I found that my original composition looked too bland and figurative, so I took further closeups to create a more abstract piece with a greater scope for color contrast and texture experimentation.

#### Material experiment: practicing palette knife skills

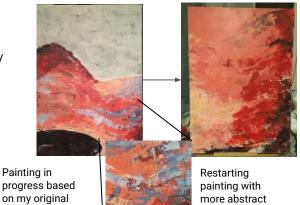
compare the two different styles

and practice

technique



**Process:** Taking closeups from my original painting to focus on more interesting sections with greater color/texture work.





Palette knife strokes follow the same direction to create cohesive movement despite abstract subject matter

## Exploring texture through Alberto Burri's work (mid 20th c):

reference picture

Italian abstract artist associated with matterist painting, in which artists used heavy impasto to explore the textural qualities of paint.



Alberto Burri Nero plastica (1963) PVC plastic, acrylic, and combustion on plastic and fabric Dimensions unknown

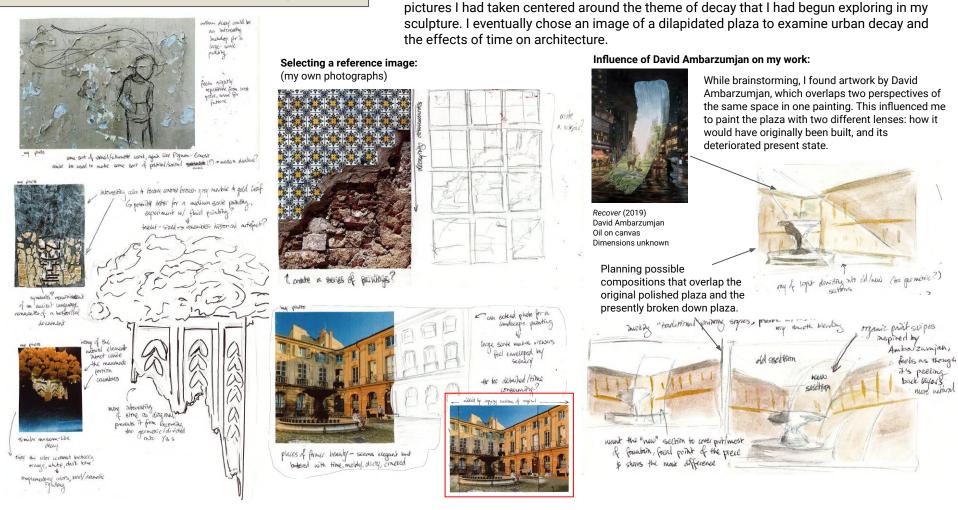


Alberto Burri Rosso plastica (1961) PVC plastic, acrylic, and combustion on plastic and fabric 142cm x 153cm

Emulating Burri's texture work in by applying heavy amounts of paint with the knife, allowing me to create visible strokes.



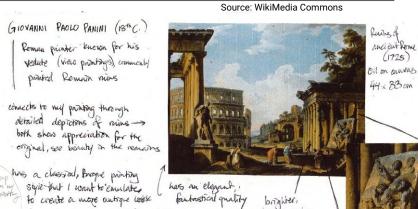
## Aix-en-Provence: brainstorming ideas



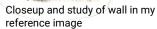
Here, I began brainstorming ideas for a large-scale painting using a series of reference

## Aix-en-Provence: Renaissance influence and practicing perspective

My initial approach to this painting was influenced by Renaissance artwork, specifically the Italian artist Giovanni Paolo Panini. I was influenced by his portrayal of decayed architecture as he often painted Roman ruins with extreme accuracy. I specifically examined how he communicated the effects of time on architecture through form and color, painting crumbling ruins and stained or faded stone.









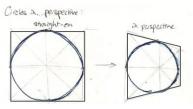
between light and shadow

6 smooth blending, detailed, realistic

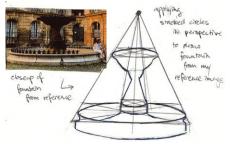
2 poler shadows w/ blue makes it look more nothing

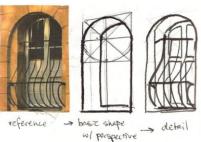
#### Practicing perspective:

Since my reference image has many arches and ellipses in the fountain/windows, I practiced drawing circles in perspective to improve the structural accuracy of my piece.



#### Applying to my reference image:





## Aix-en-Provence: refining composition and loose style

I realized that a Renaissance style would be far too time consuming for this scale and instead began looking at looser approaches to painting architecture, specifically John Piper's war paintings. I was interested in how he showed the deterioration of architecture through composition and change in detail, which I thought was a more effective way of showing change over time than my original plan of literally juxtaposing old and new architecture. Instead, I decided to emulate Piper's technique of painting one section in detail and gradually abstracting it so that the change in formal qualities paralleled the change in structure over time.

JOHN PIPER (20TH () English painter and printmaker influenced by the Romantic era, paratings from WWII document dranage to architecture



Bolsover Castle (date unknown) Mixed media on paper 52 x 72 cm Source: artnet.com



Experimenting with a looser painting style using my reference image

> deterioration of building and fills less detailed sections

Adding newsprint into background to create rough texture  $\rightarrow$  parallels

Chose fountain as the focal point as it is the most visually distinct element and allows for movement towards the right side of the piece.

Study of "Bolsover Castle" (acrylic and pen)

ink linework

Tone is painted roughly,

detail is shown through

Somerset Place, Bath (1942)Pencil, ink, gouache on Whatman paper 49 x 76 cm Source: Tate Britain



Imbalanced, not enough abstraction



Composition: I wanted to emulate Piper's technique of choosing one section to paint in detail and

Focus is in center, little movement

Material experiment: combining pen, acrylic, and newsprint

to create the indication of architectural detail

gradually abstracting it to create the illusion of decay over time.



Upper section is distracting



Balanced movement towards the right, more repetitive window sections are abstracted

damage is focal point form is emphasized

movement

## Related artist investigation: John Piper (1903-1992)

#### Introduction:

I chose to investigate John Piper's war paintings of bombed architectural ruins. This links to my piece, a painting of a plaza that has been worn down over time, through their exploration of beauty in urban decay and destruction. Piper's work, "Somerset Place," influenced how my use of form to create movement and the illusion of decay over time.

#### Context:

John Piper was a British artist from the early 20th century artist best known for his paintings, prints, and stained glass windows. His artwork mainly focuses on the British landscape, specifically local architecture, churches, and monuments. During the Second World War, Piper became a prominent member of the British war artists, a group of artists commissioned by the British government to record the effects of the wars on everyday life. Between 1940 and 1944, he was commissioned by the War Artists Advisory Committee, creating work that that focused primarily on damage to churches and architecture caused by aerial bombing. By embracing destruction as subject matter in these pieces, Piper reflected a haunting and powerful beauty in bombed architecture.



Somerset Place, Bath (1942) Pencil, ink, gouache on Whatman paper 49 x 76 cm

Like Romantics, Piper portrays landscapes using loose brushstrokes, capturing emotion in a piece more so than detail of a landscape.



Piper illustrates the effect of the war in his pieces by depicting destroyed Anglicanism prior to the war. Influence of the Romantic movement: Piper's painting style is strongly influenced by the Romantic art movement (18-19th century), which arose as a reaction to the glorification of reason brought by the Enlightenment and the scientific revolution. Instead, Romantics celebrated subjectivity and emotion through artwork and literature. Key characteristics of Romantic art include the idealization of the past and of nature, often working outside from observation. Piper is a prominent figure of the neo-Romantic movement, taking inspiration from this era in a modern context; his works offer an emotional record of the war by romanticizing the effects of bombing on British architecture. Like Romantic artists, he also

paints in a much looser figurative style, capturing the mood of a

landscape rather than a perfect representation.

Coventry Cathedral (1940)

Oil on plywood

76 x 63 cm



All Saints' Chapel, Bath (1942)

Ink, chalk, gouache and watercolour on paper 62 x 74 cm

architecture. He often painted religious structures, possibly influenced by his conversion to

## Analysis of "Somerset Place" and impact on my work

#### Content:

"Somerset Place" depicts a plaza in Bath. England, after three nights of bombing known collectively as the Bath Blitz. The focal point of the piece is the crumbling section of architecture, which is drawn in the most detail. In creating this piece, Piper aimed to create an emotional account of the war and illustrate its effects on British life. In doing so, he mourns the loss of British culture, but also embraces destruction as subject matter to capture evocative images of beauty in decay.

#### Form and composition:

The ruins on the left are drawn with stark tonal contrast and detailed linework, creating an intricate structured form that immediately draws the eye of the viewer. However, the architecture becomes progressively less detailed as the viewer's eyes move towards the right, painted with large brushstrokes and minimal linework.







Architecture becomes less defined further away from the damage

This creates a sense of movement as it makes the piece appear as though it is breaking down over time, which parallels the literal decomposition of the buildings in real life.



My work in progress (2020) Acrylic, newsprint, paint markers, 100 x 117 cm

#### Personal connections:

- Deterioration of architecture over time as subject matter.
  - Painting one section in detail, then using a more abstracted painting style further away.
  - Ink to emphasize detail in our defined sections
  - Loose brushstrokes/rougher textures in abstract sections to illustrate decay across the piece.

Detail vs abstraction in my painting and Somerset Place





#### Color:

Process:

Piper uses gouache and ink to

highlight meticulous detail in the

ruins on the left, whereas the right

is painted with bold brushstrokes

carefully planned. These effects

how the architecture breaks down

across the piece. The rough and

spontaneous textures also reflect

the violent nature of the bombings.

add dynamism and emphasize

and ink splatters that are less

Limited color scheme of beige and greyscale draws attention to form rather than color, and also creates a somber mood that reflects the subject matter and mourning felt immediately after the bombing.

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Contrasts muted blue and orange to convey light and shadow  $\rightarrow$ 

hand side.

emphasizes form and contrasts the flat blocks of color on the right

Present-day Somerset Place (image

## Aix-en-Provence: process and material experiments

Here, I refined how to contrast the detailed and the abstracted sections. I wanted the focal point to be the fountain, losing detail and structure as the eye moved further away, so I practiced applying thick layers of paint to make the fountain stand out against the paper and used paint markers to add precise details. In the more abstracted sections, I experimented with looser methods of applying paint to build tone and texture without defining the architecture in detail. I also experimented with newsprint to build rough stone textures and add visual interest to the abstracted sections.

#### Building detail in fountain using linework and tone:



monmo

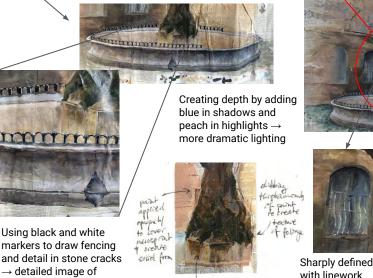
Using black and white markers to draw fencing

→ detailed image of

eye

decay, draws the viewer's

Base of fountain looked too flat and had an incorrect shape



Final piece, Aix-en-Provence:



Form indicated with some linework, but incomplete

Only vague indication of placement, little form

Comparison of abstraction in windows throughout the painting

#### Varying the thickness of paint on newsprint to show different stages of decay:



Photo for scale

#### Texture work:



base for the looser sections

**Emulating Piper's** technique of drybrushing large blocks of color to indicate the decayed sections

Using a palette knife and drybrushing for abstract sections. Allows me to build tone and reflect the rough texture of stone without adding too much detail → retains loose quality





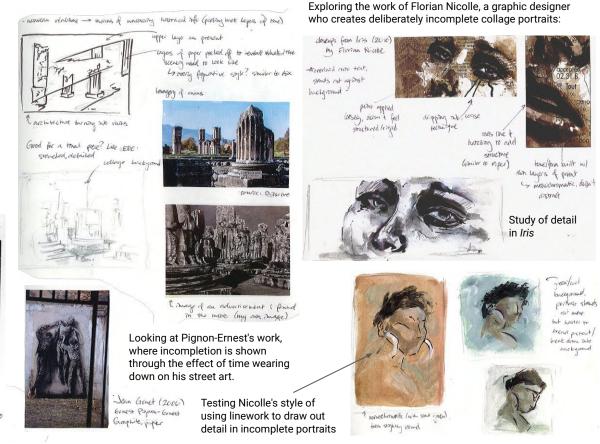
Closeup from "Somerset Place"

## Into the Pages: brainstorming

Selecting a reference and style:



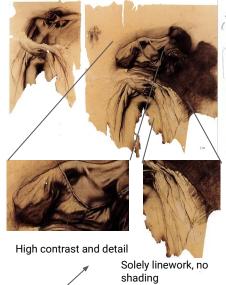
Following Aix, I wanted to continue examining deliberate incompletion as a visual technique in order to communicate decay. I initially considered décollage art, communicating decay over time by having several layers peel away in a single image. However, works by Ernest Pignon-Ernest and Florian Nicolle I initially considered exploring this theme through historical artifacts and ruins, but instead decided to focus on portraiture to apply this technique in a new context.



## Into the Pages: reference image and connection to Ernest Pignon-Ernest

I realized that décollage would be too difficult to control as I wanted to balance abstraction with figurative detail, but instead began examining Ernest Pignon-Ernest's tonal figure studies. These explore John Piper's themes of incompletion through portraiture: some sections are drawn in extreme tonal detail, but gradually break down into undefined linework to communicate decay across a single image. To practice this technique, I created a tonal study using chalk. Further examining portraiture, I selected references from life drawing sessions and practiced choosing a focal point and a direction of decay in each one.

#### **Connection to Ernest Pignon-Ernest**



Different levels of detail create the illusion of breaking down in a single image



Ernest Pigma - Erne

Chalk study, Legs Crossed

#### Choosing a reference image:











Images from a school life drawing session (photos from my teacher). Images of fingerprints projected onto the body help create a focal point to draw in more detail.

Creating a tonal study to practice gradually removing detail: legs are heavily defined, the rest of the body is less opaque and disappears into the background

Full body references look more dynamic than seated poses → decay as moving rather than static, also directs the motion of the breakdown in the piece









Chosen image looks fuller as the arms are down, opportunity to explore fabric detail



## Into the Pages: process and material experiments

#### Material experiments: contour lines



comes up very faithy: wight

Pignon-Ernest creates contour lines by cutting notches into an eraser and tracing forms → adds subtle detail



Attempting with a notched eraser, however the lines did not show up clearly and faded easily

Mestage of character

bionic pape - useful

for lighter sections

I chose to create the tonal drawing on top of a collage after researching Pignon-Ernest's street art, which integrates the background as part of the piece by displaying it on textured walls. With the collage, I aimed to similarly texture the background and integrate it into a piece similarly to his street art. I also experimented with contour lines to further emphasize form, but decided instead to keep the solid tones.

#### Final piece, Into the Pages:





Photo for scale



Tonal detail



Linework, minimal shading

Anatomy study:



Had difficulty getting the position of the hand correct → practice sketch in pencil to study the shape

Collage base:

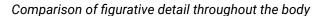


In Pignon-Ernest's stencils, pieces break down over time due to their exposure in the streets  $\rightarrow$  background shows through the figure, integrated into the piece

Ernest Pignon-Ernest Maurice Audin (2003) Stencil Algeria

Emulated in my piece through collage

Text shows through, can see the rips in paper → background integrated, creates dilapidated look



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