

Mural Making

Comprehensive Learning Log: Kol Matteson.pdf

Starting this class, I knew that I wanted to do something with the arts. I debated making a magazine on the history of fashion in the U.S. as a dual exploration of an interesting topic and test of my graphic design skills, or perhaps a publication of short stories and poems I had written either personally or professionally, before ultimately landing on mural-making for the sake of workload and demand. I didn't know where to start with publication and knew that I had very little to spare outside of this class to work on this, limiting my ability to design upwards of 10-15 two-page spreads along with all involved in the research and editing process both ideas would require. This aside, I knew that I hadn't taken on an easy project and would be no small undertaking, albeit more importantly one that I had just enough experience with to start.

Also in my selection process, I considered how I might challenge myself, and decided that the most immediately pressing skill I needed to improve upon was communication. In this way, the project proceeded exactly as I had expected; getting the art done with no issue and plenty of enjoyment before being stopped at the parts where I had to communicate between multiple parties for critique and approval. For the middle portion of the semester, this end of the process passed slowly, though not so slowly that I questioned the validity of this particular direction, perhaps unwisely. It was made clear to me around late November that the very obstacle I had predicted from the beginning but not so direly to prevent any major issue had, in fact, caused a major issue. The consistency and clarity of my communication had caused several snags to appear in the approval process in such a way that it appeared I had attempted to skirt building approval and had very little to show for roughly two months of work, despite consistent efforts. This was... a frustrating realization, to say the least. It led me into a bit of a tailspin I was pulled out of by the indication of a new direction that would alleviate the communication problems I had been contending with for the duration of the semester.

That being said, I am still behind schedule. I will finish this project, just not as soon as I had wished to, failing on the timing aspect of my scope. I would say to those who would aim to follow a similar path that it would be prudent to establish, quite honestly with themselves, how good they are at management, communication, and art design; keep open and prompt lines of communication with all involved parties and don't even begin until all possibilities have been scoped and demand has been established. Not doing so thoroughly enough more or less cost me a semester, and it would make me sad to see that happen to future students. On the whole, while I didn't learn anything particularly new, I was given reminders I didn't realize I needed, but am nonetheless glad to have going into art school this upcoming fall. Art is a world where talent, skill, and marketability are all of reasonable importance, a thing well kept in mind for the introverted artist.