

Alim Smith: Afro-surrealist Painter



Artist: Alim Smith is a modern, african american artist who specializes in surreal portraits. Smith first entered the world of art as a young boy who simply loved to create. In middle school he created his first piece that sold, a portrait for his mother's friend. This was the original source of inspiration that grew into his career as a portrait artist. During this time Smith was also introduced to the main inspiration for his surrealist style, M.C. Escher. The subject matter of his works is largely inspired by pop culture and the black community he grew up in. All of these elements combined is what created his current style of "afro-surrealist" portraits.

World and Audience: Smith is devoted to creating art that is inspired by entertainment, women, and black culture. He aims to represent the American black community and the culture they have within. The presence of black culture in his work serves as a form of self-expression and education. His artwork is for all people to see the impact black people and their culture have on entertainment.

Subjective Frame: What emotions are expressed in Smith's artwork? What elements support and convey this message?

Structural Frame: Describe how elements and principles are used in the composition.

Cultural Frame: What cultural group(s), race, place, identities, are represented?

Postmodern Frame: What is appropriated, or quoted from another source. Why was this source chosen?

Artwork: Smith's work uses bold, bright colors along with exaggerated proportions. The visual weight of these proportions are carefully organized to create an asymmetrical balance.



Snoop

20x16

Chalk/Acrylic paint

Vocabulary:

Culture: the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group.

Surrealism: a 20th-century *avant-garde* movement in art and literature which sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind, for example by the irrational juxtaposition of images.

Symbolism: the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities

Portrait: a painting, drawing, photograph, or engraving of a person, especially one depicting only the face or head and shoulders.

Balance: the distribution of the visual weight of objects, colors, texture, and space

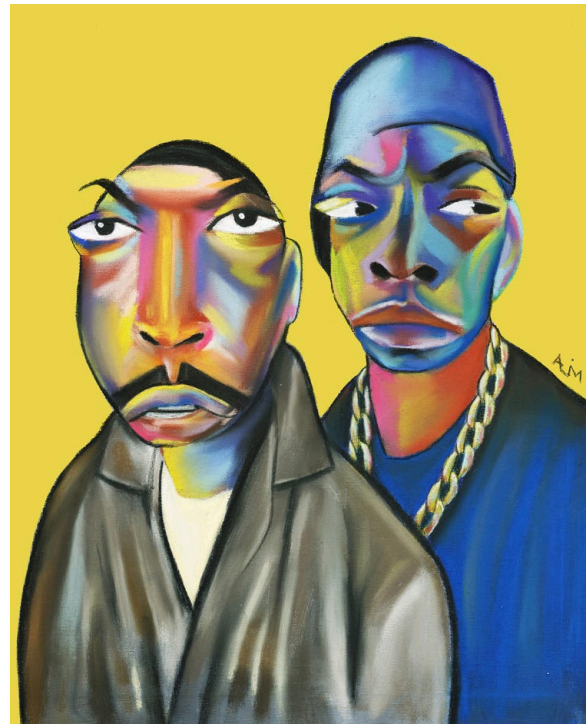
Proportion: the relationship between the different sized components within one whole composition



Untitled

20x16

Oil on Canvas



Untitled

20x16

Chalk/Acrylic paint

Ideas for artwork and research:

- List things that influence you
- Take a series of photos of people around you and notice what you emphasize
- Make a series of small paintings that tell an audience about your life. Think about what you would include
- Display your work in a place fit for your selected audience.

Sources:

<https://yesterdaynite.com/bio>

<https://www.instagram.com/yesterdaynite/?hl=en>