

Senior Capstone

Kira Parle

Mentor: Terry Thompson



Introduction:

From as long as I can remember, the answer I've used to the question "what are your hobbies?" was "drawing". Nowadays, I have multiple things to state, but I am always inclined to respond with "drawing" first, and then I go on to list my other hobbies. Art is said to be something that artists use to express themselves and their ideas, or emotions. While I definitely use it for that, I find myself stopping in the middle of a "vent art" (art that someone may make when feeling an extreme negative emotion, such as anger or sadness- basically venting your feelings out onto your canvas) and realizing that I am no longer wanting to continue it, as I was no longer feeling that kind of emotion. Only recently did I realize that I was actually not only using that art to express myself, but to calm myself down subconsciously, and it worked! Ever since I started high school, I've found myself branching out so much in terms of art media, as well as beginning to take my own art much more seriously. In more recent years, I've become very interested in digital art, and I now consider myself both a traditional artist and a digital artist. Many a time I have found myself contemplating on whether or not to use my art as a career- however, the more I have looked into it, the more I find myself wondering if my art was even good enough to make a career out of it. At first I really wanted to become a character designer- or something along those lines- and to be honest it still lingers in the back of my mind. However, I have come to realize that I don't make use of my creativity well enough. Only recently have I been able to experiment with my character designs as I used to limit myself so much in my art. I feel as though I still am, as it is hard for me to let go of it, which is why I do not think I could realistically become a character designer. So, instead, I believe I will continue to keep my art as a hobby for myself- or if I really do get my art to a point where I really like it, I may begin to actually take commissions as another way to gain extra money.

Essay:

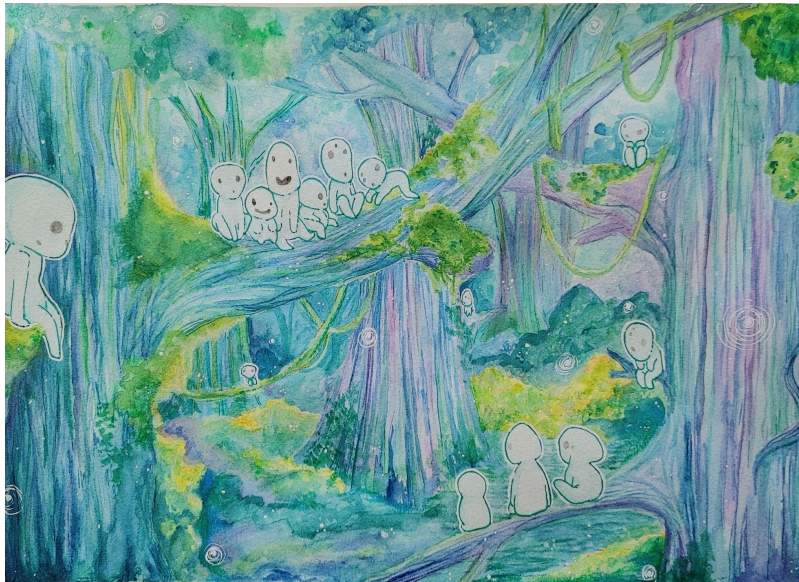
I have grown up using art in a number of ways- to express my emotions, to calm myself down, and to make my ideas come to life are just a few ways that I have used it to my advantage. I personally believe that my art and the way I use it definitely fit into the "Student Learning Outcomes" that have been set- quality producer and complex thinker, collaborative worker and effective communicator, and well rounded and community contributor, are all things that I actively think about when I make art, especially the first one!

For the quality producer and complex thinker SLO, I believe my art fits the most into this category. I understand that if I were to give up on a piece of work then it will either never be finished, or I will rush it just to be done with it and be unhappy with my results- however, although it definitely happens sometimes, this outcome is not something I actively strive for. To counter this, I try to adapt myself and my art- and I learn from my mistakes and use those mistakes to build off and learn so that when making a new piece, I will not make the mistake again. I try not to beat myself up over mistakes in my art because I know that I can really try as much as I can with a single piece, and if I get bored of it, I can come up with new ideas to build off of it to keep myself interested in it still- this way I do not burn myself out from trying to do the same things over again, and therefore I am able to create art I am happy with while also trying something new. I believe that one piece of art that I struggled with yet still finished would be my second time using oil pastel. I had only used the medium once a few years prior and my piece did not turn out how I imagined it would. But, this second time I was really proud of it

because I persevered and kept tweaking the artwork.

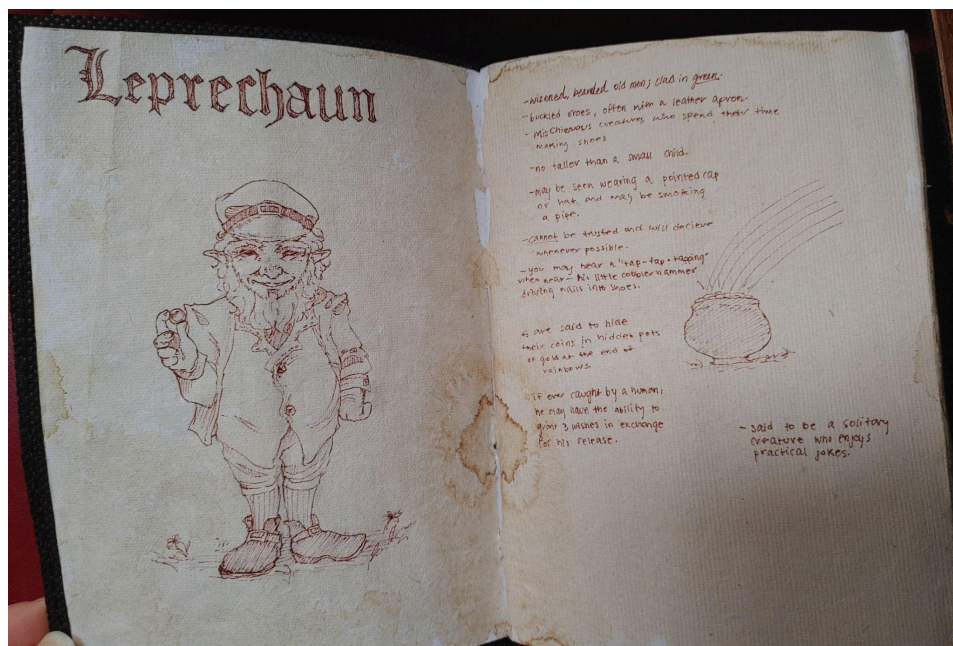


The collaborative worker and effective communicator SLO is also another thing that I have often come up with in my art journey. I enjoy doing artist collaborations as it helps me to build my teamwork, as well as relationships in some cases! When I do collaborations, it helps me to think outside the box, but to also work with those I am collabing with to make sure the final piece comes out well! Even projects that do not require active communication still have to do with teamwork- such as the poem/art exchange that my art class did with the modern literature class. Those who wrote the poems needed just enough detail so that the artists could interpret their poems, and vice versa! I think that project definitely had a lot of indirect teamwork at play. I love to listen to other artists (and also non artists~!) about their ideas because it helps me realize that my range in the artistic world goes so much farther than my brain can comprehend sometimes, so I often limit my own creative abilities. However, hearing others and taking inspiration from the media inspires me to come up and really think about my own unique ideas.



For the well rounded and community contributor SLO, I think it really should come naturally to many artists! Art is meant to be used as a medium of expression. One should never enter into the vast universe of art with a closed mind. An artist should always be open minded because you will always stumble upon those who disagree, or see something differently to you. As an artist, I always respect people in their own opinions, especially if they are using their art as a way to express it. When I share my art on any platform, or even just in real life, I hope that I

will be able to inspire others with it no matter if they are an artist or not. I love to get my inspiration from others and I like to think that my art inspires others just the same. An example of this would be my unit 5 project- I created a field guide to creatures of Irish myth. I had drawn the creatures in a style which was inspired by many field guide artists- a style which is not my normality. So, I like to share my art with others, and it helps to get my art out there when art classes have me turn in an artwork for a festival or showing.



Although I've only recently started to take my art seriously and understand what I wanted from it, it has always been a part of my life. I've finally found that I want to be able to share my art with others to help spark their own creativity in themselves. I have always been told that people express themselves and their opinions with their art, so I have grown up to be very open minded when viewing others' pieces. Art is a very important part of my life, and I personally think that it fits very well with each of the SLO's. I believe that each of these aspects are very important when it comes to being an artist.

Future Plans:

My future plans would definitely have to start with graduating high school- which is only really a few months away! My next step in life would be to continue working at my current job and continue to save up money for myself. This summer, I am planning to try and enter an apprenticeship where my father works. If it is the kind of work I can see myself being good at, then I will continue to work there and continue to save up as much as I can. While I am still in the working stages, I would like to continue my hobby of drawing. I would like to get my art to a level where I am happy with my art- happy enough to be able to start taking commissions and actually being proud of my work. My end goal is really just to settle down with someone and start a family. I want to be a stay at home mother as it is what I am the most passionate about. This kind of future sounds like the ultimate happiness to me and although it may be hard and there will always be setbacks, I want to try to keep this as my goal. I am an aunt and my nephew is my pride and joy already, and honestly I have always wanted to be a mother but when my nephew was born, it made me realize how much I really wanted to be a mom! So, future plans would be to finish highschool, save up money, build a career, find someone and settle down, then become a stay at home mother and raise children. It is basically the "American Dream" that I really want, and I hope to achieve.

Cover Letter:

17 April 2023

Kira Parle

Santa Clara Valley Water District,

I was excited to be informed of the apprenticeship program beginning in the summer of 2023. Fresh out of high school, I would love to begin my career as soon as possible, and with this apprenticeship, I'd be able to. Many people in my family are electricians, and I have decided that it's the right job for me through my observation of the job. I am applying for this apprenticeship to be able to take up and have a career as an electrician. I am certain that my addition to the apprenticeship would work well in the company's favor.

I have a great willingness to learn on the job and I jump at the opportunity to learn more about this field. I have a strong work ethic and it is something that I am confident in. I can easily adapt myself to new situations and I am able to work well with others. In my previous work experience, they were understaffed, requiring me and the others working there to do the work other staff would have been doing. I am willing to undertake tasks outside of a job's stated requirements for the betterment of the company and the other employees working there. I have strong physical endurance in my job and I am often tasked to do more heavy lifting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application. I look forward to hearing from you. A apprenticeship at Santa Clara Valley Water District would be a great first step in my career.

Sincerely,

Kira Parle

Kira Parle
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EDUCATION:

- San Lorenzo Valley High School, Felton, CA, (2019 -present)
- San Lorenzo Valley Middle School, Felton, CA (2016-2019)
- Boulder Creek Elementary School, Boulder Creek, CA (2010-2015)

MEMBERSHIP:

- none

LEADERSHIP:

- none

SERVICE:

- Volunteered at Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project (2006-2020)

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- Redwood Christian Park, Boulder Creek, CA 2021-present

INTERESTS & HOBBIES:

- Drawing, Painting, Cooking, Baking, Reading

FUTURE GOALS:

- I plan to apply to an apprenticeship at the Santa Clara Valley Water District and potentially make a career out of it.

REFERENCES:

- Tom Shannon (Boss)
- Emily Johnson (Coworker)
- Terry Thompson (Art/ Ceramics Teacher at SLV)