

Your Own Art Experience

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ART-130-H001

Dr. Fee

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Visual Investigation



Taking Flight by Emily Ding, 2024.

The local artwork I have chosen for this project (pictured above) is titled *Taking Flight* and was created by Emily Ding in 2024. According to the website featuring this artwork, Emily Ding is described as a muralist who draws inspiration from the natural world, “Resonating deeply with the phenomena of the natural world, she aims to communicate emotions and experiences through storytelling with wild creatures” (Disney, 2024). This mural is painted on a section of a tall brick/cement fence surrounding a part of Disney Springs in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The painting is of a rabbit, birds, and flora. The background of the painting features bright colors, reminiscent of the shades of sunset, beginning with pink across the top and then fading down into a softer orange, then yellow, and green on the bottom. The colors of the background are blended well, fading into each other and provide depth to the painting.

The focal point of this artwork is a rabbit mid-leap in the very center, facing the left side of the painting. The rabbit is painted and blended with the same colors as the background, with short brush strokes used to imply shape and the texture of the fur. The rabbit is also highlighted

with short brush strokes in white to draw the eye of the viewer and further indicate texture. There are eight birds in various positions of flight interspersed across the painting around the rabbit, all facing the left side of the artwork, giving the impression that the rabbit is also in flight with the birds while leaping, or a part of the flock, heading to the same destination. The birds are painted in the same shades of the background (pinks, oranges, yellows, and greens), with darker tones and shading used to highlight their shape, texture, and bring contrast to brighter highlighting seen in the rabbit. Along the entire bottom edge of the painting are different plants with long, narrow leaves, in varying shades of green, yellow, and with hints of soft orange. There are two flowers toward the left side of this section of the painting, and three clovers on the very bottom right corner of the painting. Overall, the painting gives the impression that the subject is seeking freedom or escape, as if the rabbit is flying away with the flock of birds.

Recreation



In this recreation of Emily Ding’s artwork *Taking Flight* (pictured above), I utilized a few different media processes. I began with an approximate sketch of the mural using a mechanical pencil, drawn on a piece of thin watercolor paper. Once the general lines of the artwork were on the paper, I drew over the lines using Crayola crayons in the different shades featured in the original mural. The crayons provide most of the shading and coloring of the recreation. Following this step, I painted over the entire drawing in watercolor, beginning with light pink on the top and fading down into yellow, orange, and green on the bottom, in a general approximation of the original artwork. After this, I used acrylic paint in white, light purple, green, yellow, orange, and pink to add shading and highlighting. Acrylic paint was also used to fill in, shade, and highlight the eyes of the rabbit and birds. As a final step, I cut the edges of the watercolor paper and glued it onto construction paper so that it would hold its shape better after the watercolor paint dried.

I found the entire recreation process to be fun and easy. The original artwork is very visually pleasing to look at, with nature as the subject and the bright colors. Working with this subject and color palette was an enjoyable experience overall. Sketching, coloring, and painting are all media processes that are very familiar to me, so the recreation of this artwork was not as challenging as I thought it would be. The total recreation process took about two to three hours total from start to finish. I chose this media process because I thought it would provide the best recreation of the original artwork. I also had all of the materials for this process on hand.

Contextualization

Regarding my overall opinion of this artwork, I think that it is absolutely stunning. I am always drawn to bright colors, and I love artwork featuring elements of nature. The color pink used at the top of the painting is complimentary of the shade of green at the bottom, which

makes the artwork visually pleasing and further highlights the focal point. I particularly appreciate how the artist was able to softly blend all of the colors together, while at the same time giving the focal point just the right amount of emphasis to draw the viewer's attention without detracting from the rest of the painting. At first glance, the rabbit looks as if it is flying away with the flock of birds, another feature of the painting that I particularly enjoy.

This artwork is an obvious representation of nature but provides an emotional context as well. The rabbit seems as if it wants to fly away, possibly seeking freedom or escape from the confines of the ground or another unknown entity. This mural was created in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, so there is cultural value infused into the artwork as well. I believe that the intended audience of this artwork is people of all ages regardless of gender, and it likely attracts quite a large audience of people from many different locations and backgrounds given the site at a popular Disney World destination.

All of the previously discussed visual elements enhance the artwork. The use of bright and complimentary colors, different brush strokes, shading and highlighting all work together to make this artwork visually appealing. The overall impression that I get from viewing this work of art is an appreciation for the beautiful simplicity of nature. This mural reminded me of the art and science module, particularly the section entitled "Art Celebrating the Natural World". I have always loved artwork featuring elements of nature, such as landscapes, flowers, and animals. They are generally very peaceful to observe, and this artwork has an emotional dimension, which is an enhancing aspect. Overall, the artwork is beautiful, expressive, and fun to look at.

References

Ding, E. (2024). *Taking flight* [Painting]. ArtWalk, Disney Springs.

Disney. (2024). *Artwalk: A canvas of expression*. Disneysprings.com.

<https://www.disneysprings.com/attractions/art-walk/>