

THE ART OF STORYTELLING:

AN ANALYSIS OF THE INTERMINGLED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
VISUAL ART AND LITERATURE THROUGH A STUDIO-BASED SELF-STUDY

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Research Questions:

What are some artists' practices and approaches to relating their artmaking to writing?

- How can I establish a relationship between my own writing and visual artworks?
- What is the role of storytelling through art and literature in my own work?

Methodology

I have pursued a studio-based self study consisting in creating a body of work where each original piece of visual artwork is partnered with an original piece of writing. I have created a series of paintings and poems, using photo documentation throughout, and writing journal entries reflecting on the process of creating each pair of them. The methodology of my work was framed in three different ways:

1. Creating a painting and then writing a poem afterwards to go along with it
2. Writing a poem first and then creating the painting inspired by it
3. Combining the poetry text onto the physical art piece

Data Collection



Process #1: Painting Before Writing



Transference, Oil paint on wooden panel, 16" x 20"

Transference

The two of them met at twilight
entangled in the glistening fog.
She desired the thrill of being discrete
a trait of hers that he was attracted to
But he was not attracted to her for good intentioned motives
She had what he needed and gave him her all
He gladly accepted and didn't mind watching her fall

She must have felt so desperate
to fill him back up with energy and life
That she overlooked the deceit in his gaze
as he captured her light
Before she knew it she was drained completely
He sucked the life from her to use it as he liked
The energy transference will help him last the night.

“Writing the poem afterwards allowed me to give more context to the audience in order for them to connect more with the setting and characters of my story especially when interpreting the combination of them as one whole art piece.”

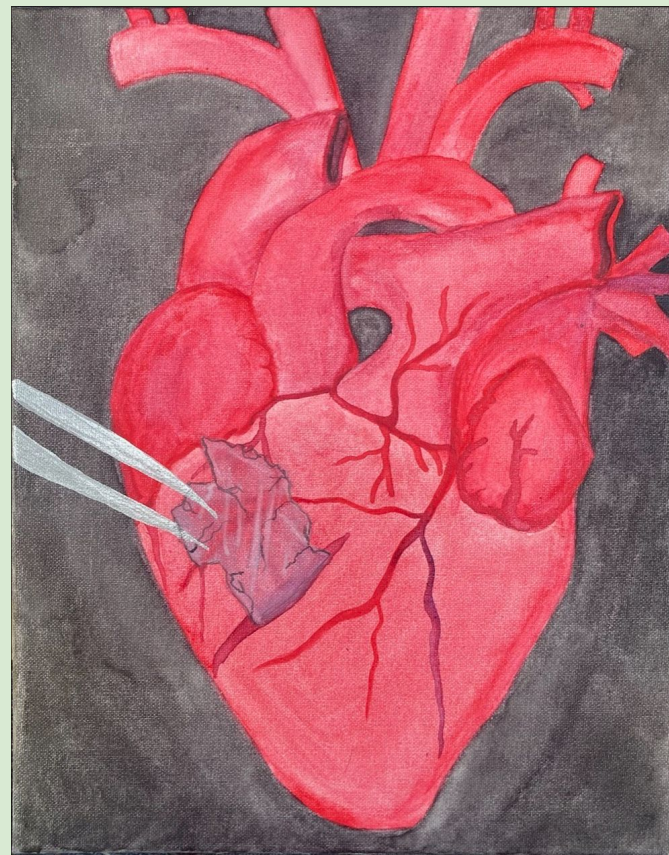


Process #2: Writing Before Painting

Extraction

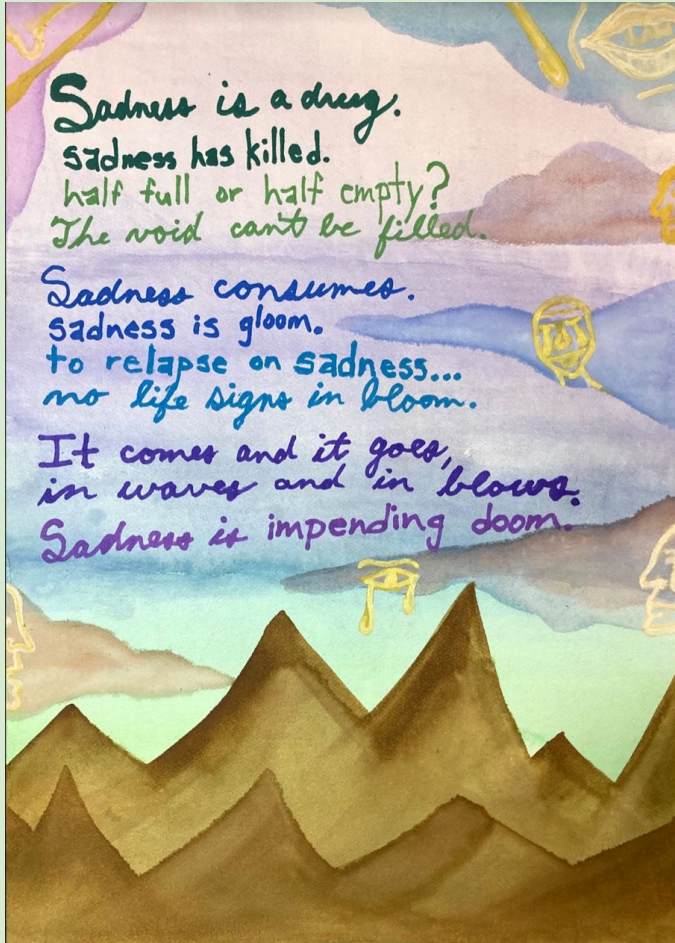
When I suspect to be slipping back into the darkness
I realize that you aren't familiar with it
And that makes me think that you don't even know who I am
But then I realize...
that was never really me
and you don't recognize it only bc you took away what was within me
that didn't belong there in the first place.

“My methods of writing before the painting were different, because I had many more possibilities for the appearance of the visual artwork; rather than beginning with a specific scene and then writing something based on that.”



Extraction, Watercolor paint and oil-based paint marker on stretched canvas, 11" x 14"

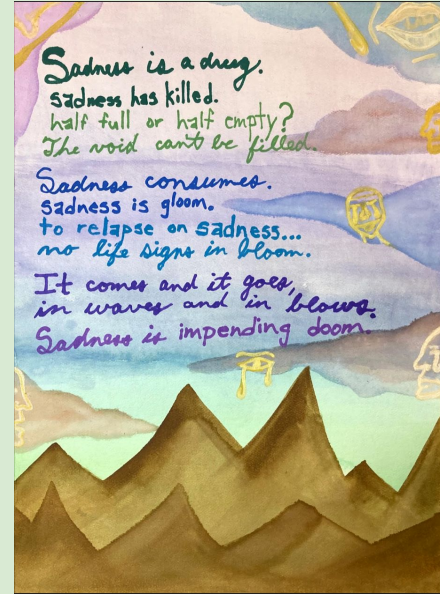
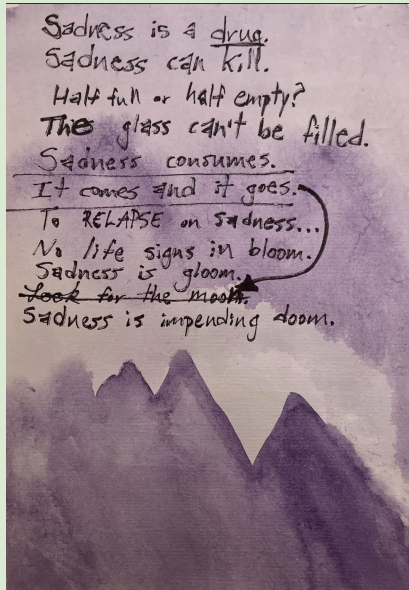
Process #3: Combining Text into Composition



The Faces In the Sky are Crying, Watercolor Paint and oil-based paint markers on watercolor paper, 9" x 12"

“Throughout the third part of my project, I attempted to work simultaneously on developing my visual artwork and my literary work to the best of my ability. I believe that this resulted in one more complex process of developing ideas rather than two separate steps as I did for the other two parts which resulted in a less dynamic use of storytelling.”

Sadness is a drug.
Sadness ~~can kill~~ has killed.
Half full or half empty?
The void can't be filled.
Sadness consumes
to relapse on sadness...
no life signs in bloom.
Sadness is gloom.
It comes and it goes
in waves and in blows.
~~Sadness~~ Sadness is impending
doom.



findings

1. I found that the combination of literary work and visual artwork helped me, as a storyteller, provide a written explanation of my themes, characters, and settings, while also elaborating on them through a visual reference.
2. The aspect that I chose to do first was always worked on less than the second part that was inspired by it.
3. The experience of each of the three creative processes impacted the final results of the art and writing pieces differently.



1. The combination of art and literature can be used to aid artists or writers struggling with “writer’s/creative block”.
2. These methods of storytelling could be used to draw out a person’s inner thoughts, and feelings that they are trying to manage.
3. These storytelling processes could be used to teach art and literature in or out of the school setting.

THANK YOU

