

DESIGN DECODED 2021 : ART EXHIBITION



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Luk Socrates

Middle-Aged Man

Mastering the techniques in drawing a child without any reference is a real challenge because it requires good memorization and accurate computations. The toddlers on medieval paintings were fully formed-man, or the most notable term Homunculus. It has the features of a man packed with sculpted musculature and old facial features. The bizarre features of the children in medieval paintings are the influence of the formation of **MIDDLE-AGED MAN** sculpture. It is a tribute to each homunculus that I have seen on Madonna and child paintings. The unrealistic appearance of the child felt wrong but at the same time right.

In art school, our professor in anatomy class taught us how to create a 1-year-old child with a proper proportion, and before we proceeded, we were required to draw a 1-year-old child without any reference, and the results were appalling. Some drew a child that has an alien head shape with adorable eyes. Based on my observation, nobody reached a quality like a homunculus on a medieval painting. With that experience, I used it as an inspiration in conceptualizing the sculpture, which resulted in an appropriated portrait of a homunculus.

The purpose of this work is to create visual imagery of a departure from the period where we, as an artist, make an inaccurate proportion of human figure to master and calculate the lengths of the body parts. The assorted homunculus is placed in a cave-like compartment because it is an amalgamation of styles and periods. While the painted figures inside are inspired by the tapestry in that era.

The large child on the right side represents the improvement from homunculus to a semi-realistic appearance. It is just a representation of the act of 'Departure'. While the back of the sculpture features a cartoonish person carrying a miniaturized human being, which gives reference to Portinari Altarpiece by Hugo van der Goes. The painting depicts a nativity scene, and as you look closely, the infant on the ground looks like a miniaturized 7-year-old child instead of an infant. Lastly, the painted snails on the stand are referencing the trend of the 13th to 15th century illustrated manuscripts about knights that fight enormous snails. The purpose of this is to add more contextual aesthetics, similar to their utilization of Knights and snails when designing their manuscripts.

Middle-aged man sculpture is a tribute to the uniqueness of the 13th to the 15th-century art style and my experience in our anatomy class. I have tried creating artwork that features a similar interpretation. Unfortunately, the simplistic design of this period is too difficult for me. It is a real challenge, especially capturing each homunculus in a 3d form.

I have a genuine interest in this art period. I dedicate myself as an artist to understand the characteristics of 13th-century paintings and apply them to my upcoming projects. The middle-aged man is the first sculpture that I have created that pays homage to this specific era. To understand it, I must unlearn the things that I have learned in our anatomy class.

LUK SOCRATES
Middle-Aged Man

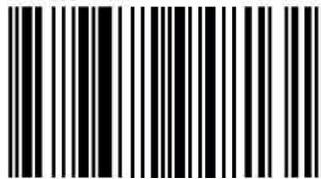
Concrete sculpture
H 11.8" L7" W2"
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