

I love storytelling, and am a firm believer that every piece of art tells a story. This one is no different. I have always been one to daydream, and I have often found comfort with escapism. Being able to immerse myself in another world has allowed me to break from the strenuous nature that life brings. Inspired by the storytelling nature of stained glass windows, my love of storytelling and escapism ties together well in this narrative style piece.

I used lots of oceanic imagery in this piece (not just because of my love for pirates and the sea), but to also contribute to the dramatic, seabound narrative. My idea came from sketching a rough drawing of a skeleton after feeling uninspired, and from there a story was born. I digitally drew out the separate limbs of the skeleton, and using Premiere Pro, I animated the different pieces to give the hint of movement.

I don't usually work digitally, but over the past few months I have made a gradual return to the medium. I think digital drawing was my best option considering my short timeframe, and a lack of materials to actually make a full stained glass window. In addition to working digitally, I thought I would use it to my advantage. The still-painting, although interesting in and of itself, didn't really involve the viewer. I wanted to make something more immersive that would make people go "Wow, look at that! The skeleton is waving! That's sick!"

I was inspired by the artists Gerhard Richter and Gustav Klimt. I was specifically inspired by Richter's painting, *Seestück*. I really admire how he is able to create such photo-realistic paintings, and in this case I draw heavy inspiration from his use of color and wave texture. My use of gold and texture was also inspired by Klimt, after having been reintroduced to him by a fellow student in the past few weeks.

I want my audience to come up with their own interpretation of what the narrative of this piece means, and to try and tell their own version of the story. Come find me! I would love to hear about what you think.

DEAD MEN DON'T FLOAT

Sawyer S.