

For my final project, I wanted to think about a way to incorporate an element of human influence on nature in my piece. Commercialization is something we are exposed to everyday, but we rarely realize how it influences our lives. The concept of brands turning animals into mascots or advertisements stood out to me because most of these companies, in one way or another, have an effect on the natural habitat of their mascot. Animals are very commonly used for marketing purposes especially in food products, for example, goldfish crackers. The anglerfish and its eager approach represents the role we play in society as consumers, impulsively buying new products with exciting packaging or cute mascots.

I used oil paint on a piece of wood that I cut and sanded into a circle. I started with a base coat of gesso so the oil wouldn't seep into the board, and then did a planning sketch to make sure the proportions worked. Instead of planning my color palette I chose the colors of my painting as I created it, so the vision didn't come together until it was on the canvas. For the dimension with shading and highlights, I thought about how the light source would interact with the shape of the subject in the dark underwater setting. The single light source creates an ominous and uneasy atmosphere as the goldfish are not yet aware of the anglerfish in the void of the sea, hiding behind a welcoming light.

THE SNACK THAT SMILES BACK

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