

Beauty and the Beast – Artistic Statement

This illustration piece was mostly inspired by “Beauty and the Beast.” I geared towards the emotion of romance but with a dark turn by twisting the warm feeling of being lovey dovey into fear. I chose the rose as the focal point because it is the most powerful symbol in the story. To capture the feeling of the ticking clock in the story, I drew the perfume bottle which is less than half full. To hint on the disparity between Belle and the Beast, I included two books in my composition. They not only hint on Belle’s love of books and the Beast’s former caliber as a prince but also on their compatibility regardless of their differences. The book on the top has a strap, while the one at the bottom has two tones (indicating the Beast's dual personality). The pearls symbolize the delicateness of love and beauty through pain (because pearls can't be made without oysters’ pain).

While the rose is the focal point, the pearls also bring a nice leading line to the composition. The two books are placed at an angle. The strap of the top book leads into the bottom book, while the tone of the bottom book leads back to the top book, hinting on a romantic chemistry between the two. The rose (the focal point) leads eyes to the strap, and then the two books; then the pages of the books move the eyes further toward the pearls and then back to the perfume bottle, and finally back to the focal point, the rose.

To express fear further, I used dramatic lighting to create dark shadows on the left, foreshadowing the challenges the two must go through. This mysterious setting also accentuates the Beast's horrifying secret. The contrast of dark shadows and bright highlights enhances the fear and mystery. Meanwhile, the soft cloth knits in the warm feelings of romance, while the dark shadows looming over the entire scene accentuates fearful feelings. Overall, I attempted to cast the story "Beauty and the Beast" from a different angle, emphasizing on the fearful secret that unfolds throughout this story, a family-friendly tale that is "as old as time."