Athena Ludwig

Dr. Baker

Survey of Art History I

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This I Believe Personal Statement

When it comes to my art, I believe in the idea of escapism. All my life, escapism has been an important coping mechanism to me, and very often, it was the only way I could get through the day. When I was younger, I would always find that escape in mythology. With a name like Athena, it was inevitable I would have a penchant for folklore. As I grew older, though, I found solace in media such as video games, comic books, and cartoons. The art style I use most is heavily influenced by modern comic book art, and the bright neon colors I tend to lean towards are influenced by the bright and eccentric cartoons I grew up with. With this piece, I used my normal style, but decided to stray from my normal use of eye-straining colors. To make up for the lack of visual overwhelmingness, I decided to make the topic more whimsical. Going back to my love for mythology, I had always had a keen interest in Japanese folklore, specifically in the topic of yokai. Yokai are supernatural creatures that range from malevolent to helpful. My favorites are the Kitsune and Tanuki, both being trickster spirits based on animals. I had always loved the playful nature of the creatures, and I thought it would be interesting to see the chemistry between them as a married couple owning a “market” in which they would use as a guise to swindle people. This piece depicts the couple haggling with a wandering elf to earn some extra cash.