

Practitioner Statement 2

Bangtan Sonyeondan

This practical piece *Bangtan Sonyeondan* is about expressing my personal interest for K-pop, I chose to draw my bias group Bangtan Sonyeondan (BTS). Most of my time is invested in all things Kpop and BTS; watching MVs, variety shows, dance practice videos, Vlive, social media, buying merchandise, attending concerts and keeping up with the latest songs/groups comebacks. I first got interested in K-pop about six years ago and have never stopped listening.

I put a lot of thought into how I would represent Bangtan Sonyeondan since they are a very popular and famous K-pop group. The member always put one hundred and ten percent into their group BTS, long hours of dance practices, photoshoots, producing new songs, concerts and having an active social communication with fans. I wanted to put in some hard work to show my gratitude for all the effort they contribute into BTS.

I thought about many compositions I could draw them in, I decided not to go with a group shot drawing because I thought a series of separate drawings would have more interest. It took me quite a while to find the perfect images of all seven members since there are thousands of photos of them. I came across a series of photos that fit with my concept and my artistic aesthetic. The original photos are from BTS LIVE TRILOGY EPISODE III WINGS TOUR 2017 face photo collection. This series had seven photos for each member of BTS, I chose photos that best fitted my artistic aesthetic; contrast, interest, angles/zoomed and intense facial features.

Each drawing in my practical piece *Bangtan Sonyeondan* all had heavy contrast of black and white combined with detailed/subtle features. The original photos had a black background but I decided to leave it white to make the members of BTS faces the focus point. I got some negative and slightly racist feedback from peers; that they all look the same because they're Asian, they look like females/gay and why are you drawing the same guy seven times. I found this very offensive because as a fan I know that they work so hard and to be facing stigmas against race in 2017 is ridiculous.

My art genre can be defined as traditional portraiture/ realistic portraiture. I find that I am best at creating realistic, photo-like portrait drawings. My drawing materials are kept simple by only using a 0.7 graphite pacer and a blending tool. My aesthetic as an artist is very evident in this piece, high contrast, soft tonal value work and realistic portraiture. I feel that I was triumphant in expressing my gratitude for BTS and producing high quality/ realistic portraits.