## Portfolio Assignments

Western Washington University - Department of Design

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Formstorming
2. Letterform Composition
3. Complete the Shape
4. Ideal Multi-Tool
5. Graphic Simplification
6. Instructional Comic
7. Adjective/Noun Illustration

In addition to the solutions for these assignments, also include 3 additional projects of your choice in the final portfolio application. For full application details, refer to the admissions page where you can find the Application Requirements and Online Application Form: design.wwu.edu/admissions.html.

## PROJECT 1. FORMSTORMING / OUTLINE

Choose a single subject from this list; Horseshoes, Lightning Bolts, Clovers, Moons, Suns, Diamonds, or Skulls.

Create 18 unique Photos that communicate the subject you've selected. Show the whole subject or just portions, explore visual puns, abstractions and/ or oblique depictions. This project will demonstrate your ability to:
-Select/Produce highly communicative images i.e. Curation
-Generate multiple solutions to a single question i.e. Lateral Thinking
-Express or Evoke a concept i.e. Direct vs Indirect Communication
CONSTRAINTS: Original Photos Only; Square Format, Analog Manipulation.

The sample images shown below represent visual and conceptual interpretations of "A Rainbow."

Some of them show the Rainbow form Literally or Directly such as the dishes and ribbons.

Others use a Rainbow Conceptually such as the books or marble.
The prism in the center refers to the Rainbows it will produce without showing a rainbow, therefore Abstractly or Indirectly.

SAMPLE BY P KEARSLEY 2022


## PROJECT 1. FORMSTORMING / EXAMPLE 2

The sample images shown below represent visual and conceptual interpretations of "Star."

Some are Found such as the flag, window, and logos
Some are Made such as the vegetables and scissors.
They are all Very Professional looking, as if they could be featured in a stock photo collection.

They all speak very directly to the Star Form.


The sample images shown below represent visual and conceptual interpretations of "Heart".

## Some are Found, some are Made.

Some are Direct, some are Indirect.
They are all Very Professional looking, as if they could be
featured in a stock photo collection.


## PROJECT 1. FORMSTORMING / TEMPLATE

Using the 2 provided grid templates create 18 unique photos total that communicate the single subject you selected from the provided list.

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Include both Found Objects (instances of the symbol on products, signs etc) as well as some Hand-made compositions (arranging leaves or stones, food art, etc.)
- Include both Direct and Indirect Communications of your subject.
- The images should be your own and intentionally composed using design principles and striving for a professional quality.
- Any image manipulations should occur to a physically printed version outside of the computer (ie. collage, cut \& paste, drawing and coloring)

Choose one subject:
Horseshoes
Lightning Bolts
Clovers
Moons
Suns
Diamonds

- Do not use Digital Filters or Digital Tools.

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Using only the Provided Text, create 3 unique Compositional Collages.
Cut out and arrange these words and paragraphs to create visually interesting layouts with clear focal points, hierarchies, and compositional themes.

The goal is to understand how space, alignment and subtle typographic differences (bold, italic, all caps, letter spacing) can be used to establish pattern/repetition and then variation to signal difference and indicate a flow/ focal points.

CONSTRAINTS: You may only use the provided text samples. Focus on craftsmanship and hide any adhesives etc.

ADDITIONAL INFO:
Use a Practical Creative Process:

1. Cut clean lines using an Exacto Knife, straight edge and cutting mat.
2. Organize a rough composition and then take a picture with your phone.
3. Play with a range of compositions and then select the strongest ones.
4. Use a glue-stick to mount the final compositions onto the template.
5. Photograph or Scan the Finished Products.

- Consider Design Principles, such as Balance, Hierarchy and Contrast.
- Work towards excellent Craftsmanship.
- Do not use Digital Typographic Tools.


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The sample images below show a diversity of concepts.
Some are Rectilinear, with elements squared up to the Grid.
Some use Diagonals to move the viewers outside of the Grid.
Some use Organic shapes in contrast to the straight and square lines of text.

They are all Very Professional looking, as if they could be featured in a Magazine Layout.

SAMPLE GRIDS:




SAMPLE BY M GILBERT 2022


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## PROJECT 3. COMPLETE THE SHAPE I OUTLINE

## Transform each shape provided into a Unique Drawing.

Complete/add-on to these shapes to communicate nine different objects, animals, plants, people, symbols, patterns, etc.
This project will show your Basic Drawing Ability as it relates to creative visual communication.
Demonstrate a Breadth of Ideas by generating multiple diverse solutions to a single problem.

Drawing is used in many ways throughout the design process. These images are only Communicating an Idea, i.e. they are not "Art".

ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Experiment and Brainstorm beyond the initial/obvious ideas.
- Develop a Diversity of Solutions (people places and things).
- Be sure the original shapes are visible in the final drawings. They can be drawn over, but not entirely obscured.
- Use a diversity of Line Weights to help organize the image.
- You may turn the square in any direction.

CONSTRAINTS: Black \& White Only. Pen/Ink Final Drawings.
TEMPLATE

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The sample images below show a Breadth of Ideas, including animals, people, objects and scenes.
These show Basic Drawing Skills which clearly
Communicate an Idea.
Some odd issues include the scale of the basketball, the anatomy of bees and the particulars of combustion in the vacuum of space, but we get the Idea.
They are all very Effective Visual Communication and a great precursor to a more in-depth design process.

ORIGINAL SHAPES:


SAMPLE BY A EGNER 2021


## PROJECT 4. IDEAL MULTI-TOOL / OUTLINE

Select a name from the list below and then Research their Career and Life. Using this research, Conceptualize 3 unique Multi-Tools that would serve their specific needs.
Research their Lives looking for primary themes/fields of work. Take notes on what is important to them, both tangibly and conceptually.

Define the big Problems/Goals. Empathize with this character and try to understand what tools might serve them well.

Develop 3 Relevant Concepts and use basic drawings to communicate your solutions for their ideal Multi-tool.
Be Visual and Explore - feasibility is not a constraint. Please include simple text labels to clarify your ideas.
CONSTRAINTS: Black \& White Only. Pen/Ink Final Drawings, Stick to the List.

1. Katsushika Hokusai (Edo Block Printer)
2. Amelia Earhart (Pioneering Pilot)
3. Temple Grandin (Animal Scientist)
4. Elon Musk (Inventor, Tech Mogul)
5. Athena (Goddess of Wisdom)
6. Lisa Simpson (Intellectual Middle-Child)
7. Rosie the Riveter (WWII recruiting Icon)
8. Marco Polo (Merchant Explorer)
9. Bob Marley (Reggae Musician)
10. Mary Shelley (Gothic Novelist)
11. Pelé (Soccer Legend)
12. Mary Anning (Palaeontoligist / Fossil Hunter)
13. Ruth Bader Ginsberg (Supreme Court Justice)
14. Mildred Dresselhaus (MIT professor / Queen of Carbon)
15. Jane Cooke Wright (Physician / Chemotherapy Discoverer)

ADDITIONAL INFO:

- Investigate a few options and then Be Thorough in your Research.
- Experiment and Brainstorm beyond the initial/obvious ideas. Try to come up with 5 solutions and then select the best 3 .
- Organize the set of 3 by using a Consistent Format across the Boxes which includes a Title, 1-2 Drawings and a few notes/call-outs.
- Use a diversity of Line Weights and fonts to add hierarchy to each idea.

16. Octavia E. Butler (Sci-fi author)
17. Gloria Steinem (Feminist Journalist)
18. Elliott Paige (Trans Actor)
19. Kathleen Hanna (Feminist Punk)
20. Jean-Michel Basquiat (Street Artist)
21. Mary Berry (Food Ambassador)
22. Ai Weiwei (Activist Artist)
23. J.K. Rowling (Wizard Maker)
24. Confucius (Ancient Philosopher)
25. Louis Daguerre (Father of Photography)
26. Afeni Shakur (Tupac's Black Panther Mother)
27. Cesar Chavez (Activist Farmer)
28. MF Doom (Hip-hop DJ)
29. Vandana Shiva (Eco-feminist Scholar)
30. Tan France (Queer-Eye Tailor)

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## PROJECT 4. IDEAL MULTI-TOOL / TEMPLATE

| 1a. Research Notes: | 2. Idea \# 1 |
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| 1b. Define Problems/Goals: |  |

## PROJECT 5. GRAPHIC SIMPLIFICATION / OUTLINE

Transform an Animal Image into a Graphic Icon.
The drawings below show the Progressive Simplification of a photograph into an icon. With each step, less relevant details are omitted to place more emphasis on the remaining visual elements. The final image conveys only the most essential aspects of the original form.
This project focuses on Intermediate Drawing Skills such as working from reference and communicating with a diversity of line languages.

You will demonstrate essential visual communication skills by carefully studying your original reference and curating this process of Stylization.

ADDITIONAL INFO:
Your creative process is divided into 4 steps:

1. Select a Practical Reference Image of an interesting animal. Include the entire body (i.e. not cropped) and a distinctive pose.
2. Create a Photo-realistic Drawing of the animal by thoroughly studying the source image. You may use pencil or pen.
3. Simplify the form into a Line Drawing with hatching or stippling details to represent shadows, highlights or other visual cues. Use ink.
4. Stylize this form into a Black and White Graphic Icon of your animal using more than just the simple silhouette.

CONSTRAINTS: Black \& White Only. Graphite and Ink, Final Drawings.
SAMPLE BY S CHOI 2022


1. original reference animal photograph

## PROJECT 6. INSTRUCTIONAL COMIC / OUTLINE

## Draw Step-by-Step instructions of how a famous person might Make Soup.

Research a famous person's Career and Life. Without using words or symbols, show how they might make soup in nine steps. Give your sequence a onesentence or shorter title including the famous person's name. This project is an opportunity to demonstrate:

- Curating Research into a concise visual depiction of your client.
- Visual Storytelling or Sequential Design.
- Intermediate Drawing and Rendering.

CONSTRAINTS: Black \& White, Ink Final Drawings, 9-Frames, No Text.

ADDITIONAL INFO:
Use a Practical Creative Process:

1. Pick a Person of interest. Make a list of important words/ideas that relate to their life and career.
2. Brainstorm different types of Soup to form a similar list. Try to curate a relationship between the soup and your chosen person.
3. Sketch the Ideas and Frames on Scratch paper. Develop the sequence until it tells a clever story that links to attributes of their life and character.
4. Draw the Final Images on the Provided Template.


## PROJECT 6. INSTRUCTIONAL COMIC / EXAMPLE

Storytelling of this nature is an excellent challenge for Visual Communication. Here are a few additional tips to consider as you work through this project:

- The First Frame establishes a Context and introduces the viewer to the story. Use it well.
- Explore a Variety of Camera Angles. Try each of the following:

1. Context Shots are zoomed out and show the setting/scene.
2. Action Shots show the character during any of the various steps.
3. Detail Shots are zoomed in images of objects and the space.

- The Final Frame communicates closure. It should show the completion of the entire sequence (i.e. The Eating of the Soup.)

Both of these examples show intermediate drawing skills:

- The characters and spaces are generally well proportioned and their anatomy is consistent.
- The Line Work is clean and confident.
- They use a diversity of Line Weights to organize a hierarchy of shapes.
- Each Frame is composed with both positive objects and negative space
- Light and Dark Shapes are well Balanced within each frame and across the entire set of 9 .


## LUKE SKYWALKER IN:



PROJECT 6. INSTRUCTIONAL COMIC / TEMPLATE

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## PROJECT 7. ADJECTIVE/NOUN ILLUSTRATION / OUTLINE

Illustrate an abstract concept using random prompts and indirect communication.

Using your initials and the lists below, select an adjective associated with the first letter of your first name and a noun associated with the first letter of your last name. That word pairing is the "random" Adjective / Noun combination you will visually develop for this assignment. (You may swap the order of your adjective and noun.)
This project demonstrates skills such as Abstract Thinking, Concept Development, and Intermediate Drawing and Rendering.
CONSTRAINTS: Black \& White, Inked Final Image, Square Format, Analog Drawing, Indirect Communication, No Words.

ADDITIONAL INFO:
Use a Practical Creative Process:

1. Write Out both Word Lists corresponding to your initials. Brainstorm different combinations, relationships and concepts.
2. Use small Drawings to play with the ideas you like in a loose creative process.
3. Use Rough Drafts to refine your final idea. Consider the composition of the image in relation to the Principles of Design (Balance, Hierarchy, etc.).
4. Develop Final Images on the Provided Template paying attention to drawing fundamentals (proportion, scale, line quality, contrast etc.).

NOUNS (from your Last Initial)

| ADJECTIVES (from your First Initial) |  |  | NOUNS (from your Last Initial) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ABANDONED | ICY | QUALIFIED | ACTOR | ICE | RAIN |
| ABRUPT | IMMACULATE | QUEASY | ADMIRER | INSECT | RAINBOW |
| ACADEMIC | IMPORTANT | QUICK | AMBULANCE | IRON | REFRIGERATOR |
| AMUSED | INFERIOR | QUIET | ANCHOR |  | ROCKET |
| ARTISTIC | INTELLIGENT |  | ANIMAL | JACKAL |  |
| AWAKE | ITCHY | RABID REBEL | APPLE | JELLY | SANDWICH |
| BAGGY | JAGGED | REVOLVING |  | JEWELLERY | SCHOOL |
| BEEFY | JAM-PACKED | RICH | BALLOON | JUICE | SCOOTER |
| BELLIGERENT | JEALOUS | RIGID | BANANA | KANGAROO | SHAMPOO |
| BOSSY | JITTERY | ROTTEN | BATTERY | KAYAK | SHOE |
| BUMPY | JUBILANT |  | BEACH | KING | SOCCER |
|  | JUICY | SAD | BEARD | KITE | SPOON |
| CARELESS |  | SATISFIED | BED | KNIFE | STONE |
| CHARMING | KEEN | SCARED |  |  | SUGAR |
| CLAMMY | KALEIDOSCOPIC | SECRET | CAMERA | LAMP |  |
| CLUMSY | KIND | SHAKY | CANDLE | LAWYER | TEACHER |
| CROWDED | KNOBBY | SMELLY | CAR | LIGHTER | TELEPHONE |
| CURLY | KOOKY |  | CARPET | LION | TELEVISION |
|  |  | TALKATIVE | CRAYON | LIZARD | TENT |
| DANGEROUS | LACKADAISICAL | TART |  | LOCK | TOMATO |
| DEEPLY | LAME | TEENY | DAUGHTER |  | TOOTHBRUSH |
| DENSE | LAZY | THANKFUL | DEATH | MACHINE | TRAIN |
| DISTANT | LIGHT | TRASHY | DIAMOND | MAGAZINEMAGICIAN |  |
| DYNAMIC | LOATHSOME | TRUSTWORTHY | DISEASE |  | UKULELE |
| EDIBLE |  |  | DOCTOR | MATCH | UMBRELLA |
| ELDERLY | MAGICAL | UGLY | DOG | MICROPHONE | UNICORN |
| ELFIN | MINIATURE | UPBEAT |  | MOTORCYCLE | UNICYCLE |
| ENERGETIC | MISERABLE | USED | EASTER |  |  |
| EXCITED | MIXED MUSHY | VAGUE VENGEFUL | ELEPHANT | NAIL | VASE |
| FAKE |  |  | EYE | NAPKIN NEEDLE | VEGETABLE VULTURE |
| FANCY | NASTY | VENGEFUL <br> VIBRANT | FISH | NEST |  |
| FELINE | NEAT | VIGOROUS <br> VIOLENT |  | NOTEBOOK | WALL |
| FLAKY | NERVOUS |  | FLOWER |  | WHALE |
| FLUID | NIMBLE |  | FOOTBALL FOREST FOUNTAIN | OIL ORANGE | WINDOW WIRE |
| GENTLE <br> GLAMOROUS | NOCTURNAL | WACKY WARPED |  |  |  |
|  | OBEDIENT <br> OBNOXIOUS <br> ODD <br> OLD-FASHIONED <br> ORGANIC | WAVY |  | OYSTER | XYLOPHONE |
| GLOOMY |  |  | GARAGE |  |  |
| GREEDY |  | WIDE-EYED | GRASS <br> GUITAR <br> GLASS | PAINTING | YACHT |
| GUMMY |  | WISE |  | PARROT | YAK |
|  |  |  |  | PENCIL | YAM |
| HANDY | PAERKY | YOUNG YUMMY |  | PIANO | YARDSTICK |
| HEARTY |  |  | HAIR | PIZZAPLANET | YETI |
| HOMELY | PHOBICPLAYFUL |  | HAMBURGER HELICOPTER HELMET HORSE |  | ZEBRA |
| HUNGRY |  | ZANY <br> ZEALOUS <br> ZONKED |  |  | ZIPPER |
|  | PLAYFUL PRIVATE |  |  | QUEEN QUILL | ZIT |

The sample images below show a diversity of concepts.
They are all very Well Crafted Illustrations showing attention-to-detail, comprehensive styles and coherent compositions.

These examples Do Not Literally depict the Noun.
They are all Speaking Indirectly, or Obliquely about their subjects. For example, if your noun is "dog" you may draw a collar, dog tag, bone, paw print, dog house, or anything else that evokes "dog," but you cannot draw the literal dog itself. Explore a range of possible solutions before settling on a final concept.

ADJECTIVES
(from your First Initial)

NOUNS
(from your Last Initial)

Use your Sketchbook to work through a range of ideas and record your creative process.

LIGHT / SHAMPOO
SAMPLE BY L SILVERSTEIN 2022


SECRET / SUGAR


GUMMY / MATCH


EXHAUSTED / TOASTER



[^0]:    Inctur? Am ius alita cus, qui oditiscia siniend uciduscipsum quis andae ommoluptatur aut paruntia voluptas doluptaecae num quidunt iorent aut essitium qui ut et parum et volupti umquass itaturiti od magnit adit landae nos moditassimus eveni tet la poreped quas sim eliquatis estor asitatur saeperum et qui oditiat fuga. Landi natum quodigenimus ne ni aut que re quundem aut dolupta nulluptiorem faccum quo omnissitat.

