

## Art & Design Interests - Foundation Study -1520 words

Something that interests me in art is the use of using today's icons (i.e. celebrities/famous people), this not only gathers interest to today's society but it can change the way people think about that icon forever. My first print that I want to analyse is the Marilyn Monroe 1967 print by Andy Warhol. Warhol was one of the first artists to break that barriers between high and low art meaning that his prints could be sold everywhere. What amazes me is how his Monroe prints are still sold to the masses and now our memory of her in today's life (certainly for the younger generations) is absolutely determined by Warhol's production of her. The use of colours are extremely striking with the hot pink and the vibrant yellows, the piece screams out beauty and sexuality. The simplicity of using three colours in this piece really works. How does the color affect the mood? What I love about this print is that he didn't just create the one, but he created a series of these in different colours. By doing this he wanted to experiment to see if the colour of Monroe would change the way the public perceived the piece.

It's not only people that Warhol has made forever iconic, he has done the same with Campbell soup. The way that the soup can is repeated really gives it a sense of presence and sticks in your mind, again with this piece when I see Campbell soup I automatically think of Warhol, not the soup itself. Warhol takes something we all know in present life and makes it something that people forever know. He has this effect using bold colours and repetition.

Now there are many artists out there that use their art to get someone known, probably the latest one is Graphic designer/street artist Shepard Fairey. When the American elections came along he produced posters of president Obama, using vibrant colours and his distinct street art style, he brought what is known as a very boring subject straight to life. You can buy this everywhere, on t-shirts, on posters, the list is endless.... I love how he has used the colours, it's almost like a stencil but with much more detail, the placement of Obama being in the middle shows that it is all about him (giving him presence) the fact that his head is tilted upwards shows strength. His eyes looking up almost shows that he is thinking about bettering the world. The red white and blue gives a patriotic feeling to the piece, which is incredibly important to most Americans. The type used underneath is bold and in your face giving the defiant feeling that Obama will bring hope and progress to America.

This piece is one of his first, and it is a print of André the Giant, Fairey just like Warhol took someone that everyone knew in the past and made his face famous today. Again it isn't the person that we know, but it is Fairey's art that we now know. The simplicity of this piece works fantastically with a great use of negative space. The emphasis is completely about one thing which is the legendary wrestler, Fairey has simplified all of the looks but has still managed to capture who it is.

This piece is called rise above. The use of the black lines and the full symmetry of the piece really inspire my art/graphic design today. I love the way that the foreground at the background almost subconsciously meet together with the starburst going through the hand. This print really has a political art feel about it just like a new age world war two propaganda poster. The fist is extremely striking, your eyes automatically scan up the print looking from watch right up to the fist. The use of his logo in the watch is a nice added effect as it isn't in your face and is subtle. The watch is the main feature in the piece, this is emphasized by the placement of the starbursts shooting out from it. I feel that this piece has great placement, right from the background to the foreground and has a great focal point. The thing that hit me first was the use of texture, behind most of Fairey's prints he uses a pattern, this can be anything from old posters to ripped pieces of wallpaper.

I have always liked the work of Gilbert and George. They have a huge emphasis with working with symmetry, they divide all their huge prints with black lines (often framed in huge grid structures). Some of their pieces can be a bit risky, showing rude images. The reason that they inspire me is their use of repetition in their prints, as you can see in this particular piece they have repeated six clear objects, but the thing that gives them the twist is that yes from a distance it all looks similar, but when you get close and look further you can see that each repetition is slightly different. Their use of colours are bold and striking, they always make sure the background isn't overpowering the foreground, normally making the background a plain brown or a black and white photo. The focal point in this image starts at the bottom flower then your eyes automatically look up at everything else in the print.

I'm inspired by artists that use typography as a form of expressing themselves. Liam Gillick is a modern day artist that uses type, here he had a number of short texts hung from the ceiling, over time the text moves and different words were made. I like how he managed to take something 2D and make it an installation that becomes 3D. This really does question whether this piece is simply text or a sculpture. The black font is striking and bold making it stand out from the white 'canvas', this really is a good use of 3D negative space, giving the text full acknowledgement in the room.

Nicholas Alexander is an amazing typographical artist, his work is used in many magazines to create new and unique fonts. He inspires me with the amazing detail he uses, making all his fonts sharp and accurate to a point. As you can see on the right is one of his pieces, this is one of his fonts that he has made, he always makes sure to use the right colours in his fonts, here he has chosen an array of pinks and blues that really stand out. I believe that this was made for an album cover.

Robert Gober is a sculptor that inspires lots of my graphical art, his objects are made to unsettle the viewer through strange combinations, absences or deformities. This piece is interesting, it appears to be the lower quarter of a man's leg, complete with trousers, shoes and even hair. The leg sits against a wall and we wonder whether the man has been crushed under a great

weight or weather this part has been severed. What I like is the unusualness of this piece, its not every day that you see something like this that triggers your emotions in so many different ways. Robert wants the aspect of shock with this piece, leaving you to worry as it looks so realistic.

This piece of his is more what I am into, I like placing two objects together that don't make sense, leaving the viewer confused. Again this sculpture combining a tap and a child's legs.

This is takashi murakami, he is one of my biggest inspirations in graphic design. This piece of his is all about bringing graphics and mixing it with fine art, I love the use of bold colours, he has an effective use of negative space, making sure not to overcrowd the print with too much going on. Most of his prints are printed large format nearing 12ft by 24ft, this really makes a bold statement when you see his work first hand. This photo has no real clear focal point, my eyes first look at the middle with the most colour pattern and detail, then after you start to notice all the smaller pieces of detail shooting around the sky.