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Culmination Reflection

Intro:

Culmination during this semester I feel that the difficulty level was not as high as I expected it to be. This is because I was able to use my resources, from my advisors, professors and fellow students to help guide my culmination project in the right direction. Helping me with better organization of my poster, presentation as well as my proposal. However this semester doesn't come without any struggles, and the stress of leading a commission project on my own while also using the skills I learned during my tenure at city tech proved more challenging than previously expected during my first meetings with the client.

The idea:

The concept of the Commission was to construct a 1/12 scale model that would be used for both displaying and action figure photography. The model must also have the aesthetic of mid 80s to early 90s New York. A run down neighborhood that gives off an unsafe feeling. In addition to the aesthetic, there was also a set of requirements that needed to be followed. Such as creating a wall that matched one in the clients neighborhood, as well as having a smaller building in the foreground that can show the sky and display a figure on top. While I feel that I achieved a number of these requirements, there were many smaller problems that came to light that had an effect on me later.

The Problems:

As mentioned previously, there were a number of smaller problems that came up as the project went further along. For example, one major issue was the client not being sure on exactly what the second building would be. While the measurements were made, the overall idea of what it should be was missing. Causing delays in the construction and painting of this building. In addition, there were numerous plans that were also cut during the project's run. With one major loss being running LED strip lights along each of the windows, creating a better opportunity for photography. However this would be cut after the order was placed, due to the client believing that the lights he had recently purchased would prove to be more efficient than the strip lights. In addition to these two major problems, there were also smaller challenges, such as being able to paint much neater than I had on my previous projects. As well using the wrong glue on the walls causing the paint to not stick to certain places as well as being constantly asked questions or requests on construction even during the painting process.

The solutions:

Starting off with the two major problems. When dealing with the client on the finalization of the second building. I would come to realize that being the designer and constructor, while also being on a deadline. I took it upon myself to come up with what the second building should be, and presented the idea to the client. Creating a run down strip club

that was used as a front business for mafia bosses to launder their money through. This idea worked and helped me with getting on track and finishing this project. Next was the issue regarding the electrics, I had to cut my losses and move on. Being stuck on not agreeing to the loss would cause me to be set back further, and I needed to get back on schedule with the project. I had to take the loss and move on from it. Lastly, when overlooking the smaller issues, I was able to sand down the excess glue that was exposed during the black wash stage, and would apply the black, creating a nice even coat of paint across the walls. Next, while the client was a good friend of mine, I had to inform him that the requests he was making while they were good ideas, we were well pass the stage of planning, now it's time to get work done on what was already planned so that I could make my deadline and he could get his model. Keeping the line of respect present, and treating the client not as my old friend, but a business partner. Finally, when it came down to painting, I took my time and learned the anatomy of the paint brush. Understanding how much paint should be applied to the brush, as well as understating how much pressure should be used as I paint across the walls. Also understanding the correct path to pain so no streaks were left behind and properly using masking tape so colors won't be mixed together. Chasing my painting skills to increase and produce my best painted project I have done so far.

What I learned:

In the end, I learned how to properly manage my commissions using my skills from project management. Creating a budget and timeline that helped me stay on track as

well as keeping the client out of the dark so he is aware of my placement in the project. In addition, I also learned more about painting models by doing research and setting challenges for myself so I couldn't put the skills I was learning to the test. Lastly, using good communication skills, I was able to draw a line between friendship and partnership, helping me the most as I now feel I have more confidence in talking to different clients with different personalities. This could expand my small hobby and potentially create a small business for myself.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I feel that while I was able to create a project that the client and myself were happy with. I feel that I could have done a much better job if we had previously stuck to the plan that was projected. I would have been able to put a number of the skills I had learned while in school to the test and produced a project I would have never imagined. However, the project I created was a step in the right direction. Using my skills in project management, public speaking, carpentry and props I was able to plan out exactly how my culmination project will be constructed. Using construction drawings, creating budgets and timelines I was able to make the best 1/12 scale model I have ever built so far. With detailing that brings a model to life with displaying and photography. Once I put together my portfolio, it was thrilling to see how my skills have improved since my last model. It was an amazing experience to be a part of this class, gaining feedback I would have never gotten before as well as having a platform to show

off my work to a wider audience. I am more excited than ever to use these skills again for my next commission, which could be coming sooner than expected.