

A2 mixed media (3D sculpture using wire, dried flowers, flowers, paper clay, paint and tissue paper)

Alternate view of the back of the dress

Close up view



Lunacy In Wonderland

My project revolves around Lewis Carroll's world of 'Alice in Wonderland' as well as Tim Burton's take on the infinitely famous novel.

Throughout this project, I will be looking at **themes & elements** from *Alice in Wonderland*, mainly revolving around the scene of the **Mad Hatter's Tea party.**

I will also take a very close look at some of the different characters present at the tea party, especially the main protagonist 'Alice' and the different ways she is presented in relation to her wardrobe in each of the different adaptations of Alice in Wonderland.

My recording will be focused on elements I believe a tea party, or the 'mad hatter's tea party' would possess.

9 x 6.3 cm -
painted
in acrylic



▶ In this piece, my goal was to captivate the fascinating ways in which the light reflected off both the cherries and the teacup. I used acrylics and flat brushes to do this, and added some final details with a white and gold pen. While painting the cherries, I attempted to try painting them in a more abstract way, allowing myself to use the brushes to create shapes and harsh lines in contrast to doing a traditional gradient between the shadows and highlights.



11.5 x 16.5 cm - sculpted in ceramic clay

▶ In the book, one of the characters present at the tea party is a Doormouse and so this is my rendition of one from clay. I used sharp tool to try and mimic the way the fur would look while the clay was very soft, and later on smudged it with my fingers to try and soften and smooth the outcome of the fur.

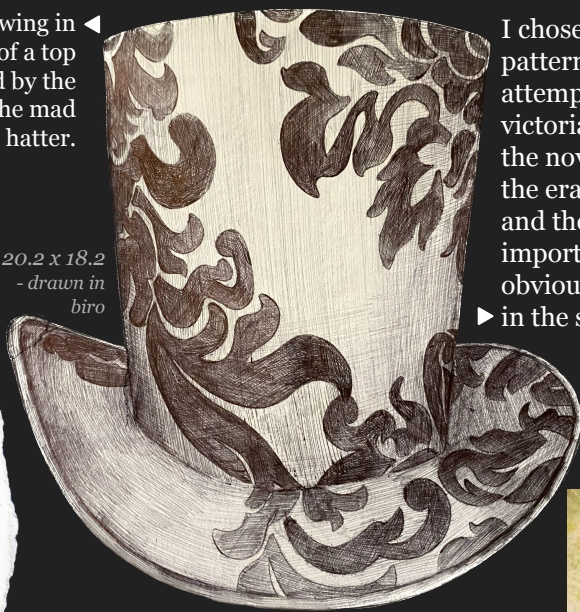
▶ This is my painting of a cupcake on a diamond trump card in acrylics. The reasoning behind my choice of painting this on one instead of a plain piece of paper was because the trump cards serve as characters in most of the Alice in Wonderland adaptations.

25 x 16.6 cm -
painted in acrylic
+ white & gold pen



This is my drawing in black ballpoint pen of a top hat inspired by the character of the mad hatter.

20.2 x 18.2
- drawn in biro



I chose to add the pattern on the hat in attempt to reflect the victorian-era element of the novel, as that was the era it was written in, and therefore an important but not very obvious element in the story.

I chose to look at some of the cutlery that may be present at the table of the Tea party by painting three teaspoons parallel to each other. I did this in cool, dull tones to attempt to captivate the effect used in the scene of the tea party by using blue tones. I chose to do the background in this bright green to make the piece pop and not appear as dull.

Further reasoning for the colors is that I was attempting to replicate the filter-effect seen **Tim Burton's** first adaptation live action of *alice in wonderland*. This filter effect can be seen throughout the entire movie, making all the colors appear to be cool-toned, reflecting the darker atmosphere of the movie compared to earlier adaptations of the novel.

▶ This is my painting of a raspberry tart from a photo I took from birds-eye-view. I texturized the painting through the use of a thick flat brush, creating harsh lines and blocks of colors as I went along, painting multiple layers.

As a finishing touch, I went in again, with the flat brush and an off white almost pink and slightly transparent color so that the color from underneath is still visible enough to make it look darker or lighter depending on the color its painted on top of.

14.5 x 21 cm
- painted in acrylic + white pen



29 x 14.6 cm - painted in acrylic

In **Tim Burton's** first movie adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*, everything appears extremely dull, grey, and discolored. I think this is done to reflect and exaggerate the serious tone of the movie compared to all of the earlier versions of the story.

For this reason, I chose to do this Acrylic painting of a teacup in these colors to attempt to mimic the effect in the movie. I did this by going from dark to light, and did many layers in darker tones on the actual cup, to attempt to create interesting textures and went over it in translucent lighter colors so that the undertones were still partially visible.

I also manipulated the photo I originally took until it produced unusual colors that were not originally visible in the photo to aid me whilst I was painting the teacup.

I also used my imagination to enhance these colors, whilst still keeping in mind my goal of producing dull colors.

19,5 x 29,5 cm - painted in acrylics + gold & white pen



▼ (Color swat from the teacup painting in the top right)

► This is my painting that I referenced to from a photo that I took at a pastry shop. I thought that pastries may have been a part of victorian tea parties. Alice in Wonderland was written during the victorian era and so I thought it may have been an element of the inspiration of The Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

In this painting, I chose to paint many layers to attempt to texturise the look of the white cake. I also did this by creating patterns with a white pen after going over the darker layers in a light layer of white. My goal while painting the strawberries was to emphasize the glossiness and shine that it reflected from the light and so I did this by once again, using a white pen to draw in the highlights in a very playful way.

17 x 18 cm - painted in acrylics + gold pen



This is my drawing in blue pen of some blueberries.



► Similarly to the strawberry cake (to the left), I thought that this may also be something served at a tea party inspired by the Victorian era such as the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

A5 - drawn in biro

30 x 19 cm

- painted in acrylics + white pen



A5 - drawn in pencil



This is my pencil drawing of some teacups. My reasoning for the position and composition of these teacups are to attempt to create a sense of lunacy and chaos reflecting some of the themes in *Alice in Wonderland*.

I chose to do this piece in pencil to allow all of the attention to be drawn by the composition instead of the colors I would have used if I had chosen to use a different medium.

16.1 t x 16 cm - painted in acrylics

This is my painting of a cat in acrylics. I painted this with the character of the Cheshire cat in mind. I chose to paint the background in this purple as I liked the juxtaposition of the colors, especially the effect it made on the green color of the eyes. The color of the background is also to attempt to reflect the character of the Cheshire cat as it is represented in correlation to the color purple in the Disney adaptation of the novel.



This is my rendition of an image that I took of some jam jars in the sunlight. I chose to paint this using very bright, contrasted colors as I was trying to communicate what I think a tea party would look like in my head.

I also chose to paint the background in this way to try and show how the sun would hit the jars in a way that it would seemingly spread the colors all over the table. I painted this in acrylics using two different flat brushes and a white marker.

I purposely left the labels blank as I wanted the jars to be the center of attention and not the labels. I also attempted to draw more attention to the jars by going over the labels slightly. This affected the overall composition of the painting by making it look much less realistic but, in my opinion also emphasizes how the light brightened and manipulated the colors and reflections from the jam jars.

These are some more studies I did of elements I think a tea party or the Mad Hatter's tea party would include.

This is a painting of a photo that I took of pastries in a pastry store. I would imagine this may be served in a tea party and so I painted it.

21 x 15.2 cm



This is a photograph I took from a photoshoot setup I did for a tea party for this project.



14,9 x 10.5 cm



12 x 12.5 cm

These both are studies I did with the idea of the characters from the Mad Hatter's tea party (the Dormouse and the Cheshire cat) in mind.

This is my grandmother's traditional tea set I photographed, and drew in a mix media piece of pencil and acrylics.

22.5 x 18.4 cm



This (the piece to the on the right side of the page) is a piece of my work in the style of Estella Fransbergen. The materials I used are copper wire (thin wire) , thick wire, air dry clay, paper, and seeds. I chose these materials for reasons such as availability, functionality, and aesthetics. My most unusual selection of material is the seeds. I chose this in

attempt to incorporate Estella's element of nature in her pieces which are more noticeable in some of her pieces, and less noticeable in others. (this can be seen in her pisces on the left side of the page).

I also incorporated a corset-like bodice in my piece to attempt to replicate the ones in Estella's pieces which are included in every dress-sculpture she creates. As well as the corset-bodice, I also attempted to replicate or include the noticeable element of wire Estella includes in most of her pieces in the skirt of my piece. In many of her pieces, the skirt section always seems to be alive in the way that it is wild and free, with pieces hanging outwards, and pointing in all directions. This is my attempt to do the same in this piece.

Through the use of replacing the stems of the seeds and manipulate them similarly in the way that Estella does, some of them sticking out, pointing upwards, outwards in all directions. This is more disble in the close up photo below.

► *My piece in the style of Estella Fransbergen*

► *Close up of my piece - notice the wire and the authentic (natural) seeds*

2 of Estella's many many pieces (both very different to each other)



Analyzing the work of Estella Fransbergen

Estella Fransbergen is a sculptural artist that creates her pieces starting with these torsos using the coil building technique and creating these fascinating dresses using wire and various materials to create a the skirt. In my opinion, the skirt of Fransburgen's dresses and the dresses entirely feel extremely in coherent with the theme of nature. It may be the effect of some of the colors she uses in her sculptures, or the way she paints them adding a very subtle texture to her pisces.

Alice's wardrobe serves as a visual representation of her journey in each adaptation that **emphasizes her evolving character**.



In the original novel, **Lewis Carroll** only refers to what Alice is wearing as a 'simple' dress, reflecting the story's **victorian era** and her role as a curious, grounded child exploring a **nonsensical** world. The simplicity of the dress also juxtaposes with the madness of the fictional world of *Alice in Wonderland*.

▶ (This is an echin from Lewis Carroll's original book of *Alice in Wonderland*.)



▶ (Alice the first piece Alice wears in *Alice through the looking glass*)

Similarly to the first live action adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice has many wardrobe changes throughout **James Bobin's** adaptation of *Alice Through the Looking Glass*. At the start, she wears a striking, naval-inspired outfit that highlights her adventurous spirit and defiance of Victorian societal norms.

In *Wonderland*, Alice's attire becomes vibrant and whimsical, mirroring the fantastical nature of the world and her liberation within it. Elements of her outfit also incorporate structured, armor-like details, symbolizing her courage and active role as a protector of *Wonderland*. By the end of the film, her final outfit bridges the practicality of the real world with the boldness of *Wonderland*, representing her growth and reconciliation of both worlds while staying true to herself.



(some of the garments Alice wears in *Alice through the looking glass*)



▶ (Close up of the Garment Alice is first seen in)



(Close up of my sculpture) ◀

This is my sculpture that is a recreation of Alice's first outfit in the second live action movie of *Alice through the looking glass* directed by **James Bobin**.

I used scrap pieces of colored wire, thick wire, thin wire, cloth, and string to make this piece with a little bit of help from a sewing machine to create the skirt.

I chose not to replicate the garment exactly, and instead slightly freestyle the way I created this piece.

(My sculpture as a recreation of the first garment Alice is seen wearing in the second live action of *Alice in Wonderland*).



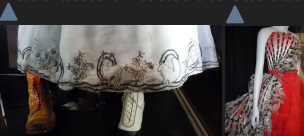
In the **1951 Disney animated film**, Alice wore a vibrant **blue dress with a white pinafore** and black headband that became iconic, reflecting her **innocence** and a sense of **traditional femininity**.

▶ (Alice in the Disney animated film)

Alice Through Time

In **Tim Burton's 2010 adaption**, Alice's wardrobe varies in a much more wider range of exquisite clothing, featuring a **victorian-inspired blue gown** that changes throughout the film, **reflecting** her growth and evolving strength as she faces *Wonderland's* darker, more surreal challenges. This blue gown was always accompanied by noticeable **details in black**, which in my opinion also reflect the further seriousness of this adaption compared to the earlier adaptations of *Alice in Wonderland*.

▶ (Some of the pieces Alice wore in the first Tim Burton live-action *notice the back details)



Analyzing the work of Susan Freda

In many of Susan Freda's sculptures she uses these sometimes small, sometimes elaborate details of petal-like pieces, creating the effect of unique, memorable abnormalities in her designs, making them much more intriguing, wonderful and captivating.

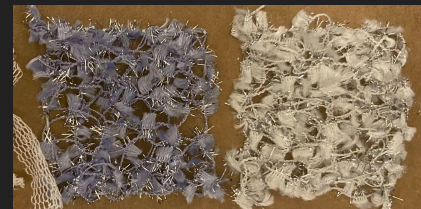
If you take a closer look at the wire on her pieces, you can notice that it has an almost spider-web like effect, as if there were water entangled in the elaborate webs of a spiders nest. This effect is created by beads.

Her dresses also appear to take a very freeform like shape, as if they had grown in that way, when in reality, Susan would have had to spend some time dedicated to pulling on certain parts of the skirt, creating the effect of a wavy rim, allowing it to take a much more dynamic shape.

I think all of these techniques and effects she creates contribute in making her artwork feel as if they belong to nature, as part of a tree, or effortlessly blended into an ancient forest floor.

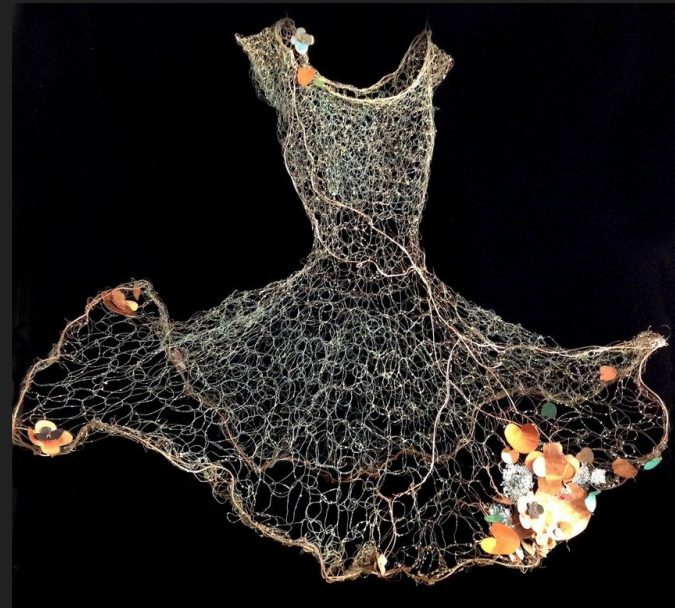
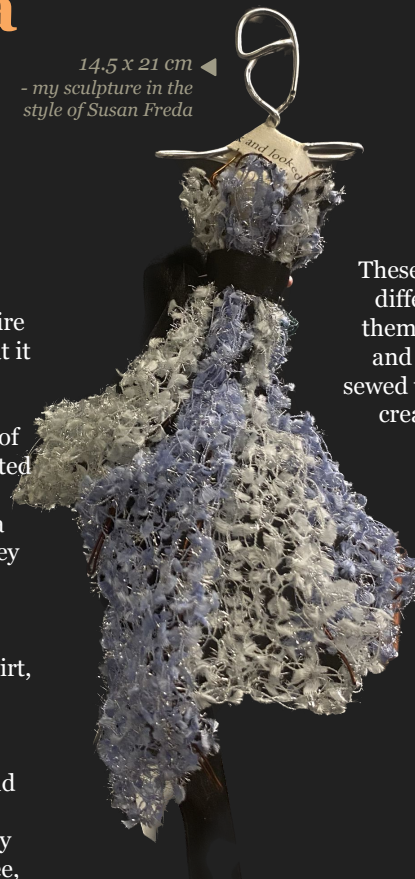
This is my sculpture that I made in the style of Susan Freda using two different colors of thin string, a single piece of black ribbon, thick and thin wire, and some paper.

14.5 x 21 cm
- my sculpture in the style of Susan Freda



These are some fabric samples of the main two different textiles I used in the piece. I created them from the string I had by crocheting them and made them in two different colors. I then sewed those pieces to wire that I manipulated to create the shape of the dress and support the skirt.

The reasoning for incorporating crochet was because to me, Susan's wirework looked similarly to crochet but in wire. At first, I did attempt to crochet the wire I had but I was not able to replicate the wirework seen in Susan's sculptures. This may have been because I was working on a much much smaller scale compared to Susan's sculptures and so I decided to work with very thin string to still attempt to create a small-scale sculpture dress inspired by all of the different adaptations of Alice in Wonderland in the style of Susan Freda.

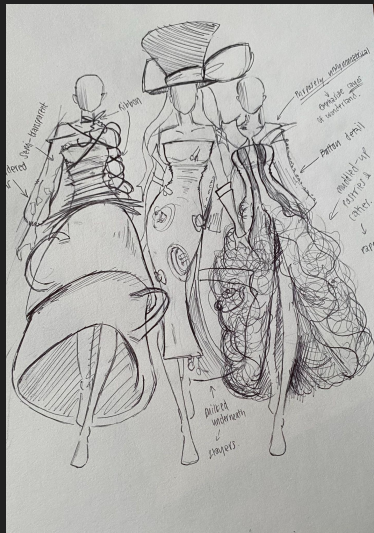


(all of the three pieces above are Susan Freda's work) ▲

My Designs

My idea for this dress (dress on the very left) was the idea of creating a dress representing Alice's journey through Wonderland. The checkered sections being the road of Alice's journey and in the white parts between would include the themes and characters seen in Alice in Wonderland and the forest Alice has to go through in some parts of the story which is where my inspiration for the mushrooms on the right side of the slide came from.

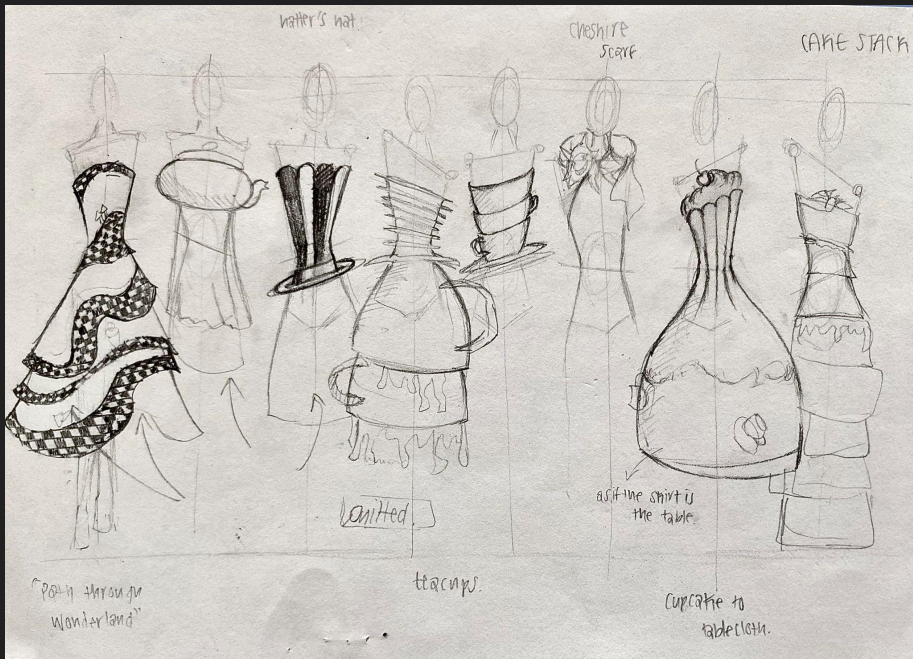
These are some of my sketches of designs I made early on in the project. (21 x 29.7 cm)



Later on, I then developed those sketches (the ones above) to create more elaborate designs that relate more to Alice in Wonderland and the mad hatters tea party and created these sketches.

This design was inspired by the character of the Cheshire cat which I did look into earlier on in the project. My initial vision was to have the cheshire's claws digging into the tablecloth of the tea party but for this sketch, I chose to place the Cheshire resting playfully around the neck of the model as a collar and changed the neckline to a halter-neck.

These four designs were inspired solely by the mad hatters tea party.



This dress was also inspired solely by the mad hatters tea party and my vision for this piece was for it to represent the table of the tea party, and a cupcake as the bodice of the dress that changes into the tablecloth of the tea party with all of the things that would appear on the table.



▲ 21 x 29.7 cm
- (A4 size)

▲ These are some of my pieces that I made from fabric scraps as experimentation.

▼ 23.5 x 11.4 cm

21 x 10.9 20 cm ▶



▶ For this piece, I was inspired by the wirework of both the artists work that I analyzed on previous slides, Susan Freda & Estella Fransbergen. I developed a material to use on my own by using thin wire and coiling then unraveling the wire to create this flat wire material. I then painted over some parts in acrylic paint to change the color and then did another layer of wire over it in the wire's original coloring.

I also cut out teacups in paper while coloring them and sticking them to create stacked teacups such as the ones shown to the right.

6.9 x 1.3 cm ▶
- Sample of part of what I used to make the skirt (in different colors)



▶ My aim for this sculpture was to explore and experiment with textiles whilst still incorporating the theme of Alice in Wonderland. My choice for the blue is an obvious attempt to incorporate Alice's character as she is presented in blue garments in most of the adaptations of Alice in wonderland.

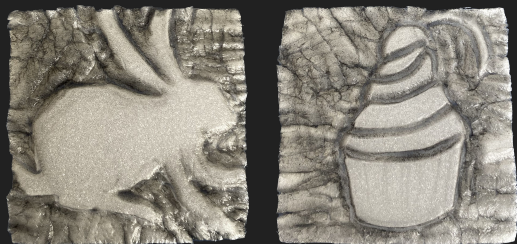
My reasoning behind the red was to add some originality and color to the piece, and I incorporated roses at the bottom of the skirt in this color in reference to the white roses that are painted red in the story of Alice in Wonderland.

I also added black lace at the bottom of the skirt in attempt to replicate the details of black seen in most of the garments that Alice wears in Tim Burton's live adaptation of Alice in wonderland.



(front of the dress) ▲

5 x 5 cm



11 x 11.5 cm (size of dress only)

▼ (back of the dress)



In this piece, I experimented with more different materials to create a dress. The bodice, made from clay and silhouette of the dress was inspired by my artist Estella Fransbergen. I made the skirt by using tissue paper, and foam to make stamps. I then used the stamps to make cupcake silhouettes on the skirt in attempt to tie in themes from recording.

On the back of the dress and along the rim of the bodice on the bottom, I glued dried flowers and seeds which I collected and I painted the bodice to match the colors, allowing the dress to appear more cohesive.



► 22 x 11.7 cm - size of entire dress

This is another sculpture-dress I created with a bodice that represents a melting or overflowing cupcake.

Similarly to the last dress, I used dried seeds and dried flowers in sculpting my dress. I used the same crochet string material I made in my rendition dress of the style of Susan Freda.

I used the dried seeds to represent cherries and the dried flowers to represent the icing or frosting on the cupcake. The placing of the cherries is not on the top but down the side of the dress to show that the cupcake is melting.

► Top half (boice)

Bottom half (skirt) ◀





Combining elements

My idea is to create a piece with a dress in the center and elements of my tea party in the foreground and background layered.

These two pieces are my experimentations of this idea.

21 x 29.7 cm - (A4 size)

(This is a drawing of one of my dress designs in the middle)

21 x 29.7 cm - (A4 size)

4.4 x 9.8 cm



This is a teacup I made from fabric and wire. I did this as an experimentation for objects that could go in the presentation design of the dress (in either the foreground or the background) but I decided it would be better to paint after trying this idea.

▶ (Close-up of the torso of the dress on the right)

▶ I added small see-through beads onto the wire to make it look more dense.



21 x 29.7 cm - (A4 size) - acrylic painting ▲

Birds-eye view painting of tea party dishes and cutlery in acrylics. I developed and changed the colors in the painting, and these colors cannot be seen in the original photograph I took .



19.7 x 15.1 cm ▲
- acrylic painting



▶ This dress is almost completely constructed out of dried flowers that I collected. I used a lot of glue to support the dried flowers as much as I could so that they would not be as fragile.



▲ I then combined all three elements from the previous slide in one image by layering each piece, creating a foreground, middle ground and background.