

RONALDO BANTOM NEWSLETTER 1st QUARTER 2023

"The beginning of a new journey"

What a start to this year, being awarded the Luvo Maranti Scholarship for 2023 and I am off to a quick start with my very first course studying Digital Marketing at UCT online. This was very hard to adapt and specially to find a balance between studying, being an Art Teacher and part time pencil artist, especially considering that all the students taking the course had many years of digital marketing experience already. When my first module started on the 6th of February 2023, I was an apprentice when I started my first module. Despite the fact that I had to adapt with my new routines, I found the balance to manage everything I have ever dreamed of. There were days where I was under pressure and had to submit my assignments before the due date as well as complete my commission drawings that I had to get done in time. Below are some pictures where my studies were resolved onto five different screens, allowing me to do the work effectively.

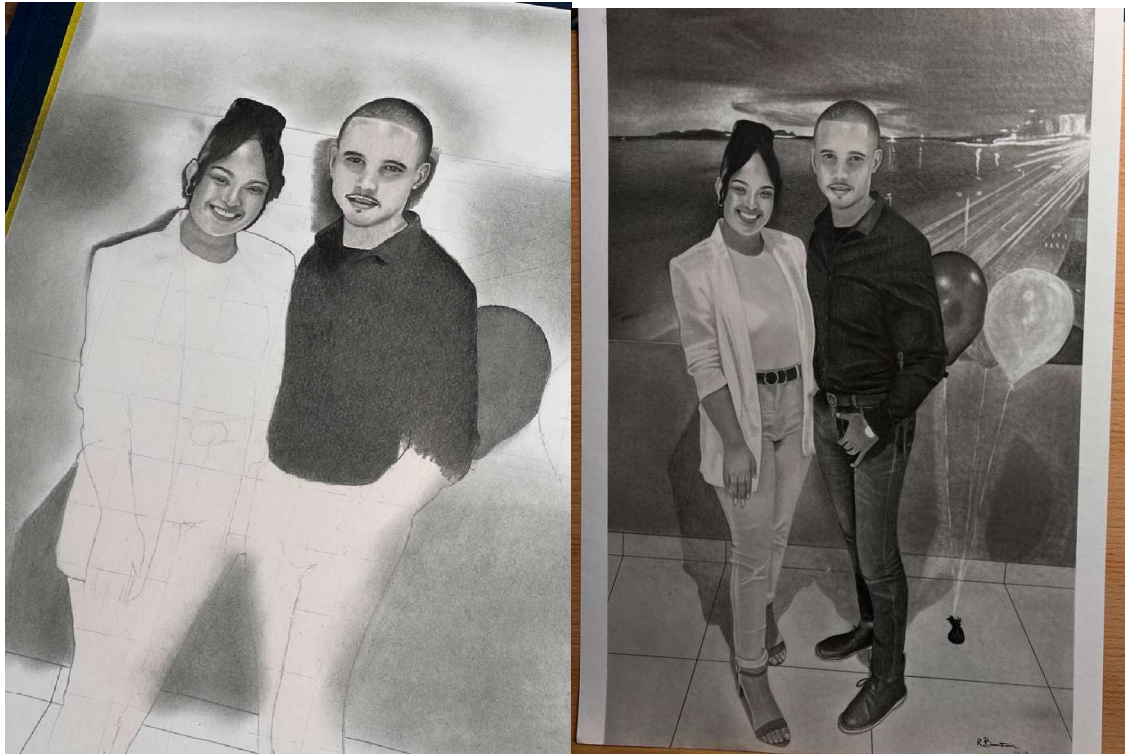


I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the astonishing support and for sponsoring me the 34-inch monitor, along with all the other hardware, where I could resolve my notes and research into five screens. The monitor made it very convenient to get all my assignments done on time. I have reached the end of my first course in Digital Marketing, and was advised that I have passed this course, so I am very relieved. Furthermore, when it was load-shedding, I was able to use the inverter, that the scholarship bought for me, and to continue with my studies, during this time.

During my time of studying Digital Marketing, I did some portrait commissions where I used one of my pieces of sponsored equipment, the Sony video camera. I have been astounded by the amount of close up detail it is able to capture. Here are some pictures of the drawing and a link to Facebook to watch the full video that I recorded.



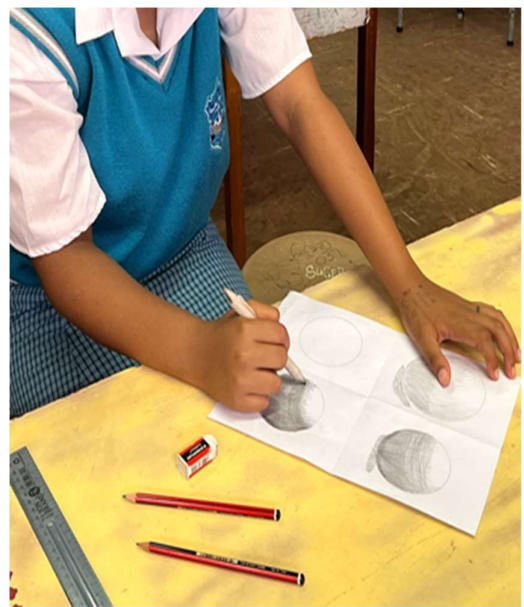
The first picture was taken while I was busy recording myself focusing on the young man's face. The amount of detail the camera was recording left me speechless. I couldn't ask for something greater to capture the detail.



This portrait drawing was done on an A3 prime art paper. It took me ten hours to complete the portrait drawing. I was also able to take the drawing to my new work at Hawston High School, where I am working as an art teacher to the school children from Hawston and surrounding areas. While I was busy with the drawing some of my learners saw me doing the drawing and couldn't wait until the art class started. I spend a whole week on this portrait drawing. The client was more than happy to see the results in person. Here is the full link to this portrait video on Facebook if you are interested;

<https://web.facebook.com/watch/?v=1185516345664529>

During my journey of being an art teacher at Hawston High, I am teaching graphite drawings and charcoal drawings. With my seniors I am focusing on the introduction to pencil drawings. On the 7th of February 2023 I did the basic of drawing a realistic circle with the different type of textures they have to use. To get their attention as I am a new art teacher, I had to introduce myself and show them what type of pencil drawings I do myself. On the 7th of February was the day that their lives completely changed.



One of the learners, that is doing a realistic circle.

I was busy teaching them the introduction to drawing. On the small easel was an example of the realistic circles I drew. This gave them an idea of how to use the contrast and lighting on any form, objective, or portrait they are going to use in most of their drawings. This lesson was for my grade 8 seniors who are now currently doing realistic drawings, as seen below:



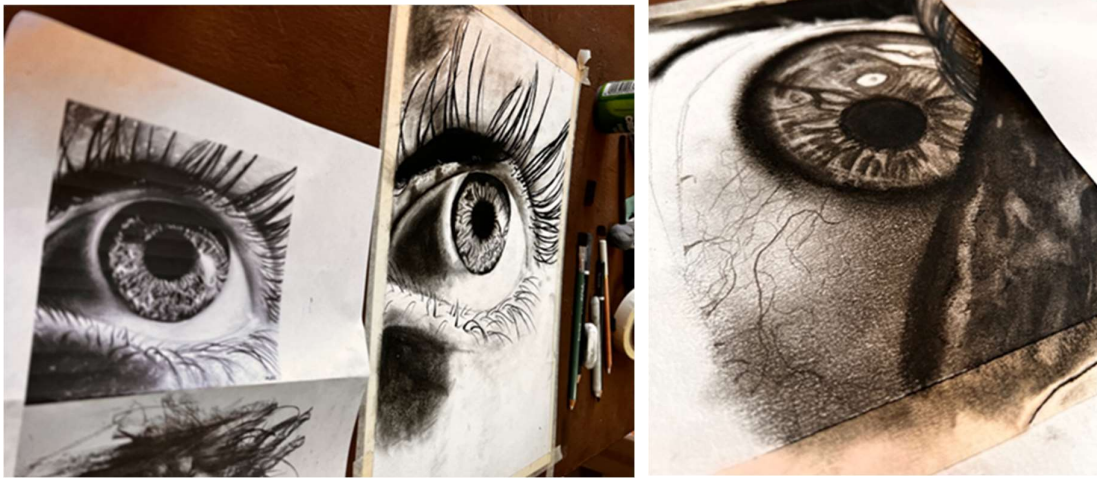
By the 15th March 2023, five classes after their first class a young learner in grade 8 with the name of Eldin didn't know anything about drawing faces when he first attended the art class this year. He was a novice in my class yet enjoys drawing. He is very disciplined and always take note when I explain what to do and not to do. This is his realistic portrait drawing he did on his own with all the skills and techniques I taught him over a few classes. Vivienne Mitchley saw how remarkably they have all improved in this short period of time. This was where we reached out to get sponsors to supply them with their own art tools and to showcase their work at a competition. Eldin was one of the twelve learners who received his art tools on the 26th of April 2023 and to be part of an art competition at Jozua Rossouw's gallery in September this year.

In my charcoal classes I selected twelve top learners from grade 8 – 12. These are my strongest learners and got sponsored by Jozua Rossouw for the competition. With less than five weeks of charcoal classes I am preparing them for this massive competition that will take place around August/September this year. Here are some of their drawings in progress that was taken on the 20th of April 2023.

This amazing figure drawing done in charcoal by Chloe, reminds me of how my own work looks like before adding in the detail. This is an art piece I am looking forward to seeing the final product.



Theren a grade 11 learner who has a passion for drawing. With her amazing talent that I spotted, and she is one of my top female learners in the art classes. Her goal is to do realistic art. She is busy drawing a realistic pupil for the art competition.



The only grade 12 learner that is part of the art classes. This young learner has the passion for art. His goal is to achieve hyper realistic in pencil drawings. Using dry medium. His name is Keanu and make use of every technique that I have taught him so far.

I am excited for this journey, and I see a lot of growth in this year for me and my students. One of my projects I am busy with is drawing a hyper realistic art piece. This art piece is a very personal drawing where I am going to take my time to complete it.

So, as you can see, I have been very busy these past few months. I am proud to say I have completed my first course. The University of Cape Town has sent me an email to congratulate me on completing my online short course and graduated in Digital Marketing.

I am about to do my second course in contemporary art at Art Institute. I will update you all on my second quarter in contemporary art.

Ronaldo

Comments by Tim:

Please see the feedback below from Ronaldo's Art Teacher Vivienne:

Dear Luvo Maranti Scholarship:

It has been hectic last few days as I have proposals, two exams to write, and finally found a place for Renaldo to move into.

I have also organised some furniture and groceries today.

He is amazing as a teacher and is really inspiring the learners. He runs and organises two of the classes per week and is teaching them how to draw with charcoal. The works below are a

few examples from last week.

He has worked super hard on balancing everything and will now be able to focus on creating more art. I am so glad that I saw his talent and that Abagold, the Abagold Development trust and the Luvo Maranti Scholarship and Creative Space support him in all that he does.

Many Thanks

Vivienne Mitchley

