Oil Spoils

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

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I created this piece as part of an assignment in my Design and Graphics class. We were tasked to create a design about drains and water pollution through collaging.
I began by sketching a design. I knew I wanted to create something with movement like water splashing. I ended up drawing a cup with water spilling into it, splashing along the sides. This is when I got the idea to demonstrate a water cycle in a glass of water.

The drinking glass shape was developed through many images of the ocean, with different blues creating depth and shadow in the piece. I placed images of coral and fish on top, using a collage technique to create the ocean at the base of the drinking glass. To complete the glass of water, I took a paper straw from my school canteen and glued it to the design. Not only does this portray the human life that relies on water but promotes the sustainable practice of choosing paper over plastic.

Finally, I dripped thick, brown paint into the glass. This was the movement I originally intended for my design, and ultimately it provided great contrast to the piece. I painted many layers to create a thick texture similar to the oil that pollutes our oceans.

After this, the collage step was complete, and I scanned my design into Adobe Illustrator. I also scanned in a sketch of the font shown in the final piece. I used the pen tool to create and manipulate lines, developing the phrase: 'Oil Spoils'. I wanted the text to blend well into the oil, so I drew the letters sloppy and curvy, with the words turning and twisting with the splash of the oil. I then manipulated the filters on the layer so that the paint of the collage underneath could be seen through the text, giving the illusion that the text is part of the oil. Finally, I made the text a clear blue to contrast the brown underneath. This symbolises clean, healthy water compared to brown, polluted water.

Oil Spoils portrays how the water that is home to sea life, becomes our drinking water and is used by many. Therefore, when oil pollution occurs, all life is affected.