



*Daria Oleinikoff*  
*UN JOUR JE SERAI DE RETOUR PRÈS DE TOI*  
2023  
Digital  
29.7 x 42cm ; 2586 x 3564px

### **Artist Statement**

There's something inherently ethereal about the sort of imagery you see in a place of worship, to the point it sticks out in one's mind even if you weren't raised religious. Even if your only exposure to religion is being brought to church only a handful of times (and not paying attention) and the church-turned-museum you've visited for as long as you can remember, and have always thought beautiful. I have adopted the imagery as a visual shorthand to inspire the same awe in the viewer the museum has always inspired in me. I use a variegated splash of colour and contrast that with a monochrome environment to draw attention to the saint in the centre of the image, a faceless figure representing the universality of higher powers in humanity.

### **Annotations**

#### *Developing*

I created my painting in a personal, contemporary and cultural context, by focusing on the church at the museum I would frequent when I was little, and the religious imagery that would accompany it. To create meaning, I based my work off of existing idols of saints, using it as a visual shorthand for the awe the church inspired in me when I was young. I also used a contrast between a burst of colour and an otherwise monochrome environment to emphasise this idea.

## *Researching*

This piece was primarily based off of the work of two artists, Kaspar Tamsalu and Aleksander Rostov.

I was interested in Tamsalu's work on *Disco Elysium*, in particular his piece "Dolorian Church of Humanity in Martinaise" (2019). He uses the idea of depicting a saint to evoke the same emotional response in the viewer I aimed to with my piece, so I borrowed the idea and adapted it to communicate to the audience they should feel that same awe I chose to depict.

I also considered Rostov's work, specifically the untitled promotional piece completed for *Disco Elysium*'s release (2019). The way he uses bright bursts of colour also aims to inspire awe, so I implemented it in my piece.

Both artists work with digital mediums, so I attempted to use the same. Considering these aspects, I developed my personal aesthetic to achieve my goal of depicting the emotional responses and experience associated with the church.

Using the cultural context has impacted by meaning – though much of my emotional reaction was not connected to its roots as a place of worship, the imagery connects it to that. The contemporary context, too, has shaped it through my choice of medium.

## *Reflecting*

My artistic choices during the creation of this piece have likely impacted the meaning conveyed to the audience, in turn affecting how well it applies to my inquiry question. While using the visage of a saint induces the desired emotional response, it redirects the viewer's attention away from the environment and applies said response to the saint rather than the church, as was my goal.