

University of Canberra Creative Competition 2024

Statement of Inspiration and Creative Process

The inspiration for my project, a *Draw My Life* animation from the perspective of a dog, Luna, in the meat trade, was established from my passion for animal welfare and my skills in using art mediums as a powerful storytelling tool. As an animal lover and advocate, I wanted to shed light on the often-overlooked and unknown elements of the dog meat trade while using an artistic medium that could emotionally engage viewers in a meaningful way. My creative process was centered on balancing the informative and emotional aspects of the narrative with an artistic approach that felt personal and impactful. The choice to use the *Draw My Life* style allowed me to simplify complex emotions and experiences into digestible visual elements. Through minimalist illustrations, I aimed to create an intimate atmosphere, capturing both Luna's innocence and the harsh realities she faces. This contrast between simple drawings and the heavy subject matter was an intentional artistic decision to juxtapose innocence with cruelty. In creating the animation, I paid careful attention to visual metaphors and symbolism. For instance, the repeated imagery of chains and cages represents confinement not only physically but also emotionally, conveying the despair and loss of freedom. The gradual darkening of the visuals as the story progresses serves as a metaphor for Luna's hope. I storyboarded these elements after significant research on the issue to ensure that the art aligned with the narrative's journey. The entire process, from researching the topic to sketching the animations, enhanced both my empathy and artistic expression. By focusing on this particular visual format, I sought to give a voice to the voiceless while also using the power of art to evoke empathy and spark reflection.