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<p style="text-align:center">Two Dogs with Black Background</p>

While touring the Weisman, I kept an open mind which allowed me to make my own interpretations of all the beautiful art on display. For the *Make it Yours* assignment, I decided to recreate "Two Heads with Yellow Background" in a way that related to my own interests and thoughts. The painting, found toward the back of the Weisman, is the work of Alfred Maurer, a late nineteenth – early eighteenth century artist. His medium choice was oil on composition board. I've always enjoyed looking at oil paintings.

The description of his piece was open for interpretation. Instead of a detailed account of why he chose to paint what he did, the description gave suggested interpretations such as: "Are these girls twins?" or "Are they mirror reflections of the same person?" I enjoyed that it was open ended, allowing the viewer to develop their own explanation of what the figures were doing.

It took me longer than I had anticipated to develop my idea for this assignment. I prefer to draw rather than paint, and I prefer realism over abstract figures. I knew one thing for sure: I wanted my art to be open to interpretation. I found myself looking through pictures trying to instigate an "Ah-Ha!" moment and eventually came across a picture of my dog, Cooper. Dogs are so interesting to me. I always wonder what they are thinking, and what they would say if they could speak, or when they're looking out the window at who-knows-what! With this thought I knew what I was going to create. "Two Dogs with Black Background" is a happy picture of two puppies that should bring about positive emotions while making the viewer wonder what the dogs may be looking at. It is open to all interpretations and is not

limited to black and white. While viewing my drawing, maybe people will wonder, like

myself, who may be looking back at the puppies, if the point of view were different. Both my

drawing and the painting in the Weisman encourage the viewer to use their imagination to fill

in the gaps between what is seen and what is happening.

Left: "Two Heads with Yellow Background" –Alfred Maurer

Right: "Two Dogs with Black Background" –Derek Wiebke

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