

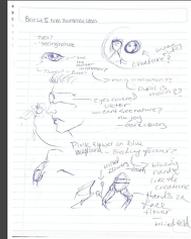
Victor, by Luc Al-Sakhria



Reference
Photos:



Thumbnail
Sketches:



For ENG 322,
Spring 2020

Artist Statement:

For my final project, I chose to do a portrait of Victor Frankenstein, from Mary Shelley's titular *Frankenstein*. My ultimate goal was to design an image that would encapsulate aspects of the movements that characterized the novel and serve as a "cover" for the book. I wanted it to be something you would want to pick up and bring a new perspective to the typical covers of the work, which so often feature Frankenstein's monster or Victor in the process of creating him. In that sense, my audience would be individuals who are considering picking up the text for the first time and those who have read it numerous times.

This novel, to me, represents the union of Romantic and Gothic elements, which is something I tried to embody through the artwork. The flowers, their bright pinks, embody the beauty of nature from the Romantic movement. In the Romantic era, these flowers would bring joy and inspiration to the poets. Throughout the text, both Victor and his creation comment on the beauty of nature and ascribe their moods and attitudes onto the landscape. However, to both of them, this is not enough to liberate them from their dejection. That is why I covered the eyes in the portrait. The flowers, which would provide a Romantic writer a sense of ease, do not do that to Victor—he cannot "see" the joy they would bring to the Romantics. He has been "blinded" by sorrow and rage. That is where the more macabre elements of the piece come in. The cool colors and dark shadows are in juxtaposition to the optimism of the Romantic ideal. They bring the mood of the piece into the Gothic sphere. The blood on Victor's fingers bring the Gothic elements in further. The blood on his hands represents the metaphorical "blood on his hands" because his creation murdered various individuals throughout the novel in a means of revenge. However, because the monster was born and crafted from his own hands, and the fact that the monster only developed scorned him and his family because Victor rejected him, Victor is actually the individual responsible for their deaths—a riveting take, I know.

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"My soul every day in Middle East": Photo by [sohey deghani](#) on [Unsplash](#)