

Project 2

'The Right Path?' **Graphic Novel on underprivileged** **Artists and their Dreams**

Report by

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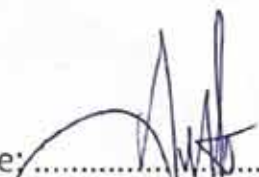
Under the guidance of

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Approval Sheet

The Communication Design Project 2 entitled 'The Right Path? A Graphic Novel on underprivileged Artists and their Dreams' by Hemant (216450002) is Approved towards partial fulfillment of the requirements For the post graduate of Master of Design in Communication Design.

Guide:  (Arun Mascarenhas)

Chairperson:

Internal Examiner:

External Examiner:

Date:

Declaration

I declare that this written submission represents my Ideas in my own words and where other's ideas or words Have been included, I have adequately cited and Referenced the original sources.

I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of Academic honesty and integrity and have not Misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any idea/data/ Fact/source in my submission.

I understand that any violation of the above will be cause For disciplinary action by the institute and can also evoke Penal action from the sources which have thus not been Properly cited or from whom proper permission has not Taken needed.

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Date:

Acknowledgement

I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to **Prof. Arun Mascarenhas** for his valuable and constructive suggestion during the development of this project.

I would also like to thank Prof. Alka Hingorani, Prof. Deepa Balsavar and Prof. Sudesh Balan for all the feedbacks, conversations and inspiration for this project.

Exceptional thanks to my batch mates who helped and upheld throughout the work.

Abstract

The graphic novel tells about the reality of so many Underprivileged artists who all are trying to achieve Their goals and making efforts to complete their Dreams. Taking two stories, for example this graphic The novel includes the struggle, moments and the Journey of an artist passionate about dance and how They are putting effort into making their dreams come True as well as questions to all those strugglers who left their homes to pursue their dreams if they have chosen the right path?

This report describes the design process involved in the creation of the graphic novel

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Introduction

There are so many people who belong to underprivileged section of our society and have created a contrasting image to the stigma. But what about those who are not able to make it because of several reasons like financial and mental support or less motivation from your own family or friends? This project is about telling the stories of those people who are still struggling to become a Successful artists and reach their goals With immense responsibilities and harsh life with a passion that only remains a dream.

In this project, the way of telling stories is through A graphic novel which is presenting a narrative through sequential art, either in an experimental design or in a traditional comic art style. This type of storytelling could be non-fiction thematically linked to short stories as well as fictional stories across genres.

The Project

Initial Project Proposal

1. Documenting the life of an Artist living in less developed/rural areas

Summary

Art is perceived as a field which is only opted by the fluent section of the society but people like divine, the we unbearable and many more who belongs to the underprivileged section of the society have created a contrasting image to this stigma. But there is a lot attached to it. The Deprived section of the society still struggles to achieve their dreams and the social media is only selling out the struggle which is only half the reality. Some artist came from similar areas/ background and through there sheer hardwork they reached to such heights that they are considered icons in there respective fields like



Source- Google Images

Objective

The objective is to document the gray reality of an artist and not only the struggle that is being showcased all over the digital media of artists from slums and to learn the process of documenting something.

Project background

A lot has been done on this topic but only certain aspects of their life and struggles are shown and it does not cover the entire population's dreams and aspirations. one of the example for the same is a Film GULLY BOY.



Source- Google Images

Possible medium

Documentary Film, Graphic Novel

2. Visual Representation of 9 Rasas

Summary

Rasas are human emotions developed according to the situations. In Indian aesthetics a rasa means essence or taste of something. In visual and performing arts, the viewer/reader/listener can experience these emotions through the artwork or the artist via expressions, gestures and sound, Colour etc. There are 9 rasas in which 8 was given by Bharat Muni in Natyashastra and the 9th rasa was added later by authors.

1. Sringarh Rasa (Love)
2. Hasyam Rasa (Laughter)
3. Raudram rasa (Fury)
4. Karunyam Rasa (Compassion)
5. Bibhatsam Rasa (Disgust)
6. Bhayanakam Rasa (Horror)
7. Veeram Rasa (Heroism)
8. Adbhutam Rasa (Wonder)
9. Santam Rasa (Peace or tranquility)

Objective

1. To Represent all the 9 rasas through visual mediums to understand the depth of Human emotion
2. To explore the possible Visual representation.
3. To explain the concept of rasas and importance of it to the global audience.

Project background

Folowing direction there has been blogs written on this concept. There also has been a Web series NAVARASA which explains it in a unique way.



Source- Google Images

<https://www.hinduismtoday.com/magazine/april-may-june-2019/nine-rasas/>
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<https://www.speakingtree.in/blog/nava-rasas-as-reflected-in-ramayana-and-mahabharata>

3. Value of donated clothes in the life of a person who wears it.

Summary

In the life span of an average human being they use enormous amount of clothes and accessories while also discarding plenty of them when not in use or damaged. These discarded clothes are sometimes directly thrown into the garbage and sometimes are given to the needy. The value of these discarded clothes changes drastically when it goes from the donor to the needy. For that person this article of cloth is not just a medium of looking good. This very cloth not just helps them to deal with the outside weather/condition but also acts as a medium to save their pride in a society.

Objective

The objective of the project would be to spread awareness about the value of clothes in one's life. How the cloth can be so crucial to one person when it was discarded by the other person.

Motivation

Being in close contact with people who had been on the needy side of the scale I got to know insights on a very personal level. Hence I am in a better position to create a visual experience narrating the same story.

Possible medium

Graphic Novel

Finalising the topic

Aftre having a discussion about my topics to Prof. Arun Mascarenhas Topic 1.documenting the life of an underpriviledge artists was finalised.

The initial idea was to make a documentary film on the life of artists living in underpriviledge section of the society as it seemed the best medium to potray the gray reality about these people. But after some suggestions and discussion I decided to shift to another medium of making a Graphic Novel.

Aim

To design a graphic novel which includes stories of underprivileged artist struggling for their dreams.

Objective

- To learn how to develop a story out of information available or taken.
- To know more about people interested in performing arts.
- To understand the reality how strugglers are surviving in this busy city.
- To understand and learn the process of telling a story through visuals.
- To learn how to narrate stories.

Motivation

I have seen many people around me who are so talented and passionate about art still asking themselves if they want to choose their passion or drop the idea of living their dreams just because they are at a stage of life

where they have to support their families and don't have enough funds to push their talent. We have seen so many underprivileged artists come from a scarce background and achieving their goals or getting success. But what about those who all are trying very hard to achieve their dreams but not getting success and left behind.

Another perspective of getting the motivation to do project on such topic is my feeling as I have also been in the same situation where I had to choose either my passion or the way which would provide me as well as my family financial support. That confusion made me realise sometimes we are sure what path is right for us.

Planning

The basic idea was to bring out a truth that there are so many dreams living in the society with people. Keeping the particular group of people who doesn't have enough sources to fulfill their dreams I wanted to tell stories. In the initial stage of my project my focus was artists and their dreams.

I decided to meet people referring to my topic and started visiting places and talking to people about their passion, dreams and how they are balancing their fantasies with lack of sources.

Research

Visits

I have already seen stories related to this topic around me but I was curious what Bombay city has and where can I find such people. After discussing with my local friends and other people I got a list of places where I could find people interested in different artforms. But my motive was to find people living in small areas and are from underprivileged background as I was very curious how they practice their art and what kind of facilities they are lacking. Then I made my first visit at Mahim slums and found very interesting people there.

I searched for people and asked people if there are artists living in those slums. Then I tried to make my another visit at Asia's biggest slum Dharavi. I visited several times as it was a very large area and met so many people and tried to understand their daily life and activities



As I mentioned people so I tried visiting their homes to the lifestyle of them and how they survive with limited necessities.

In the intial stage my focus was performing arts but During my visits I realised I was meeting dancers only so I decided to narrow down the category and focused on this particular artform and artist related to this During the visit a guy told me about a place where dancers do practice in mumbai I got very curious and visited that place.



Conversations

1. Shubham

A 20 year old guy who came to Bombay 5 years ago from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh with his bhaiya and bhabhi. Shubham belongs to a lower middle family his father is a construction worker and mother is house wife. He dropped his school in 10th grade due to financial issues in his family and started working on a construction site with his father while his elder brother was worried about the situation as he was married too. His brother was working in an office. Shubham's brother saved some money and came to Bombay along with Shubham and started a tobacco shop in Dharavi with his savings.

Shubham used to dance in his school events. He likes dance and films since his childhood but after he dropped his school he barely used to dance. He came with his brother to Bombay knowing that this city has made many people superstars and he also has a hope that coming to Bombay will somehow give him motivation to continue dance. As he was interested in films too He asked me if I could make him work for any film as a crew. His innocent said it all.

Shubham has worked as plumber, and now working as an electrician in Dharavi. The amount he earns from this job is not enough for him. He still wants to work in films and wants to learn dance if possible with earning a sufficient amount. Shubham has a dream but he is afraid to step forward because of his family conditions.

2. Baljeet

Baljeet is a 22 years old guy who is very passionate about dance. Baljeet lives in Dharavi slums with his mother and a younger sister he also has a elder brother. Baljeet's parents left Uttar Pradesh long back ago and shifted to Mumbai for a better future of their family but unfortunately they end up living in slums. Baljeet had dropped his schooling while he was in 6th standard. His father was a factory worker and he passed away n covid. His father was the only source of income to his whole family as his brother doesn't live with the family. Baljeet's mother does work from home for a shirt factory along with his sister who goes to school in day time and after her school is finished she helps her mother.

Baljeet has joined a group where they help other people. people like them who doesn't even have enough food or clothes. This group is managed by all the slum residents. They believe some people doesn't even have a home to stay but they have so they are helping people since 3 years.

Baljeet loves dance and doing stage shows since 4-5 years. He loves to dance on bhojpuri songs and has done many shows dancing on bhojpuri shows.

He has also worked in bhojpuri film industry as an side actor and dancer but still doesn't have a surity if this type of career will give him financial support for a long time. Right now baljeet doesn't have any work due to covid he lost work as well as his father. He is struggling between his thoughts either he should join the work again which he was doing erlier or he should get a job where he could earn a stable income.

3.Atish

A 27 year old guy lives in dharavi slums with his mother. Atish is a mature dancer who has already struggled a lot in the dance industry. His father was a Taxi driver who passed few months ago. His father was the only source of income for the family. Arfter his father left his family his mother has to take the responsibility as atish is finding ways to showcase his talent to the world so his mother started selling berries in front of a school in a small basket

Atish has realised that he has responsibilities so he has joined a diploma course in automobile at Industrial training institute as he doesn't have any degree. Due to his involvement in dance he never tried to join a degree course. Atish's mother wants him to do something which would give them money and continuesly tells atish to stop dancing hese days.

Atish used to give dance classes before covid but after the pandamic happened all his students left and he doesn't have any class now.Atish has performed in many big TV shows and dance battles he also has his youtube channel where he puts his dance videos.He used to be the part of a well known dance crew 'Wild Rippers' with whom he has performed in Indias got talent a TV show.

He has many certificates and trophies won in dance competetions.

Right now doesn't have any events to come and he is taking regular classes of his automobile diploma.His plan to complete the diploma and join a good paying job so he could help his mother but at the same time he is worried about his dance pratice what would happen.He has lot of questions to himself and hopes too that one day he will be able to prove his mother that he could even earn from dance.

4.Pramod

Pramod is a 20-year-old passionate dancer who loves his family. He lived with his father and mother in a small village in Madhya Pradesh. His father works as a labourer in the town at different sites. His mother is a housewife. In school, Pramod used to dance in events. He has liked to dance since he was a child and dreamed of becoming a choreographer one day. After completing school, he started practising dance on his own by watching videos on youtube.

After clearing his senior secondary education, Pramod asked his father if he could go to Mumbai city to learn dance and achieve what he was dreaming of since his childhood. His mother was worried about how a 19 year kid would manage to travel this long, but his father had faith in him and told him to go to Mumbai.

In the beginning, Pramod was worried about how he will manage in this big and expensive city. At first he somehow managed to get a room in a chawl and currently living in that chawl with 2 of his roommates who were already used to live in that room.

After getting a place to stay the next task was to get a work to get daily bread as his father couldn't send him money. Pramod asked his roommates if they could help

him to get a work. one of them was ready to take him to the work but the job was to pick garbage from a building. Pramod was worried that his family won't be happy to hear that he is working as a garbage picker. but he got ready and thought he won't let his parents know this and he told them that he is working for an office job in the city.

In present time Pramod is doing the same job and after his shift he goes for practice near Dadar beach. He practices for hours daily. A few days back his father called and told him that his mother is not well and asked him to come home to see his mother and asked for some money. Pramod himself barely can save money as his pay is very less to survive. After hearing all this he was in stress.

Background Study

Two unprivileged kids Amiruddin Shah and Manish Chauhan, 15 and 21 years old respectively lived in Mumbai. They have been practicing this unique dance form ballet for a few years. This dance form is not very well-known in India, but they chose it and still practice it.

Once a master of this form Yehuda Maor discovered them. Their moves, flexibility and flips caught the eye of the master and that is how they started professional training.

They were invited to international events but couldn't make it due to financial problems. After a while they got one year scholarship in America to get trained by ballet theatre in Portland.

These days both are professional ballet dancers. Their stories have already been documented by Sooni Taraporevala in 2017 and a film was made on their stories as well.



Source- Google Images

The 'V Unbeatables' was a hip hop dance group consists more than two dozen of members ranging in the age of 12 to 28 years old. Most of the members are from slums of Mumbai. Some of them sells flower on streets, delivers newspaper to support their families.

After the formation of th group a member Vikas got injured during a stunt and passed away. This tragedy gave the motivation to the group and their group name changes to 'V unbeatable' which was Unbeatables before.

This group kept practicing and one day got selected for an Indian TV show and did very well in that. They used to watch 'Americas got talent' a reality and wanted to perform one day in the same show. So this happened and their hardwork paid they were called for the auditions for 'Americas got talent' and for the expenses almost half of the amount were paid by the show to travel and other facilities. They were so good as they won the show and proved the world that real talent never stops.



Source- Google Images

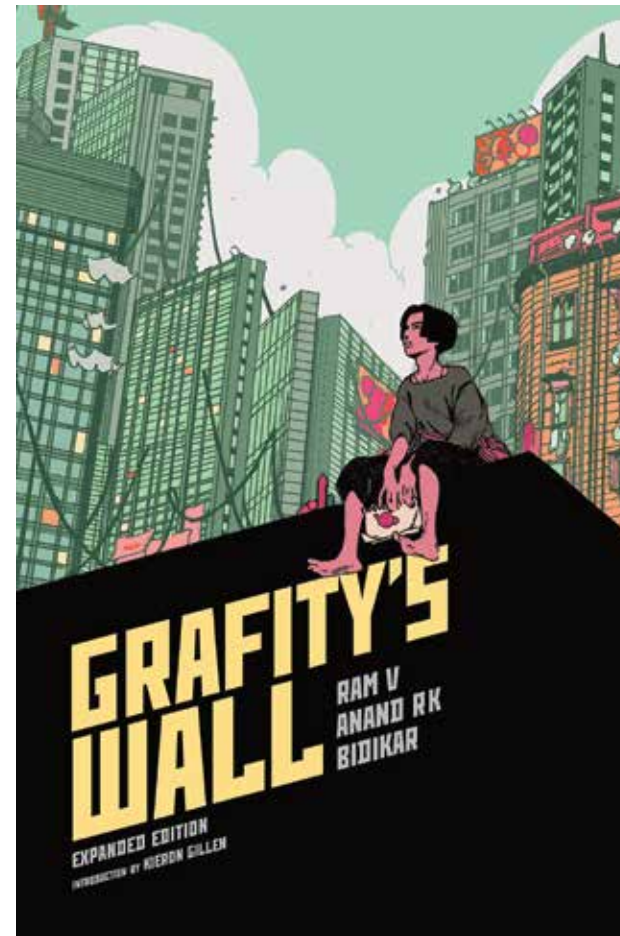
Inspirations

GRAFITY'S WALL

This Graphic novel by Ram V and Anand Radhakrishnan became my favorite novel till now. The way artist has shown the small stories through visual is commendable. I personally liked the colour pallete which has been done by Anand Radhakrishnan, Jason Wordie and Irma Kniivila. Seletion of color is very specific in this work as it's story of a slum strugglers who all are fighting for their dreams.

Another thing that I liked in this work is the way of storytelling how they used visuals to create atmosphere and the panneling is nice as well.

The way creators has devided this novel in to chapters is also creates interest to know more about the people lives in slums and how they survive.



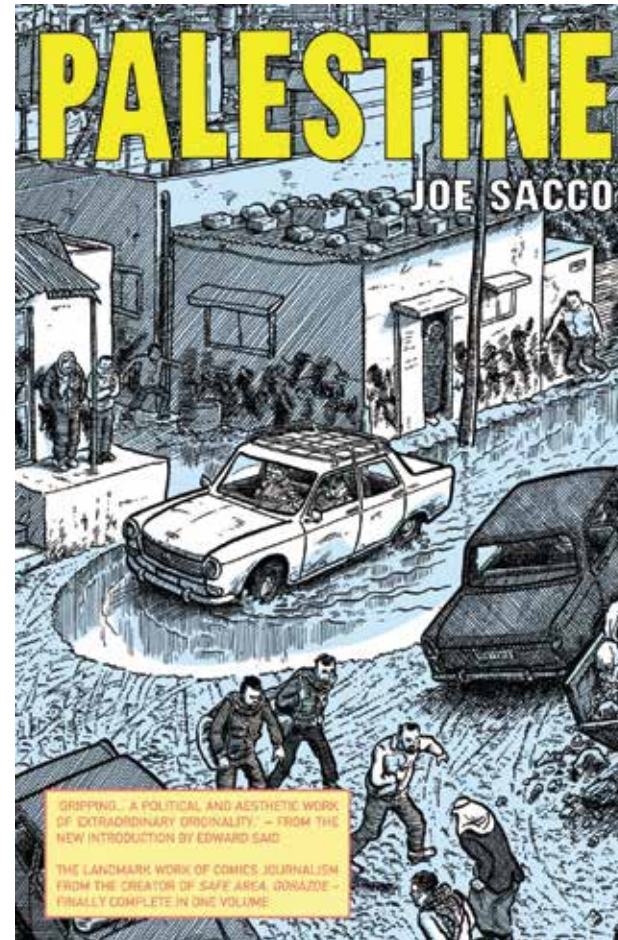
PALESTINE

Palestine is a non-fiction Graphic novel by Joe sacco. Joe sacco's style is very different, he travels around meet people observe and write about them.

In this novel he has told about his experiences in palestine. He met so many people and has shown many events and incidents in the novel. During his journey he collected the data and later wrote and drew the novel.

In this particular graphic of him i liked the way he exaggerated the faces and drew the scenes. I also liked his narration style how he writes dialogues is very interesting.

He is a journalist and his drawings are very impressive. I also liked his another graphic novel ' Safe area Gorazde' in which he has also included himself to makes the narraitve more effective.

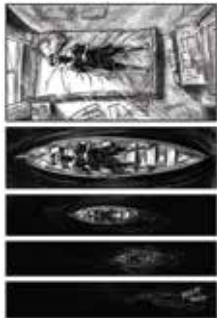


ABOL

This is a very interesting graphic novel by Sagar K. Sagar was a student at IDC School of Design and this novel is one of his projects.

I really like the way how he has told his own story in this work with the help of great visuals and narration. His work has inspired me to make a story impactful by diving deep in the topic. He has shown some really good visuals in the book. One of my favorite visuals from the book can be seen on the page.

The way of telling a story in this work is very strong as every emotion can be felt by the viewer or reader. Writing and illustration has a great connection to depict the actual events.



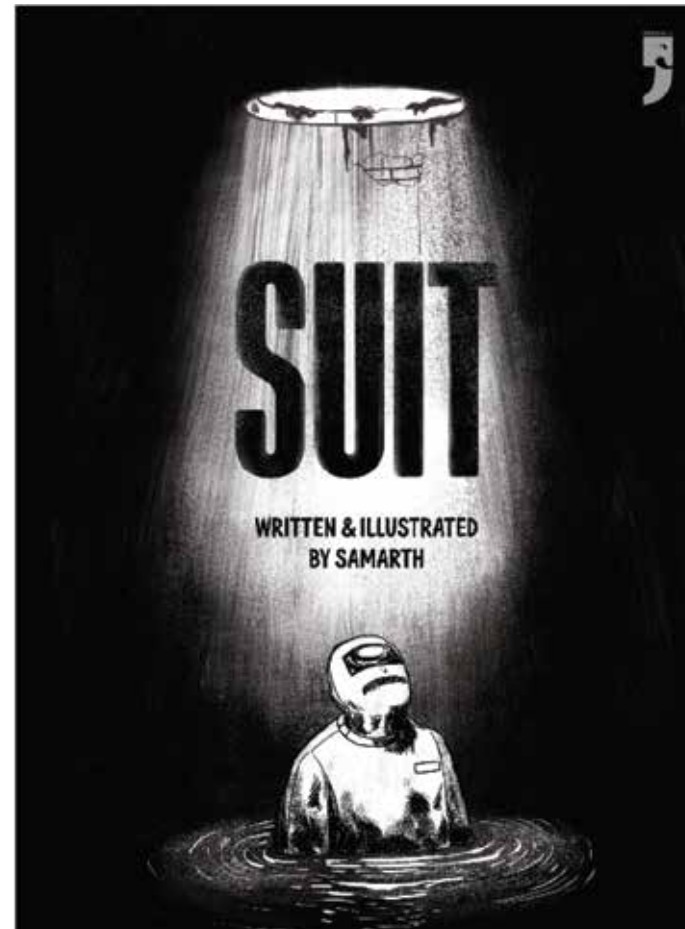
SUIT

Suit is a pretty well know graphic novel by Samarth. He is a good storyteller as his this particular graphic novel took my attentions.

His effort to make this graphic novel and narrating the story is unbelievable. He belongs to a good family and still chose to work on this category of people who work very hard to get their daily bread.

Samarth has lived with the characters to understand the difficulties and the lifestyle of the people who cleans sewers. Being from a well to do family and working on such people is very hard and he has achieved that level of telling story where everyone can relate to this.

I really liked how hard he worked and told the story in such a way so that people can relate to it.



Design Process

Story Development

For the content of the story development I had already talked to people as it was the best way to know more about your characters. So after having conversation with 4 people I felt two stories had the data which I really wanted for my project, in a much clear way. The stories I chose had similar problems in their lives on different stages as both of them had experiences where they had to choose between their dreams and family. Which is also a reflection of question if you have chosen a right path in your life?

I have added some Fiction to the story so I could tell the stories in a better way. The reason of choosing particular stories is both of them that they have similar major problem but in a very contrasting way which could be a great idea to create the story.

Initial story board



Character Development



Atish
27, Hip Hop
dancer

The last time I met atish he looked mature than the picture and had some similar body structure as I have shown in the drawings.

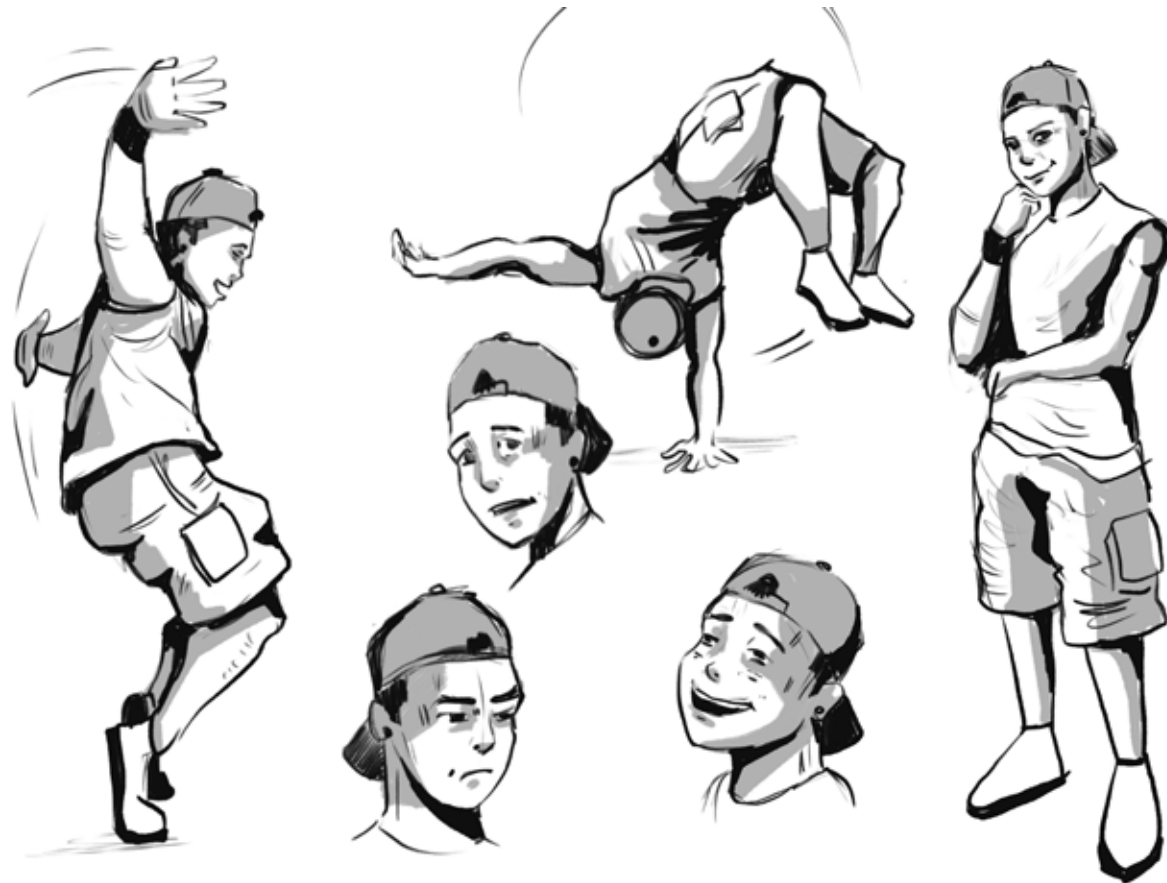
As he is a more calm and responsible guy I tried to kept relevance to his actual character in the drawings.





Pramod
22, Hip Hop
dancer

I met pramod while he was practising and I saw his moves and dedication towards dance. Pramod is guy who always wears a smile on his face whatever happens he tries to keep himself happy. Keeping these things in mind I developed these drawings.



Story Synopsis

An ambitious guy Ronak(Writer) comes to Mumbai to learn dance. Being curious about how Mumbai has made so many superstars he is also trying hard to make his dreams come true.

One day he meets a guy (Atish) who is a very good dancer and practicing dance since 7-8 years on a practice spot near a beach. While talking to Atish, Ronak sees a lady shouting at Atish later he realizes that it's his mother. Ronak asks Atish why your mother is so angry on you? then Atish tells him the backstory of him that he lives in slums with his mother, his father died few months ago and now his mother is the source of income for them. His mother sells berries in a basket. Atish is very passionate about dance he has won many competitions and participated in big events. Atish has a dream of becoming a Big dancer one day. But after his father's death he is confused about his dreams as should he stop practicing and help his mother or should he go on with the dance. This confusion has made Atish a weak personality and now he is struggling between things.

During the dance practice Ronak meets another guy Pramod who is a 22 year old dancer came from a village of Madhya Pradesh to Mumbai just for dance. Pramod works at a garbage cleaning job and after his duty he

comes to practice. Pramod has Big dreams of becoming a choreographer one day and trying hard to achieve that dream in the city. Ronak gets excited to ask him too about his dreams because he saw him changing clothes from the uniform of duty to relaxed outfit. Then he curiously asks Pramod Bhaiya what do you do. Pramod starts telling his backstory about how he left his hometown and came to Mumbai and between the conversation Pramod receives a call from his father that his mother isn't well and she wants to see Pramod his father also demands some money for the medication of his mother. Pramod gets tensed because he barely earns to have his basic needs. This phone call has made Pramod think questions that should he tell his father that he works for a garbage cleaning job and doesn't earn that much so that he could have those expenses to even reach home which didn't him before because they wouldn't like it or he should stop dance or where should he arrange the money? This situation made him think of his choice of taking dance as a career.

After hearing all this Ronak gets very confused and thinks that if he has chosen the right path?

Story Boarding process





Cover Art and Title

Making cover art for the Book was one of the toughest task of the project as it should convey the theme or glimpse of the story in one frame.

So after going through some oterations I came to this decision that I should show the place which has so many more stories to tell and I chose to put an low angle view of the slums with a silhoutte of a character who resprents all the strugglers fighting for their dreams and somewhere arrives at the same question that Am I on the right path?

Having this particular thought that every artist with disadvantages questions himself sometimes is this 'THE RIGHT PATH?'

The size for the cover and the book I decided to make is standard A4 size which will be printed on standard ivory (120-170 gsm) in CMYK profile.

For colours in both Cover art and the final book I've kept low saturated colour between grey and the saturation to represent the cofusion between choosing something.



210mm x 297mm (300dpi)

Glimpse of Final Output



210mm x 297mm (300dpi)

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(6th Aug, 2022)

Google Image- Sunny Hindustani Singer

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Google Image- Grafity's wall cover

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Google Image- Palestine cover

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Image- Abol cover

PDF
(29th Sep, 2022)