

Painting Artist's Statement

By Fredo Gonzalez

I decided to make a painting to represent the Hippie Movement. I wanted something to show their lifestyle after isolating themselves from society. My painting depicts a makeshift hippie camp in the middle of the woods. It consists of a simple tent with a peace sign on it, as well as a broken down bus with a flat tire. I thought painting would be an interesting learning experience as I've never made a painting before.

A forest scene is perfect to represent the laid back lifestyle of hippies in the 60's and 70's. It shows that the hippies would like to be isolated from society and its issues. At the time, there were terrible things happening in America with the Vietnam war, as well as the popularization of TV and radio, meaning the average person was able to see tragedies from all around the world, and the hippies could do nothing about it. The solution was to leave from all of this sadness being broadcast around them and reconnect with nature. The lush landscape and decrepit modern-day objects like the bus show the hippies' escape from modern life and back into the roots of human nature. Another part of the painting is the makeshift tent constructed. I decided to paint this because of images I've seen from that time period. Hippies would be crafty and make shelter from whatever they could get their hands on. I've seen images of hippie families creating entire houses from scraps of materials they could find lying around.

All in all, the painting well represents the lifestyle of hippies in just the way I wanted it to and I hope one can understand more about the way hippies lived after seeing the piece.