

Blake Johnson
Final - Mapping a Song
Drawing 2 - Rydz

Mapping "the Brink"

1. Mapping a Song - "On the Brink" by Coheed & Cambria

2. This song has mesmerized me for about a year now; every time I listen to it I love it. It's constructed interestingly, varying between calm, subtle, Pink Floyd-esque guitar vibrations, pop-glam rock, a steady metal drive and back through the movements again. It's a fascinating listen technically; even the vocals come together well for words that don't always rhyme and syllables that wouldn't usually seem to match. The song reminds me of leaving a place, of moving onward in a journey, of closing a chapter and moving into the new one, of saying goodbyes, be they permanent or simply until the next few pages warm us to a return. It reminds me of going through life, of hitting rock bottom, of realizing that nothing works, that life is futile, and then remembering to fight back. It reminds me that life is just chapters, just moments, that vary like the song, and in the end it is all a fascinating listen, like old people mesmerizing us with stories in their sunny afternoon kitchens as they wave their goodbyes to their later chapters, and we wonder at the eventuality of our own.

3. I want to have some sort of abstract imagery in this, inspired by the sound-mark-making I was doing last class in Evan's Way Park, so I'm thinking of using the waveform of the song as a platform on which I'll have the rest of the image. With the spikes of the waveform pointing down, I'll have shapes or icons protruding upward from that as a mirror but of recognizable images, like people's profiles, country or map shapes, using the invented iconography idea we used in our Mapping Routine project. This will represent either the tones of the music, the lyrics, or the journeys in my life those two aspects remind me of, giving a narrative of life moments reflecting the movements of the song and the moments themselves, mirrored with the song's waveform on the bottom. I'm picturing all of this in black and white, almost like one giant stencil, but I'd be precise about it, and have thought about doing it digitally. I'm also considering inserting the lyrics to the song through the middle in white, but that would be a last-minute decision.

4. I'll experiment a bit with digital vs. hand-drawn, using ink and pens or markers, possibly paint. Essentially I want a completely flat, crisp black image on white paper, and digitally seems to me the most reliable way of getting that as controlled and sharp as I'm imagining it. After that decision is made I'll get an image of the waveform of the song, and using the imagery I develop during in- and out of class work time, I'll arrange images and icons above it to mirror the waves and portray the journey taking place in myself and the music.