

The Touch

For my final project I created a piece entitled "The Touch" which I created using 2 mice. The piece involved a painting of a woman, curled up as though she was sad. She is also covered by bright ribbons that cross the width of the painting. This piece is meant to portray how art is normally meant to be looked at, not touched and the woman is sad because of this. The ribbons were meant to have a touch sensor on them, but unfortunately approaching the presentation date, the arduino fried. Instead, behind the paint are 2 mice, hacked to act as buttons that go off when the painting is touched. The painting makes calm and soothing sound effects if pushed, and can be pressed simultaneously. There is a scroll at the top right hand side of the painting as well that can be rolled up or down, to change the background music which alternates between the crackling of a fire, and a breeze in the wind. I wanted to create a piece with hidden buttons so that when people interacted with the piece they would feel a sense of surprise and shock when simple objects react to their touch. I feel that I need to make the spots with buttons more noticeable so that people are more enticed to touch it, had I have gotten the touch sensors to work without frying the arduino; I think I would have had a better outcome.