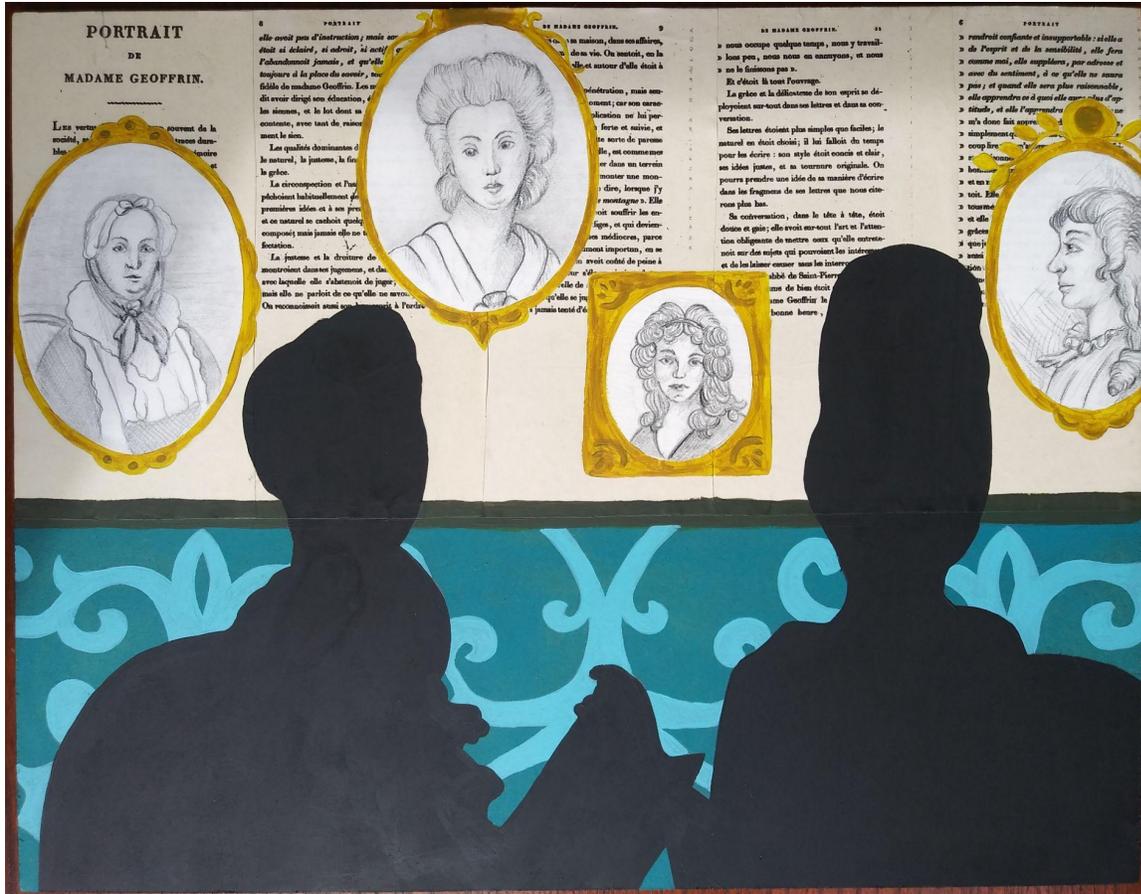


Allison Koos
Assignment 1
18th Century French Salons



18x14 inches
Mixed Media- collage, graphite, and acrylic paint

Artist Statement

This piece portrays motifs of the salon culture of the bourgeoisie and upper class in France during the 18th century. This was a time during the end of the French Enlightenment period and the beginning of the French Revolution. The background is a mock wall that is half covered in a letter from a famous salonnière, Madame Marie-Thérèse Rodet Geoffrin. The other half is painted to mimic wallpaper with a pattern I designed based on those from the time. There are portraits of salonnières hanging on the wall that were drawn in a style reminiscent of the time period with painted ornate frames around them. They reflect the wealth, power, and respect that these women were given. The portraits from left to right are of Madame Geoffrin, Suzanne Curchod (Madame Necker), Isabella Teotochi Albrizzi, and Madame Roland. These women all hosted great salons that welcomed many influential people of the time. The last element of this piece is the silhouette of the two women having an intellectual conversation over a book. I chose

to represent them in silhouetted form so that it would seem as if they are shadows being cast upon the wall. Symbolically this is meant to represent the many female voices from the time that would have gone unheard even within a space where women were allowed to participate in intellectual and political discourse.

Background Reading Resources

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