

“Light and Dark”

This piece was inspired by a computer science paper which discussed the generation of what psychologists refer to as “figure-ground” illusions. You have most certainly seen some of these, a famous example being that of two side-profile faces making a vase, based on whether you see the light or the dark as the foreground or background. As the prompt of this series had to do with the conformability of our souls into the vessels/contexts in which they were deposited, I thought that incorporating the audience into this piece through the use of some form of optical illusion would drive home the point more strongly. The light figure has arms and legs outstretched, and is facing the viewer openly. The dark figure is inverted, depicted in the side profile, and with its head in hands in a fetal position. The two characters are dependent on their coloration to highlight each other’s existence, and looking at the piece in different ways highlights one figure more than the other. In this case then, the “vessel” is the perceiver, and the combination of light and dark in the piece reflects the “soul” of the entity. The figures are designed as expressions of “lightness” and “darkness” not only in a literal visual sense but as a metaphor for our lighter and darker selves.

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