



ESPOON KUVATAIDEKOULU
Kuvataiteen perusopetus
Laaja oppimäärä
LOPPUTYÖ 2026

Silja Isosomppi lopputyö portfolio

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Introduction



My base idea for my work started from just experimenting with colour and contrast in the oil painting medium. My goal began from a want to paint something beautiful but nonsensical, that would be interesting to gaze at, giving a somewhat whimsical/fantastical feeling to observers. My inspiration comes from two reference photos: Lilies from my garden and a picture of a koi fish. (original sketch plan, made on 2.10.2025).

Progress



The further I worked on my painting I started gathering that my seemingly random subject matter was actually more connected than I originally thought. My whole work became more centered around nature and the harmony in the colour and lines of the fish and flowers. By the time my focal point was being finalized I found myself feeling that the painting was lacking in contrast and depth, as I tried to add more defined lines to no avail. Despite my original plan being very close to the original reference photo, with a black background, by the time I got to working on the background I thought that despite the contrast it would create, it would eventually end up looking plain and less whimsical.

Deciding that I should strive for a more aquatic central theme for the painting, I added an aqua blue background, which solved my problem seamlessly as the cooler background made the warmer tones in the foreground pop out more as well as giving the impression of being underwater.

Product

After finishing the very last highlight on the bubbles and the eye of the fish, I felt the piece had come together cohesively. Though as my deadline started approaching I realised I did not have as much time as I would have wanted to work on my background detail, settling for a more simplistic one with just a few bubbles instead of a full on underwater scene. My central idea transformed the more I painted, I felt that the underwater theme painted with the visual of a flower and a bee, made for beautiful symbolism for the harmony of life on earth. Having to come up with a title, I had a hard time putting words to that same idea, before I thought of how life is assumed to have started to begin with. The Last Universal Common Ancestor or LUCA is a term used to describe the theoretical single celled organism from which all life on earth descends from, originating underwater. The idea of life having one source, starting from underwater, worked well with the togetherness of life that my painting already conveyed, so I decided on the name LUCA. Overall I feel like my original goal of experimenting with colour and making something very visually harmonic was achieved well, something that I wanted to improve in my art for a while. show below: final product and palette.



