**Unit 41: Graphic Media Techniques Design Report**

In this unit, I was tasked with creating eight postage stamps of which four are illustration based from the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, the other four are typography based from a theme of your choice. To begin this unit, I began researching previous Olympic stamps along with exploring famous Japanese art styles to use as inspiration for the style of the stamp illustration. I came across Japanese woodblock printing which I was very drawn to and so I decided to make my four illustration stamps in this style.
My first stamp was of Itsukushima Shrine. To begin, I traced a photo of the shrine using Adobe Photoshop to be able to use my drawing tablet to be able to get exactly the lines and get the small details. This was to create the outline to replicate the same style as woodblock printing. I then chose colours which were like previous woodblock printing I had found to recreate the style. After adding details such as gradients in the water and hills and a shadow effect in the water from the shrine; the final steps were to add the needed typography needed on the Japanese stamps along with a paper effect to copy the same paper used for centuries when making actual woodblock printing. I then copied these same steps to create four woodblock print styles for the four Tokyo Olympic stamps, the outcome was very good and I am proud of the hours of work I put into – to make each one.
To make my typographic stamps; I began by, again, looking at already existing typography stamps to gain inspiration. My chose quotes were from the 2019 movie Joker and so I found four quotes to use within the stamps. This time there was no specific style and so I just attempted to create four different stamps with the fonts I had researched to fit the theme/style of the film. The first quote I used was about smiling and so I decided to use the Joker’s make up within the film as the shapes while putting the text into it using “Envelope Distort” in Adobe Illustrator so that the word would fit into the shape. To finish this stamp, I switched to Photoshop to improve the look by adding a dust effect and improving colour. My second stamp was to replicate a quote that it was written in his book with his handwriting, rather than being said. So, I attempted to make it look like it was actually written by the character. I used Photoshop to be able to recreate this handwritten style along with my drawing tablet to create this very interesting style. The fourth stamp, I once again used a combination of Photoshop and Illustrator for the typography and the placement of the tablets inside the pill bottle. Finally, the final stamp was a quote the Joker says before coming out on stage and being introduced as ‘Joker’.

Overall, I am very proud of all eight stamps I had created for this unit. Especially the four illustration stamps I had made for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics as they contain a lot of detail which strongly use the woodblock printing style. These successfully show off Japan and just a few of its landmarks in a very popular and incredible style which I believe I was able to replicate.

I believe my outcome answers the brief as I was able to create stamps by using the styles and themes given. I used Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to be able to create all of my eight stamps however in different ways to achieve my final outcome. I enjoy my four illustration stamps of the Tokyo Olympics as the final outcome came out exactly how I wanted it to look and I believe I had captured exactly what I had in mind. If there was one thing I would improve in the unit, it would be to be able to gather some real-life mock-ups of the stamps as I had made these at home on my computer, I have no access to a good printer with card. So, I was unable to print these stamps off and create mock-ups that would show them off as if they are actually being used. Despite this, I am very proud of this brief as I believe I was able to strongly answer the brief.