Artist Statement – Dramatic Light

Alice Albarda

Art 12

**Alfred Hitchcock; Best of Mystery**

I chose this subject because it tells a story. The story is that somebody was reading a mystery story out of the Alfred Hitchcock Best of Mystery book (which is a very good book, by the way) when he suddenly became the victim of something straight out of the book he was reading. Someone broke into his house and murdered him, just lie in the story he was reading. In the process, the lamp fell over and his book was left open to the story that he was reading.

 I chose to use these materials because compressed charcoal is too hard to use and graphite is tough to do well in a large scale. I was also considering collage, but it was also a very challenging medium to use, so I settled for willow sticks. I chose to work at this scale because the only other option was a bigger piece of paper, which I didn’t want to do.

 The content of my work makes it seem mysterious and spooky. Lamps don’t fall over on their own, so something must have happened that caused disarray in the scene. The fact that everything is contained in the small space of the frame and is very squished together makes it seem more hectic.

 During this process, I struggled with the medium. I have never used charcoal before and it took a while to figure it out. I wasn’t very eager to try it either, because it’s so different from anything else that I’ve used.

 My work could be informed by the painting *The Taking of Christ* by Caravaggio. It portrays a frantic scene and a struggle between men. Several armored men are attempting to take away Jesus while another man calls for help. In both Caravaggio’s work and my drawing, some is happening or has happened that is violent and frantic and it is shown in a dramatic light. The work could help me to make my drawing more energetic.