

The Psychedelic Art Movement of the 1960s

My piece is a psychedelic stylized drawing revolving around John Lennon, someone who I thought would be a good face of the 60s to represent. The background is swirling with colors, a common pattern in the psychedelic arts, fit with the phrase “turn on, tune in, drop out”. This phrase, popularized by Timothy Leary, captures the heart of the experience where to turn on means to activate your mind, tune in means to harmonize with the world around you, and to drop out means to abandon reality and discover your singularity. Imbedded into Lennon’s head are mushrooms, a popular symbol and literal use of drugs, because of the popularity of psilocybin mushrooms and their visual use in psychedelic art. Triangles and spirals were also a popular pattern found in this style so I included them and tried to make them look like they were floating around off the canvas. Lennon has a third eye that looks like it’s been exposed to smoking lots of marijuana to represent the popular usage of the drug as well as the awakening of the “third eye” that many people experienced while using various drugs. And finally I included a little peace sign on his cheek to tie together everything acknowledging the hippies and their love for love.