



In previous works, I have explored techniques and subject matter in relation to portraiture and symbolism. I aimed to expand on skills and understanding of graphite portraiture from a very realistic approach. For this work I wanted to explore areas of art I lacked confidence in. Flowers were something I used previously, and so wanted to explore different ways to capture them as a main subject. However, maintain symbolism.

I decided on the complete opposite - abstraction using mediums like oil paint. This came from interests in Ben Quilty and Impressionism. I used the folio to explore further mediums using floral imagery. Oil paint had the best ability to capture both translucency in the background and texture in the flowers. Exploration of abstraction allowed me to look into ways other artists handle the medium. This helped me

to gain confidence and ideas on how to approach this work.

The initial idea of impasto came from the inspirational works of Bobbie Burgers, Ben Quilty, Lisa Madigan and Kathe Fraga. Furthermore, the way Burgers adds depth in her flora with impasto and abstraction in both composition and paint placement captivated me. As well as Fraga using thick placements of paint to as well capture semi-realistic shapes and textures of the flora. I chose to leave some flowers semi-realistic to show the positive memories and create contrast.

Quilty inspired additional ways to apply paint through his smearing pallet knife techniques. This was incorporated into my piece to show the reshaping of a person. Looking at Quilty in my Visual Study I was drawn to the way he spread the paint after creating a realistic image, to create a more abstract piece. I remember these techniques and tried them out on my piece, instantly enjoying the way it added further depth and meaning. Pulling and smearing the flowers aimed to represent things that have happened in my life that haven't been as easy. My beliefs are that your past experience happen to shape you into the person you are today.

My interest in Impasto but desire to have detail lead to looking at Impressionism. I incorporated Impressionism through the use of broken colour. Working with Mary Cassat's techniques and looking at Van Gogh, I found their techniques fit the abstraction of the piece well. From close you can see the different elements of colour and from far away the eyes automatically blend them. This was particularly used in the addition of yellow patches in the centre of the large flowers. This drew from the yellow flora surrounding the large flowers and brought the piece together.

The use of foil came from the inspiration of Gustav Klimt. By the addition of mixed media, the layers were separated and a deeper meaning was added to the piece. The addition of the reflective foil stood for the ability to reflect on the past and how these experiences shape a person. Following the saying; things happen for a reason.

Layering of Impasto, thin washes, and foil gave depth and texture to the piece.

Throughout the process I grew as an artist, expanding my knowledge of different mediums and ways different artists worked. Looking back on both modern and historical art and taking from both I felt I created a very interesting piece. As for my personal style I still believe I create clean and thought-out pieces, but have the ability to create abstraction within it. I learnt more about my style of symbolism and learnt ways to use colour and textures to bring elements of the painting together.