

PRACTITIONER'S STATEMENT 1

'Dylan'

My artwork, 'Dylan' centres itself around the theme of identity and the concept of evolving personal connections. To begin with, it was important to capture a person's natural state. For this I photographed my subject in their positive environment; that being a place of creation and discovery. I portrayed this in a single portrait abounding with symbols of nature and awakening.

The connection with nature in the portrait was inspired by the subject himself, Del Kathryn Barton's paintings as well as my own personal discoveries. Australian Archibald prize winner Barton's attention to detail almost overwhelms the subject matter with the use of dots, lines and technical patterns in the fauna and flora. I'm fond of the intense fusion where nature and art meet, as they energetically captivate the viewer.

The concealed strand of golden-orange within the portrait whilst not visually significant, is an important aspect. For me, this represented the concept of identity, individuality and the intertwining associations we all feel in our lives to certain aspects, creatures or people. The ideology around personalities and auras and its symbolism with nature also affected me. This is why audacious and striking colours fuse within the painting. My personal focus for this task was to also step outside of my comfort zone and speak to the people I have silently admired from a distance.

Australian artist Cherry Hood influenced the way I applied watercolour, however her portraits are frequently anonymous composite portraits. Working in this way helped me to discover and form a better foundation for my own aesthetic.

The early twentieth century Fauvism Movement also inspired my portraiture in terms of the striking use of colour, impressionism and representations of semi-realistic values, whether that be in portraiture or flora. Henri Matisse was one of the most influential of the Fauves, and I admired his bold, extreme use of colour.

Joshua Yeldham, an Australian contemporary artist creates lucid artworks mainly focusing on desert landscapes and owls. His use of intricate patterns within his artwork borrows from Chinese watercolours and Aboriginal influences. Yeldham's work encouraged me to see the connection of personality through pattern and colour.

The unique features of Dylan's identity were captured using a range of media on a canvas panel. I chose to work with watercolour, gouache, acrylic, ink and felt tipped markers. The abundance of dots represent the particles of a person and their environment, which connects strongly with my way of thinking. Beyond the 'physical body' I see skin, living cells and clusters of atoms, all made up of pure energy. In addition, I wanted to capture this wonder and awareness through colour and the excessive use of dots.

I have been successful in depicting my subject's identity harmoniously and expressively. However, my perception of Dylan may not be accurate, as identity and personality is open to interpretation by the artist.

Word Count 473