

## *Glass and Delusion*

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Reflections of ourselves can never be trusted, even those made from objects in our day-to-day lives; mirrors windows or even reflections as trivial as those in a puddle. As humans, we heavily depend on reflections to build our self-image and to create an identity and understanding ourselves. Yet, this reliance leaves us vulnerable in a world where we are constantly left to find our true selves. When I first took this photograph for the painting, I was surprised by the extent of distortion a material as transparent as glass can do, to morph your perceptions and question your identity. My "Glass and Delusion" oil paintings use glass as a lens to capture the warped image of a person to convey how easily a reflection is morphed from its true image.

I wanted the reflected image to go through much distortion before it reached the canvas since a photograph itself fails to do reality justice and capture its true essence. I employed editing to adjust saturation levels and colouring, once again altering the image. I chose oil paints as my choice of medium for painting because the painting process adds random imperfections to creates another layer of distortion. Overall, I aimed for the process to morph the image from its original state. I was inspired to put significance into my process by Vija Clemin's value for her tedious yet precise process of applying paint, and then sanding down, to make it a non-replica of just a reference image or photograph. I was also inspired by Rebecca Scott and her application of vivid colourations to create an artificial sense of reality and unrealistic perfections in still-life. So, I opted for a lively, vibrant yet overly saturated colour palette to leave a slightly unnatural impression on the painting, which stimulates confusion and alienation for the viewer. The oil paints add richness and allowed me to create vibrant colours and blend for this dreamy affect Scott's use of glassware and cutlery inspired me to experiment with glass to realise its warping potential.

Our curiosity and heavy reliance on mirrors to view ourselves, made a human subject the perfect experimental choice to put in the spotlight of this artwork. I wanted the central composition on the larger painting to confront the viewer of these deceptive distortions, whilst the cropped compositions on the smaller paintings created a snapshot effect to roughly showcase a plethora of ways our reflection can become obscured. Presenting multiples of the smaller paintings I was able to exaggerate reflections as more mundane and showcases how often we are fooled by reflections in our everyday lives. Although I found working with oil paints the most challenging due to my inexperience with this medium, I was able to exploit its slow-drying process to keep refining and take my time with building the piece to make sure it came together cohesively and successfully exhibit the theme of distortions.