

## Practitioner's

### Statement

The idea I was exploring throughout my folio was centred around my Mum's garden, and what it represented to me. My initial idea revolved around my interest in plants, focusing exclusively on the plants in the garden, recording details, and creating a microcosm of part of the garden. This idea was expanded on to include other life within the garden, such as insects and pets, as well as adding a deeper personal element by using memories from my childhood to influence my choice of artists for my analyses, the subjects for my practical work, and my major. I refined my idea to use the hen as a symbol of many aspects of my Mum's garden.

The artists that influenced me were Clifton Pugh, David Hamilton, Elizabeth Berrien, and Margaret Olley. For my major, I drew inspiration predominantly from Elizabeth Berrien, and David Hamilton, the two sculpture artists I analysed in my folio. I drew inspiration for the leaves / feathers of my hen from David Hamilton's sculptures, and the design of the legs, and head, came from Elizabeth Berrien's work. Also, the choice to create a stand for my sculpture was influenced by Hamilton's use in his sculptures.

Although influenced by their work, my major, stylistically, is very different. First of all, Hamilton works predominantly in copper, using its natural colour, as well the colours it turns through oxidisation to add an element of colour to his sculptures. Although I attempted to work with copper, altercations forced me to solely use aluminium. Another difference is that Hamilton melds his sculptures together by welding them together, among other techniques. Due to the more delicate nature of the materials I was using, I used alternate methods when I assembled my major, such as creating physical bonds by twisting wire, melting solder, and using adhesives. Differences concerning Elizabeth Berrien's style arose because of the weight of my sculpture. Berrien's style is to use thin, delicate wire, winding it together to create a two-dimensional image out of wire. However, because of the sculpture's weight, I had to deviate from her style and use a heavier gauge wire, sculpted in three dimensions in order to support the sculpture's body.

I feel my major was very successful, I was able to accurately create my vision for this piece. I originally planned to use copper to accentuate the sculpture's composition by reflecting the brown colour of the hens I remember from my childhood; however, copper was not available, and I used aluminium instead. Also, in addition to the layers of sculpted leaves, small sculptures of other plants being used to imitate other features of the hen would've added to the symbolism of the garden within the sculpture. Through this piece, I developed techniques with combining different mediums, in this instance, using wire, sheet metal, and wood. However, more importantly, I developed my capability with conceptualising personally relevant ideas, something I've always struggled with in my art.

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