

Still Life with bones and metallic objects

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My major still life painting I was inspired to use a combination of abstract and Post-Impressionist techniques. I was primarily inspired by the artists Giorgio Morandi who was influenced by Post-Impressionism, and the Post-Impressionist Paul Cezanne after learning their styles and techniques. The still life paintings of Paul Gauguin also heavily inspired me. Gauguin was a French Post-Impressionist and is well-known for his abstract styles of landscapes, portraits and still life. Gauguin's still life has colours ranging from muted to vibrant, while the darkness of shadows are often exaggerated. He also uses shadows as bold outlines for objects, which are often slightly distorted and when combined with smooth texture and colour blending, creates an abstract feel.

My still life setup was centred around the theme of Vanitas, which uses symbolic objects to depict the inevitability of mortality. I used bones, a skull, rusted gears and metal to convey this theme because I believed the objects are symbolic of the process of decay. I arranged objects compactly while leaving negative space to enhance the focal points, which are the skull, the yellow saw and the gear. The usage of simplified and muted foreground and background inspired by Morandi further highlights the objects. The left of the still life faces the window which acts as the primary light source, creating well-defined shadows that highlight the depth and shape of the objects.