

# External Assessment Cover Sheet

## Assessment Type 3: Visual Study

**SACE Registration Number:**

Visual Arts – Art

Visual Arts – Design

**Topic** Investigate acrylic paint; including brushes and techniques. Choose a number of artworks created in this medium **word count** 2138.  
complete both a critical + practical analysis of each and create an original artwork in this style.  
(for written only)

This visual study is assessed using the following specific features:

Practical Application	Analysis and Synthesis	Inquiry and Exploration
PA1	AS1	IE1
PA3	AS2	IE2
	AS4	





# Acrylic Paint

Acrylic paint has been around since as early as 1934, when the first usable acrylic resin dispersion was created by German chemical company, BASF, and was patented by Otto Rohm and Haas. The paint was first used in the 1940s, and was combined with some of the properties of oil and watercolour. Leonard Bocour and Sam Golden invented a solution acrylic paint under the brand, Magna Paint, between the years of 1946 and 1949. They were mineral based paints and were made commercially available in the 1950s. Following this development, Sam Golden created a waterborne acrylic paint called Aquatex and Otto Rohm invented an acrylic resin, which was quickly altered into acrylic paint.

Water-based acrylic paints were originally sold as latex house paints, however they were soon introduced for artists and companies alike to start exploring the potentials. Water soluble artists' acrylic paints were sold commercially by Liquitex, beginning in the 1950s, with modern high-viscosity paints becoming available in the early 60s. In 1963, Rowney was the first manufacturer to introduce artistic acrylic paints in Europe, under the brand name 'Cryla'

Many artists use acrylic paint as it is easy to work with, because it is water-soluble, dries quickly and is very versatile. It can also be very forgiving. If the artist isn't happy with an area they have painted, it can dry and be painted over again. Because acrylic is a plastic polymer you can paint on any surface as long as it doesn't contain wax or oil. Unlike oils, acrylics can be used without any toxic solvents and can be cleaned up easily with just soap and water.



LOVE BIRDS by Shelly James

Image removed Peter Dranstin - One Desire

The pictures here are the ones I have chosen to study for my visual study. Above is called Love Birds by Shelley James, and next to it is One Desire by Peter Dranitsin. The picture on the bottom right is called Water Flowers and has been made by Julie Di Sano.

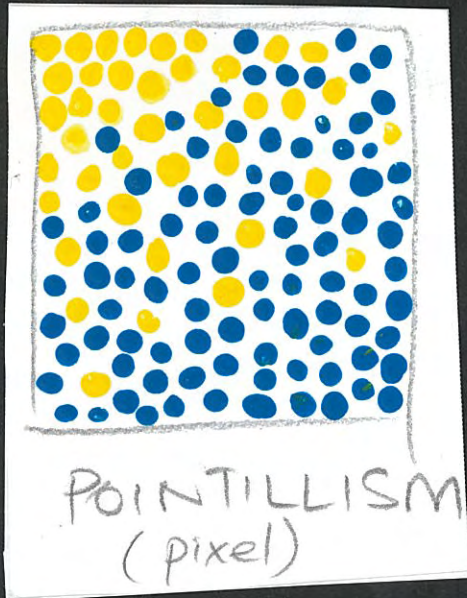
\*Permission granted to SACE board from artists to show images.



WATER FLOWERS by Julia Di Sano



# Paint Techniques



Pointillism uses small dots to create an image. It takes a long time to do a piece in pointillism, but it gives an amazing effect when done correctly.



Moulding paste is a texture that can be painted over. It is 3D and is fairly easy to work with.



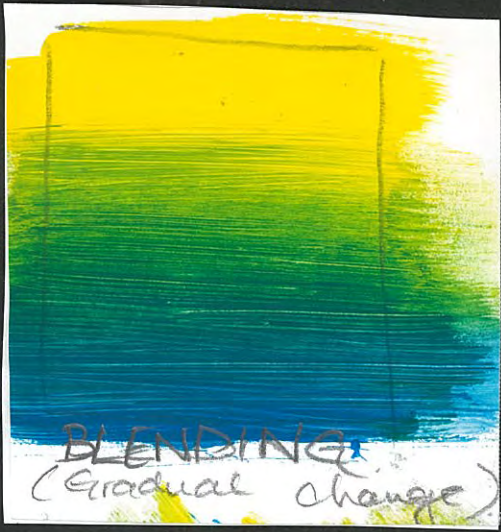
Soft Edge is when the edges of a picture are slightly blurred, causing the colours to mix to some extent.



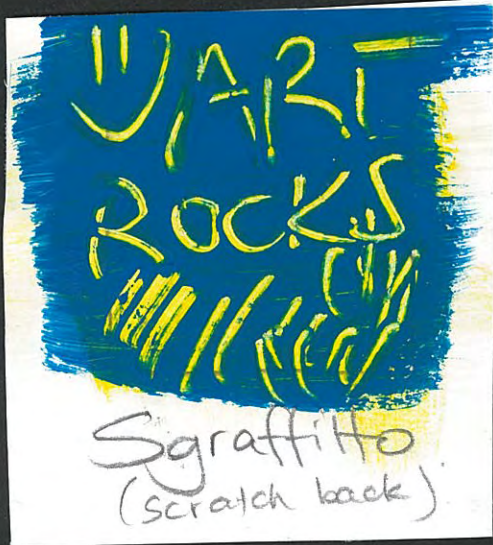
Hard Edge is when there is a definitive edge between the colours, giving a stronger sense of where the object ends.



# Paint Techniques



Blending shows the transition from one colour to another in one smooth movement.



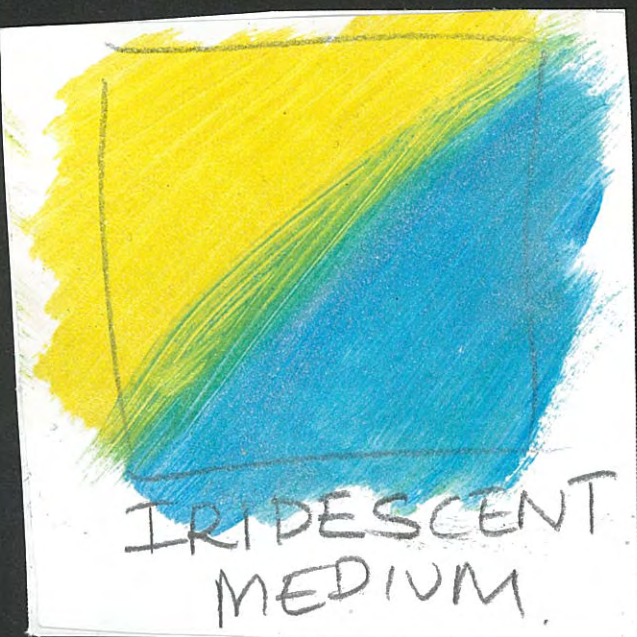
Sgraffitto is when there is a base layer, and a top layer, and the artist has scratched back the top layer to reveal the bottom layer.



A wash is fairly transparent, and looks similar to watercolour as it has a softer appearance.



Black lava creates a texture when mixed in with the paint. It also creates a 3D layer.



Iridescent medium creates a shimmer within whatever colour it is mixed with. It is simple to use and can make a picture stand out better.



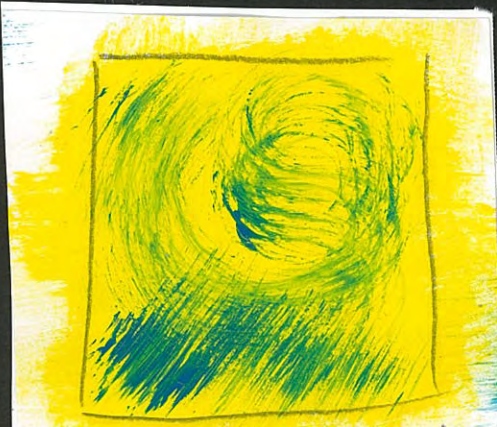
# Paint Techniques

Glass beads are little beads that are imbedded in the paint when mixed with a colour. This can give a 3D effect to a picture, and is full of texture.



GLASS BEAD  
TEXTURE GEL

Dry brush uses limited paint on the brush. By doing this, it creates a scratchy look with no smooth edges.



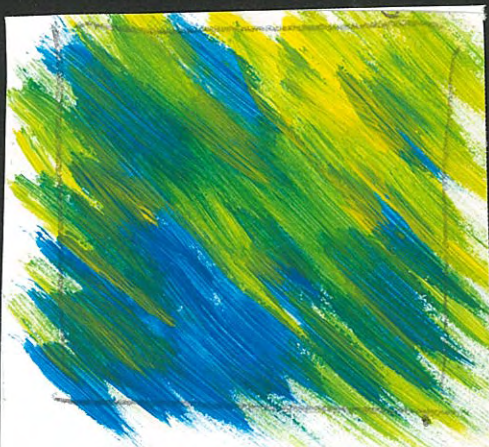
DRY BRUSH  
(WISPY LINES)

Impasto Gel gives out a shiny appearance whilst being textured. It blends well with other colours and is simple to use.



IMPASTO  
GEL  
MEDIUM

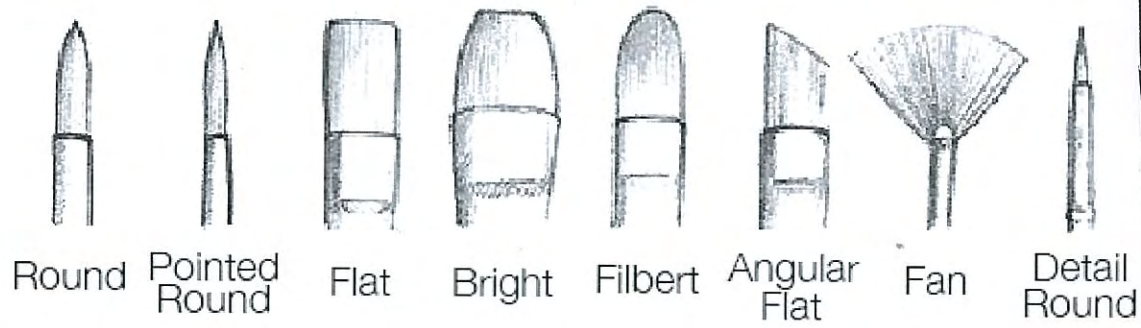
Painterly uses similar sized brush strikes following the same direction. The aim is to see every brush stroke on the canvas.



PAINTERLY



# Artist Paint Brushes



There are 8 main brush types used when painting with acrylics.



This brush has round hairs and is shorter in length. It also has a shorter handle, making it a very fine brush to use. It is good for details and short strokes, and holds more colour than a person may think.



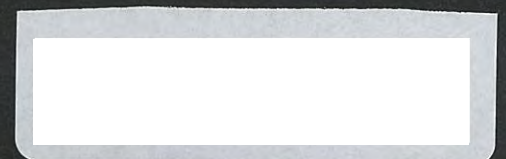
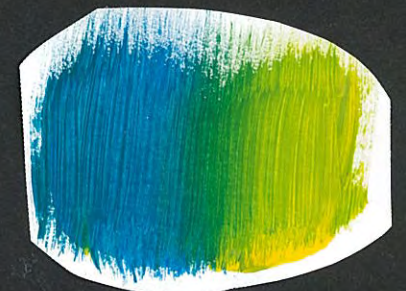
This brush has narrower bristles compared to the round brush. The tip is pointed sharply with medium length bristles. This brush is good for intricate details and lines, as well as retouching and delicate areas.



This brush has a round or pointed tip, with medium length hairs. This brush is good for sketching, outlining and detailed work. It is good for filling in smaller areas and works best with a thin amount of paint on the brush.

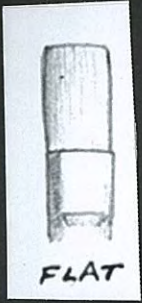


This brush has flat spread hairs and is good for feathering and textural effects. Some examples include clouds and leaves. It is also a good brush for smoothing and blending areas. When using this for acrylic paints, use a strong and sturdy brush to avoid clumping the bristles together when paint is added.



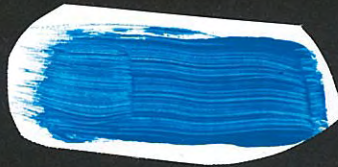


# Art Paint Brushes



FLAT

This brush has a square end with medium to long hairs and is good for strokes, washed filling wide spaces and impasto. It can be used for fine lines, straight edges and stripes.



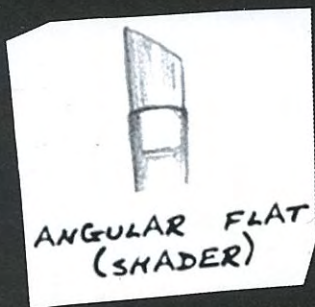
FILBERT

This brush is flat and has an oval-shaped end with medium to long bristles. It is good for blending and creating soft rounded edges. This brush is a combination of the round brushes (which can be used for detail) and the flat brush because it covers more space than the round.



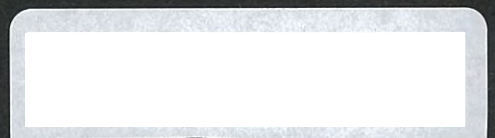
BRIGHT

This brush is flat with curved edges that go inwards at the tip. The brush has medium length hairs. This is good for short controlled strokes and thick heavy colour. This is better for working up close instead of holding the brush further away from the canvas.



ANGULAR FLAT  
(SHADER)

This brush has flat angled hairs at the end and is good for curved strokes and filling corners. By having an elongated tip, it is easier to reach smaller areas, but it can also be used to cover a lot of space.





# Critical Analysis

## Description

The piece is titled, Love Birds is by Shelly James. The original piece has been created using acrylic paints and is on a canvas sized 18x24. The image contains two birds sitting on a tree branch, watching the sun. The colours below the birds suggest that the sun is sinking, and that the day is almost over.

## Analysis

The artist has used bright colours in the background, with a silhouette of the birds and tree, to show the love birds sitting together. By using two primary colour (Red and Yellow) and the secondary colour that they make together (Orange), it gives the assumption of the sun setting. By using yellows complimentary colour, purple, it gives a shadowy effect showing where the sun had already set. The artist has layered some sections of the paint with impasto gel, to create a 3D effect, and has continued the circular motion throughout the picture, surrounding the section of light in the middle. the picture starts in the middle, at its lightest point but as it fades out the colours get darker, until the border, which is black. The artist has used a sponge to create the border and by doing so, it has created a shadow effect, similar to the birds and tree silhouette.

## Interpretation

This picture could be interpreted as two birds in love, watching the sun set over their home. The picture is simple, and helps not overpower the main meaning of this image which is love. By using bright colours, the artist has created an image that is cheerful and sunny, and could also be seen as innocent or young. The image says to me that these birds are both fairly young and are in a new relationship. They are happy, in control and are on a date watching the sun set over their home. Nothing else matters in the world, as long as they are together. The sun set in the background of this image is a bit of a cliché as most couples will have a date watching the sunset together, as it is portrayed in media that it is a common thing. By representing this in this image, I believe that this is a good portrayal of young love or early stages in a relationship. By having them sit on the branch together, it gives me the impression that they are on top of the world. By using the silhouette of the birds and tree branch, it helps keep it simple and neat.

## Judgement

I think that this piece is beautiful. I love the simplicity and I love the silhouette idea with the bright background. I think that it does portray young love and the innocence involved with young love really well. I think it has been executed beautifully in a way that is both professional and artistic.

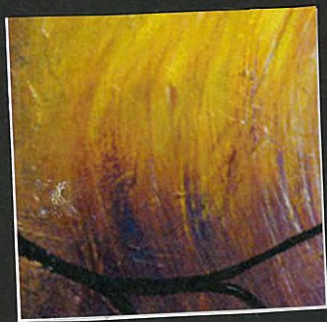
\*Permission granted to SACE board  
from artists to show images.



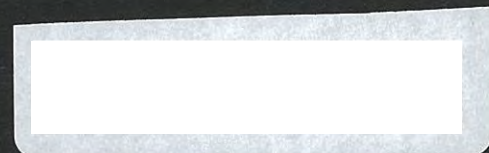
LOVE BIRDS by Shelly James



# Practical Analysis

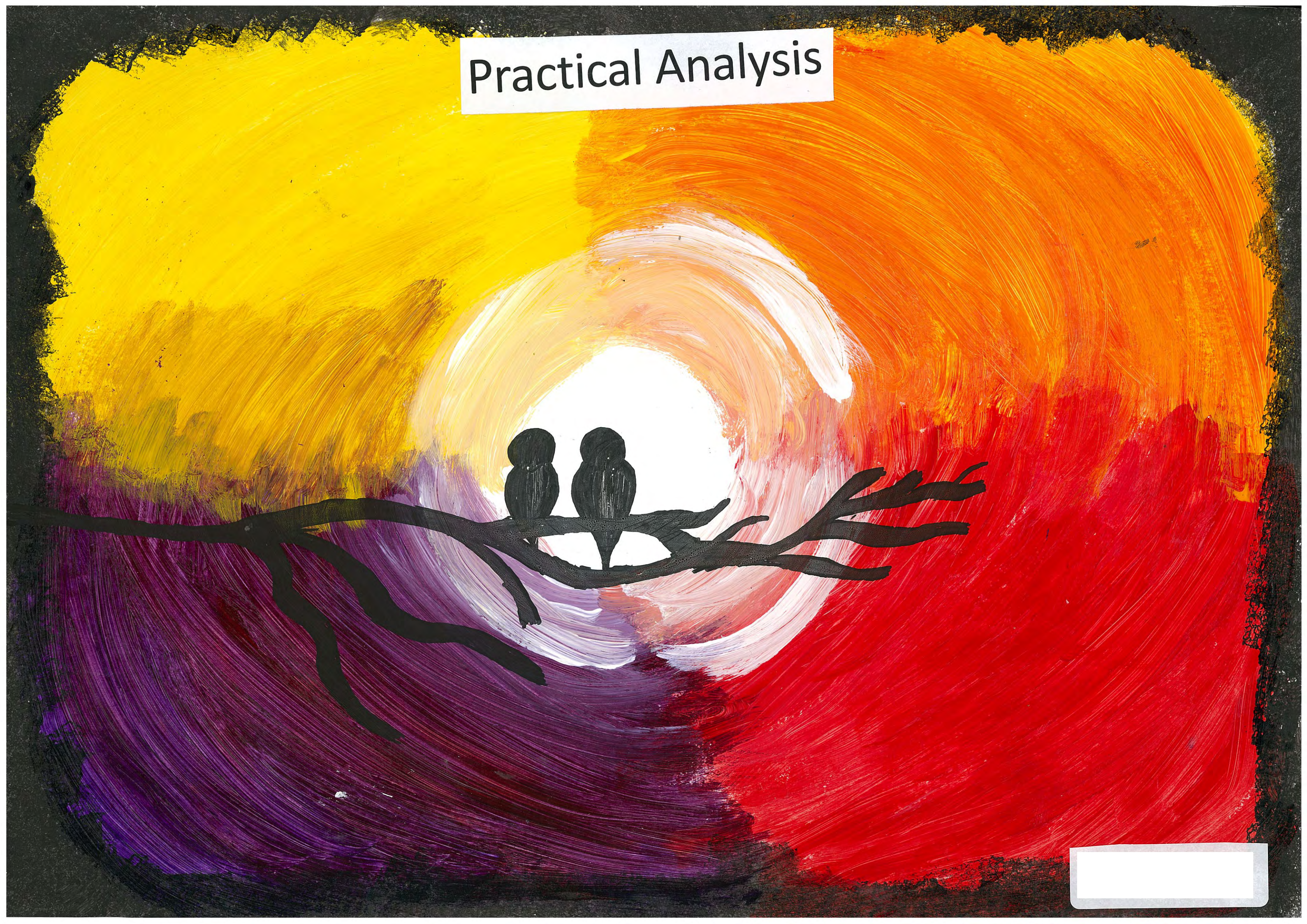


I really liked working on this piece because it was bright and bubbly. The tree branches were difficult to do because I couldn't paint as finely as the original artist. I really liked the birds, and think I managed to recreate them well. I also found the blending between the yellow and purple more difficult than I thought it would be, because they kept becoming murky, and didn't look right.





# Practical Analysis





Original Art Piece





# Critical Analysis

## Description

The piece is titled, One Desire is by Peter Dranitsin from Cleveland Ohio. The original piece has been created using acrylic paints and is on a canvas sized 24x18. The image contains two trees, a red and a blue tree. The blue tree is bigger than the red, and they are kept apart by a black shadow-like area, separating left from right. The blue tree contains sections of highlights and shadows, whereas the red tree only contains shadows.

## Analysis

The artist has used 4 colours to create this image, blue, red, white and black. By limiting the colours used, he has been able to create a piece that isn't overly busy yet still contains many layers. The blue tree had been created by layering paint over and over to create an almost 3D effect. There is also evidence of the artist using Impasto Gel which is an acrylic medium used to change the consistency of the paint to help it stay firm, to give the painting visible texture and gloss. The composition of the piece shows one tree larger than the other, containing more detail in it compared to the smaller red tree. There is definite contrast between the two which is shown by using a warm tone for one tree and a cool tone for the other.

## Interpretation

The painting could be interpreted as two lovers. Again, with the title – One Desire – I believe the trees represent two people who are in love, but cannot get past something that is keeping them apart. By having the black section between the two trees, it gives me the feeling that there is something that is keeping them apart, or that they have had an argument or something along those lines. The red tree is red to show anger or passion, whereas the blue tree is to show sadness. If there was an argument involved, this piece would explain it perfectly. The blue tree is sad for upsetting the red tree and making them angry. The black space between them is the words that were said during the argument, keeping them apart. I think this piece is quite relevant in day-to-day life within relationships. Arguments do happen often and words can keep people apart. I honestly believe that this piece was influenced by an argument of some sort and that the artist has tried to portray the struggle through the trees.

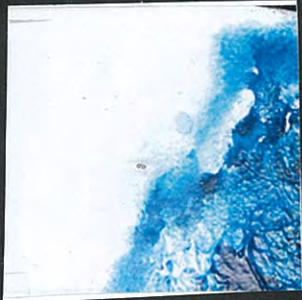
## Judgement

I really love this piece of work. I love the message I have taken from it and I love the techniques that artist has used to make the trees look more realistic in an abstract way. I believe that the use of the impasto gel has taken this picture to another level, and has given it the texture and sheen that wouldn't have been easy to accomplish without it. I think it's a wonderful piece, and that it has been executed remarkably to show what it was meant to show. It describes a relationship to me, not only my own but relationships around me, and I think it gives the viewer a chance to step back and re-evaluate their relationships and small arguments and the effect they may have on their significant other.

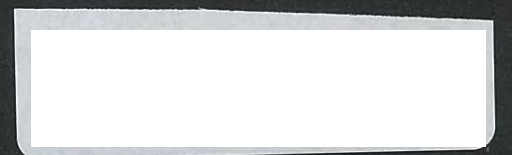
Image removed Peter Dranstin - One Desire



# Practical Analysis

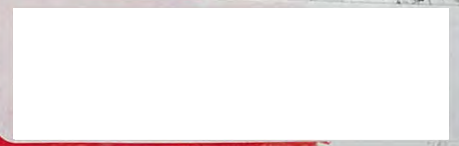
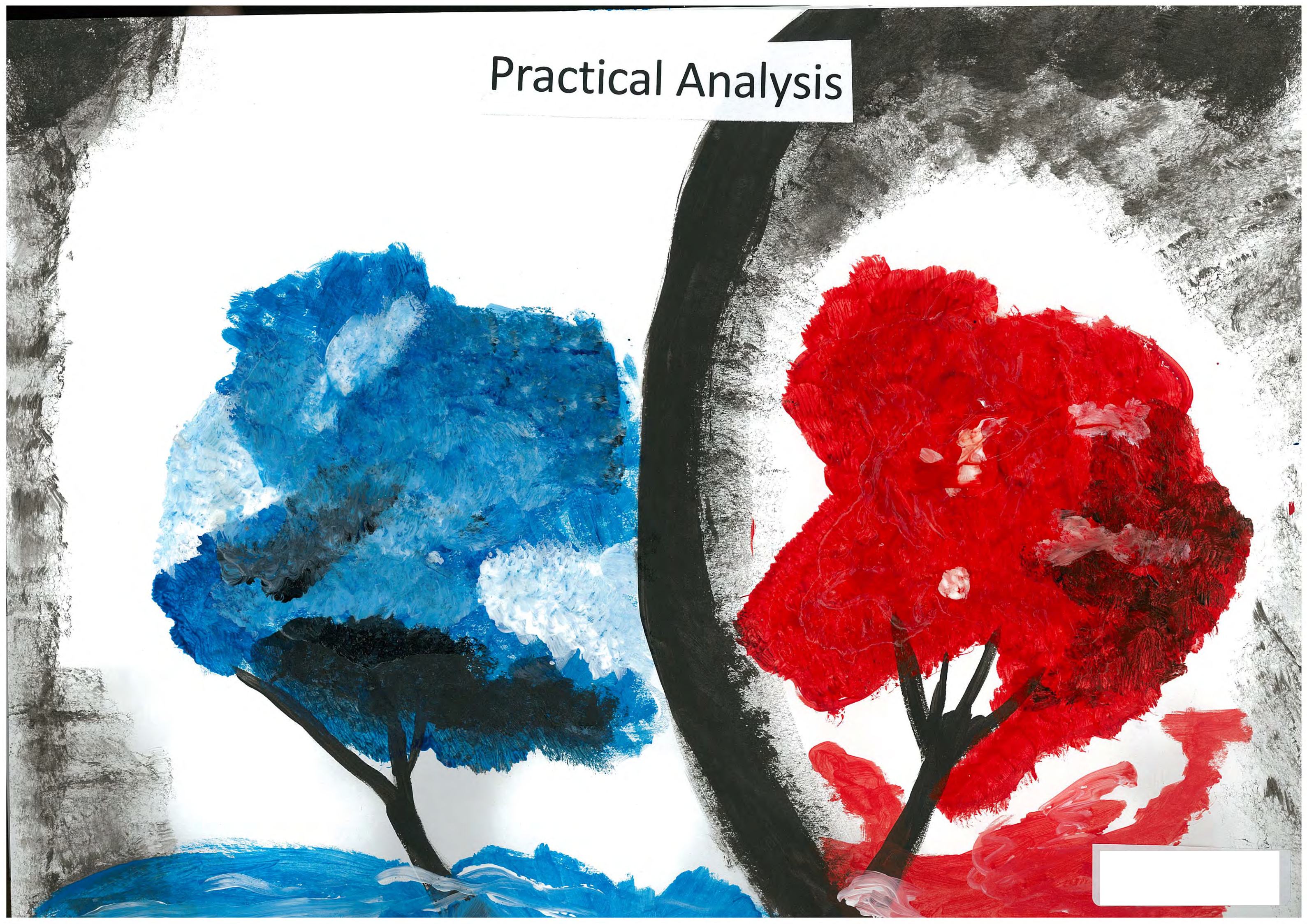


These was a fairly difficult piece to recreate as I needed to focus on the smaller details, which I struggled with. I really liked the fine detail within the trees, but when attempting them myself, I found them harder than I thought they would be. I really like the blending with the impasto gel which gave it a glossy 3D effect.





# Practical Analysis





Original Art Piece





# Critical Analysis

## Description

This piece is titled Water Flowers – 2 and is painted by Julia Di Sano. She has used Acrylic paint and Impasto gel to create this image and has printed it onto a canvas measuring 8x10 inches. The image contains shades of cream, light blue, teal, royal blue and dark blue in a style that shows abstract flowers within the water.

## Analysis

The artist has used different shades of blue, and some white to create this image. By using the same colour in different shades, the artist has created movement throughout the canvas. The brush strokes have used the hard edge technique, to avoid blending and to show the flowers petals. By overlapping these areas, the canvas looks 3D which could also be caused by the impasto gel used within the paint. The dark shades start on one side of the painting and gets lighter as the artist has moved across the canvas.

## Interpretation

This is a fairly difficult one to interpret as it is an abstract piece, but by looking at the title, my interpretation is that they are flowers in the ocean. The flowers are covering the ocean floor, so the flowers are just different shades of blue depending on the depth of the ocean. By doing this, it creates a depth that wouldn't have been there, if the picture was all the same shade. It also helped highlight certain areas, to show the movement with the flowers.

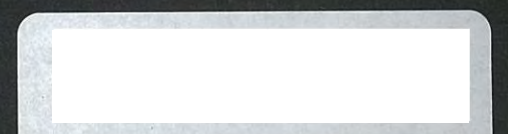
## Judgement

I really love this abstract piece. I love the techniques that the artist has used to make the flowers stand out and look more realistic in an abstract way. I believe that the use of the impasto gel has taken this picture to another level, and has given it the texture and sheen that wouldn't have been easy to achieve without it.

\*Permission granted to SACE board  
from artists to show images.



WATER FLOWERS by Julia Di Sano

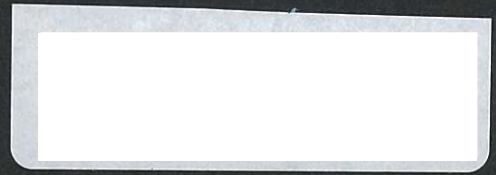




# Practical Analysis



This piece was fairly difficult to recreate, because it is made up of different shades of blue. I really like some of the finer detail, but feel that maybe I didn't focus hard enough on some of it. The impasto gel on the flower petals really helped the image pop, and I liked being able to work with it. I think that I did manage to recreate some of this image really well, but some of it could be more careful.



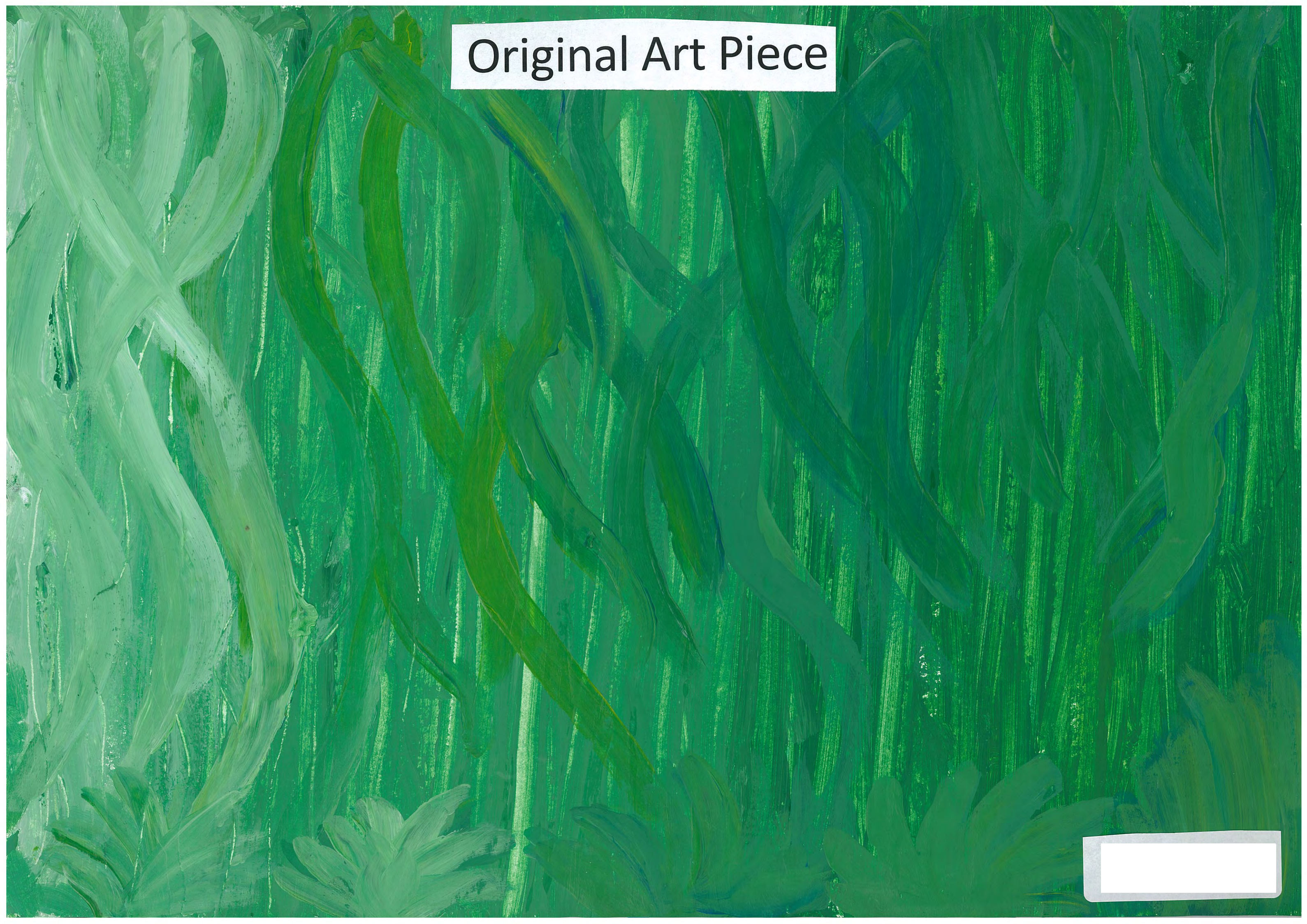


# Practical Analysis





Original Art Piece





# Conclusion

My topic for the visual study was acrylic paint, and as it wasn't really a medium I had explored before, I learnt a lot of new things. The history behind acrylic paint was interesting, especially learning that it is essentially made from the same ingredients as plastic. I really liked learning about the different techniques that could be used when painting in acrylics and the different textures that I could use.

The artists that I studied used a range of abstract styles to create their pieces, and also used some different techniques within their pictures. One artist, Shelly James, focused on silhouettes which I really enjoyed because the final piece was mesmerizing. Another artist, Peter Dranitsin, used impasto gel to create a gloss over his trees, making them appear whimsical. The use of blending with the minimal colours also gave the piece a depth that wouldn't have been there otherwise. The final artist, Julia Di Sano, created her abstract piece using one colour and impasto gel to show the fine lines within the image.

During this visual study, I have learnt lots of new practical skills, including techniques and styles. I was not very confident in the beginning when it came to acrylics, so I was pretty happy with some of the end results that I managed to produce. The texture elements that could be added to acrylic paints were a new thing for me, and I really enjoyed experimenting with them. I also got to learn about certain brushes and what they were for, which helped a lot because at the beginning, I used the same sized brush to paint everything, which made the finer details quite difficult.

Overall, while I found this very difficult to begin with, I am proud of myself for continuing through and learning a whole heap more than I thought I would. I believe that this will help me now complete the rest of my art, because I now have a basic knowledge of acrylic painting and some techniques that I can use to make my art better quality.

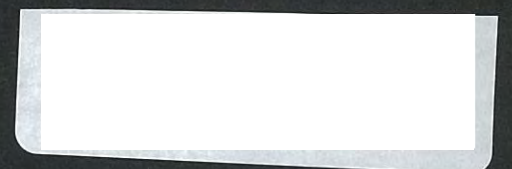


LOVE BIRDS by Shelly James

\*Permission granted to SACE board  
from artists to show images.



WATER FLOWERS by Julia Di Sano





# Bibliography

## Introduction

Acrylic Paint | Arthistory.net. 2016. Acrylic Paint | Arthistory.net. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://arthistory.net/acrylic-paint/>. [Accessed 15 September 2016].

ArtistCorner.us - History of Acrylic Paints. 2016. ArtistCorner.us - History of Acrylic Paints. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://artistcorner.us/articles/historyofacrylics.html>. [Accessed 15 September 2016].

## Artist Techniques

About.com Home. 2016. What Are Hard and Soft Edges in a Painting?. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://painting.about.com/od/artglossaryh/g/hardedge.htm>. [Accessed 15 September 2016].

About.com Home. 2016. What Are Hard and Soft Edges in a Painting?. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://painting.about.com/od/artglossaryh/g/hardedge.htm>. [Accessed 15 September 2016].

About.com Home. 2016. What Are Hard and Soft Edges in a Painting?. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://painting.about.com/od/artglossaryh/g/hardedge.htm>. [Accessed 15 September 2016].

Dictionary.com. 2016. Sgraffito | Define Sgraffito at Dictionary.com. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/sgraffito>. [Accessed 15 September 2016].

Wikipedia. 2016. Wash (visual arts) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. [ONLINE] Available at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wash\\_\(visual\\_arts\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wash_(visual_arts)). [Accessed 15 September 2016].

Dry Brush Definition - Creative Glossary. 2016. Dry Brush Definition - Creative Glossary. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.creativeglossary.com/art-mediums/dry-brush.html>. [Accessed 15 September 2016].

Merriam-Webster. 2016. Painterly | Definition of Painterly by Merriam-Webster. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/painterly>. [Accessed 15 September 2016].

## Artist paint brushes

Art is Fun. 2016. Artist Paint Brushes: A Guide to Choosing the Right Paintbrushes for Painting with Acrylics — Art is Fun. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.art-is-fun.com/artist-paint-brushes>. [Accessed 15 August 2016].

Art is Fun. 2016. Painting with Acrylics: Tips and Techniques about How to Paint Acrylic — Art is Fun. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.art-is-fun.com/painting-with-acrylics>. [Accessed 15 August 2016].

Image removed Peter Dranstin - One Desire