

## *Strawberry*

### **Lilli Spooner**

My painting titled "Strawberry", oil on wooden canvas (20" x 16"), features two images of strawberries in different states. The first side section has a punnet sitting on a kitchen sink, the second composed of chopped strawberries on a cutting board with a knife above them. I have always been interested in vibrant pieces of art and paintings that radiated calmness and Leah Gardner was one of the first sources of inspiration within my folio. Her use of vibrant colours proved inspiring along with the use of cool tones rather than sharp, harsh colours.

Following the application of transparent gesso onto a wooden canvas, I analysed and chose the mundane images I wished to paint. Following the ideas of Margaret Olley, Claude Monet, and Grace Cossington Smith, I intended to capture a scene of a daily experiences, a scene of familiarity to myself and, the viewers. I examined images of mundane scenes within my life and narrowed my options down to two images through this process. At this point I noticed the strawberry images paired well together.

The intention behind this piece was to capture the beauty of my surrounds. The piece moving left to right of whole strawberries to cut up pieces of the fruit displays the effect of time and human action on a mundane, inanimate scene. This was a significant aspect of the piece that linked to the beauty from the mundane topic, not only displaying physical beauty but also the beauty of life within it. There is also the aspect of sunlight within the piece. All artists I have explored have displayed this as a large feature of their artworks, however, I established that Gardner and Jaye Schlesinger's soft yet bright interpretations of light were the most suited to my aesthetic.

Beginning my piece, I began with the most vibrant aspect of the image. This method was decided as I thought by beginning with the most vibrant aspect of the piece would allow me to contrast the background scenery to be slightly duller. I considered the possibility that if I were to begin with the surrounding scenery, I would find it more difficult to capture the vibrancy of the strawberries colour as I would not have based the background vibrancy off the focus. I faced challenges when I discovered that I am very particular and require perfecting every detail to consider it of standard. However, I eventually had to overcome this as this process was time consuming and quite personally degrading.

I believe that the communication of the purpose of my topic has been successfully captured in my piece being influenced by the works of Cossington Smith, Gardner, Olley, Schlesinger, and Monet. I am pleased with the outcome of my painting and believe that it effectively suits my personal aesthetic incorporating light detail and distortion due to the plastic punnet alongside the standout, bright colour of strawberry red. The appreciation of beauty of the of a scene allows us to find our day-to-day lives extraordinary.