

*Siouxsie at the Moo*

## Khrystal De Marchi

My initial topic was based around the concept of friendships. After exploring the topic in different media's and context, I refined my topic to '*the feeling of seeing familiar stationary faces in an atmospheric crowd*' as I wanted to focus on conveying the emotions and feelings of being with close friends at public events.

My topic entailed that I focused on artists who had painted figures at public events. Consequently, all the artist I studied; besides one, had painted figures in crowds. Experimenting in the style of all different movements including: Antipodeans, Primitivism, Neo-expressionism and Contemporary, I was most inspired by Kevin Connor, Locust Jones and Leonid Afremov.

Kevin Connor inspired me to put more technique and detail into the main figure and have a loose blurred background to emphasise the emotions around the main concept of the artwork. In addition, I used Connor's textured technique to reflect the excitement and energy of the day.

Leonid Afremov developed my personal aesthetics for contrasting hues formed by thick unworked brushstrokes. Taking the aspect of Afremov's concept of utilising certain hues to reflect personality and emotions, I transformed and manipulated colour schemes to make the main figure seem more welcoming and joyous.

Locust Jones was the only artist that incorporated large crowds or amounts of people in his work. Taking a similar aspect of his artwork '*into that good night-2015*' by selecting a main figure (or figures) to focus on yet still make the crowd at eye level so that the artwork is united and has crowd like movement.

*Siouxsie at the Moo* depicts is an acrylic painting of a photo I personally took of my best friend walking through the crowds gathering around the stages at youth music festival Groovin the Moo.

The restricted split colour schemes creates a sense of unity and movement within the artwork. The juxtaposition of complementary colours seen within the clothing of the figures were manipulated to emphasise aspects of their structure and appearance. The main figures

bold use of warm tones in the shirt contrast against the deep harmonious burgundy accents located throughout the painting, establishing a focal point. The utilisation of the darker values; such as the green in the grass and black for the stages and other aspects of the painting, creates balance in the artwork. The juxtaposition of thick broken brush strokes and thin unworked lines form unique textures give all the figures a sense of personality. In addition, the use of loose brush strokes reflects the excitement and joy of seeing Siouxsie participating amongst the energetic crowd that day.

Throughout the study I have learnt how to use different sorts of lines and brushstroke techniques to create texture. I was inspired by Afremov to explore different textures to communicate someone's feelings, personalities, or atmospheres rather than just different colours or facial expressions. When working in the style of Jones I learnt how to incorporate multiple individuals into one piece of artwork, further developing my personal aesthetic for painting multiple figures at once along with my aesthetic for painting portraits.