

Dad and I

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For my second practical piece I was initially stuck with what I should investigate. From my first piece I discovered my love of oil paints; discovering the beauty of the quality of the paints and their ability to create vibrant and strong colours and shades. I again chose to head towards a similar theme to my first painting, as I wanted to portray the relaxed and calm feeling that the beach offers and allows visitors to indulge in.

Recently my father has gone through a bumpy ride with his health as he has been confronted with a cancerous growth within his lung that resulted in his left lung being removed. Personally this has been a very emotionally draining rollercoaster for myself but also my family. I came to the conclusion that I wanted to express my admiration for the strength that my dad has within him, by creating an oil painting of dad and myself sitting on the beach. This is a sacred place for us and something that we both love and care for. I explored the way Phillip Barlow captured people casually enjoying the beach, painting them in a way that is unique and rare because of the smooth rendered feeling. Barlow captures the pure essence and calmness of the beach in a very contemporary and modern way, which is similar to what I want to capture in my artwork. I then began to look at Paul Treasure who painted in a completely different and contrasting way. He used a pallet knife to enhance the texture and visual interest of the painting. I therefore decided to use a pallet knife when I painted the straw hat in my final artwork to create texture.

To start my planning I began by looking through possible photos of my dad and I that I could paint. I wanted to ensure that the image had the relaxed calm feeling I intended to portray. I then sourced old recycled wood to paint on. This added meaning and physical texture to the painting; representing the drift wood from the beach that dad enjoys to collect. After I chose the image that I wanted to paint, I needed to consider the composition that was going to be most effective. There were people standing in the background in the reference photo, which took away the focus from dad and I so I made the decision to remove the people (using Photo Shop) to allow for a better composition.

When I first tested painting on the wooden base I found it difficult as the paint soaked into the wood, which evidently made it hard to blend. To overcome this problem, I primed my wood with Gesso, as this allowed the paint not to soak in so quickly and blend smoothly.

My intended meaning for my artwork was to show the strength my dad has within him and to remind us that we must be able to appreciate all the small aspects in life because we never

know what life is going to throw at us. When the audience views my artwork, I want them to feel relaxed through the warm tones present in the the skin and the sand allowing for a 'beachy vibe' to be present.

During the process of painting my second practical piece, I greater enhanced my ability to use oil paints and I further improved my ability to colour match. I believe my skills in creating texture has improved and this is especially demonstrated in the straw hat and the stripped board shorts. Overall I am happy with my oil painting especially the board shorts and straw hat because of the textured detail that is present. I believe that I fulfilled my goal of painting an artwork for my dad, to celebrate his strength and appreciation of life while also showing the strong bond that we share.