

Practitioner's Statement

Landscape Memories

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This painting was directly inspired by William Turner and his ability to capture atmospheric effects using oil paints and watercolour. I started drawing and painting small sketches of his works using watercolour and soft pastel to develop my skills and techniques using this media. I also continued my exploration by investigating different artist's styles and techniques painting landscapes. I found myself particularly inspired by Turner, and found his work to be a "stirring and truthful measure of the moods of Nature."

For my own artwork, I wanted to combine a classic European painting style and integrate images of places I visited in Granada and Spain during 2014. The opportunity to travel was a memorable experience that I will never forget. I chose to record my memories of significant buildings I visited during my trip and developed a composition that combined different architectural elements. I also included specific buildings that could represent myself and my cultural background such as the famous Xi'an restaurant and the bird cage like pavilion located in Sydney.

Artist Sunga Park inspired me with her watercolour paintings of European buildings that fade out using pale, small drips. The main focal point is the detail and decorations on the building which in some ways is similar to the memories I have included in my piece. I experimented using a similar painting technique and applied it to painting one of the buildings I saw in Spain. The results however, were not very effective as I did not control the technique of water drips very well.

For my final practical the theme of Memories was a focus. I selected four photos taken on my trip to Spain, China and Sydney to represent my cultural background and overall am very pleased with my final composition which successfully combines the architectural features of several buildings. I was inspired Turner's painting style and depiction of skies. I found his work aesthetically pleasing and observed that Turner used bold colours such as blue and orange throughout many of his paintings. I applied this to my own painting and used a combination of yellow and blue with touches of brown when painting the sky. I really appreciate the subtle tones and colours used in the painting and I think the outcome was a success.

For this painting, I think that the use of Turner's style was very successful. After the painting was completed, I thought about hanging some different sized bird cages in different levels from the ceiling to make a visual connection with the bird cage represented in my work but after researching the cost to do so, it was not a viable financial option.