

Practitioner's Statement

Untitled

Tamara Fischermann

An initial brainstorm that began with a simple concept transformed into a final portrait that aimed to convey the emotion of calmness. The idea of double-exposure paintings, explored by artists such as Dan Mountford and Pakayla Biehn, originally inspired me as it was a technique that was both intriguing and unfamiliar. By exploring the elements of art and applying a range of principles of design, I tried to capture the realistic detail of the ocean, the fish and the image of my sister while also aiming to create an overall aesthetically pleasing piece.

The start of my process began with a focus on portraiture and later developed specifically on the female portrait. The thought of painting an image of my sister was a prominent idea throughout my process as she is a major influence in my life and an individual that I believe represents calmness.

Throughout my experiments, I discovered that acrylic paints worked best in adding realistic detail to the portrait. These paints also easily blended together which helped me to create more realistic tone, making my overall piece more life-like.

The idea of creating an image that represented peacefulness was decided upon as it was a feeling that I believed I needed at the time. The stressful year had been very demanding and I knew that in order to not overwhelm myself that I needed to take time to be still and find calmness. My body of work served as a reminder to remain peaceful within my busy final year and aimed to create a calm and positive emotional response from the audience.

My primary focus was on colour, contrast and balance. Colour played a major part in expressing the emotion of peace, seen through my use of pale hues and the calming and emotional colour of blue. Blue is the most outstanding colour in my portrait as it has been proven to create a sense of calmness and peace in the viewer. The image of the ocean also allowed me to represent the feeling of serenity. In order to create a more visually effective painting, I added the complementary colour orange by adding the goldfish. This contrast added an appealing and exciting element to my portrait. Teacher assistance allowed me to develop new ideas and also find a better balance and a more effective overall composition for my final piece. Helpful tips about where to place certain fish and the size of the portrait allowed me to create a more successful final.

The unique and natural element of the wooden support was used as a way to convey the stillness that I feel not only at the ocean, but also in the woods and quiet areas surrounded by trees.

I believe that I have produced a body of work that showcases the connection I have with the calming natural world around me and also visually showcases the feeling of calmness in an aesthetically pleasing way.