

Practitioner's statement

The Working Cat

Tori Johns

Roaming through Melbourne city streets, I was inspired by the amount of street art strongly evident in their everyday city culture. Back in Adelaide, the lack of street art and 'creative flair' encouraged me to make the city streets as colourful and creative as Melbourne. I have been greatly influenced by Kaff-eine and Banksy, especially in the way they tell stories through their street art. I have compared my style to theirs and Kaff-eine, in particular, resonated with my style and through analysing her work, I was able to grasp the extent of how large and influential the street art scene actually is. This inspired me to make a small but influential change amongst the Adelaide city streets.

My initial intended purpose was to design something that is relevant and relatable to the average working man or woman walking past my design, while still showing creative flair and colour. I originally began to think on a large scale and thought that perhaps the bigger the mural the more inspired other would become and create street art also. When thinking of a typical working person, I think of someone walking past in a suit and tie with a suitcase in hand. This led me to investigate different designs in which this category can relate to. Once researched, I decided to design a cat with a colourful tie, with a suit in hand. The only difference is, he is wearing a sweater and not the average business suit. The choice of drawing a cat was purely due to my own individually developed character. I wanted my own creativity in it, while still being relatable and relevant. The cat's face tends to reflect a touch of sadness, but tries to spruce up his day by adding a little extra colour into his appearance. The overall purpose of that was to remind everyone that you need to still have a sparkling uniqueness in life, while fulfilling your everyday duties. This would hopefully give the Adelaide City that little extra 'flair' that it needed, but using a wall as my canvas.

Wheat paste was the method used. This gave me the freedom to create any chosen design, without having to worry about the skill, time and money into preparing and executing the artwork on the day. Wheat paste involved wallpaper glue, a large print of my design and brushes to apply the work onto the wall. This method has been most successful in times past, and through my research, it became clear that this was the method appropriate. The wheat paste gave the design a much more detailed and realistic look, making it appear as if the cat is there with you, with the added bonus of ease and accuracy.

I believe the work produced has given 'workers' walking by a little encouragement to live out the day with colour and life, while still adding that extra 'flair' in the Adelaide City streets that it so desperately needs.